

The Commission met on **Wednesday, October 7, 2015**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, and Tuma present.

The following matters came before the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

E-111/GR-14-482

In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Electric Association for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved to approve the compliance filing of Dakota Electric Association.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-011/D-15-534

In the Matter of the Petition of MERC for its Annual Review of Depreciation Rates for 2015

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Approve the proposed service lives, salvage rates, and resulting depreciation rates of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) effective January 1, 2015, including MERC's proposal to use an eight year average service life and a 25 percent net salvage rate for its Transportation Equipment Account 392.1, resulting in a depreciation rate of 9.35 percent.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department) to apply the General Plant composite rate of 4.47 percent to any new investments in the Trailers Account 392.
3. Require MERC to submit a compliance filing within 10 days of this order to reflect the decisions made in this docket.
4. Retained deadline for MERC's next five-year depreciation study of June 1, 2017.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy, for Approval of Its Proposed Community Solar Garden Program

Commissioner Lange moved to deny Sunrise Energy Ventures, LLC's petition for reconsideration.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Lange moved to deny the Department's petition for clarification.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to reopen the Commission's August 6, 2015 Order Accepting Partial Settlement and Modified (August 6 order) for the limited purpose of considering possible changes or clarifications on the following issues:

1. Divestiture
2. Distribution-system upgrades
3. The role and finality of the independent engineer
4. Application-tracking system

The motion passed 3-1. Chair Heydinger voted no.

Commissioner Tuma moved to clarify that the August 6 order does not allow solar garden applicants to transfer their queue position related to a solar garden application to a different developer for that portion of the project that exceeds the caps established by the Commission.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Lange moved to deny Sunrise's and Solar Garden Community's requests for an immediate stay of the August 6 order.

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to deny Sunrise's request for a stay of the August 6 order pending an appeal by writ of certiorari to the Minnesota Court of Appeals

The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Require Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) to file compliance tariffs required by the August 6 order within five days of the issuance of the order in this matter. These tariff filings should reflect the decisions made by the Commission as part of its reconsideration of the matter.
2. Find that the compliance tariff sheets filed by Xcel will be effective within seven days of filing unless the Department or other party files an objection or the Commission through its Executive Secretary issues a notice indicating otherwise.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 2, 2015



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary