

The Commission met on **Thursday, October 24, 2017**, with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6946/M-17-410

In the Matter of the Application of Freeborn Wind Farm, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 84 MW Freeborn Wind Farm in Freeborn County

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission deny the petition for an advisory task force and deny the petition for a scientific advisory task force.

The motion passed 4-0.

E,G-002/D-17-147

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2017 Annual Review of Remaining Lives

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Require Xcel Energy to file its next remaining life depreciation petition by February 19, 2018.
2. Require Xcel to continue to provide in future depreciation filings a comparison of depreciation remaining lives and resource planning lives for electric production with an explanation of any differences.
3. Require Xcel to continue to provide in future depreciation filings a historical comparison of changes in remaining lives and net salvage rates.
4. Require Xcel to continue to provide in future depreciation filings updates on removal costs for the Minnesota Valley Plant, Key City Plant, and Black Dog Units 3 and 4, including the impact on depreciation reserves, and a final true-up when the retirement/removal is completed.
5. Approve Xcel's proposed depreciation lives and salvage rates for its electric production, gas production, and gas storage facilities, except for the proposed remaining life for Angus Anson Units 2 and 3.
6. Approve a remaining life of 9 years for Angus Anson Units 2 and 3.
7. In future filings, require that the Company provide further details on its management of dismantling activities and costs, develop a method to compare its actual and projected

removal costs to the cost estimates from its net salvage rate study, and provide a revised update for these costs and the depreciation reserve balance for Black Dog Units 3 and 4, Key City Plant and Minnesota Valley Plant.

8. Approve the amortization rates as presented in Xcel's Attachment G to comply with the FERC accounting requirement that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approve the amortization rates for treatment of the FERC regulatory asset. Xcel shall demonstrate in its next rate case and rider proceedings that there are not cost impacts to Minnesota ratepayers due to Xcel's accounting treatment of its theoretical reserve amortization.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-015M-16-204

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of Revisions to Rider for Parallel Generation

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission

1. Approve Minnesota Power's proposal to eliminate its monthly service charge given the side-by-side comparison of incremental costs.
2. Require Minnesota Power to file an updated compliance filing within 10 days from the date of the Order with the following modifications:
 - A. Elimination of the monthly service charge; and
 - B. Correct Energy and Firm Power Capacity Credit rate.
3. Allow Minnesota Power to recover production meter costs from all customers through the standard customer charge.

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 Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Postpone consideration of the proposal of the Minnesota Department of Commerce to a future date to be set by the Executive Secretary.
2. Require Xcel, consistent with a notice in this docket articulating further details and timing, to file an analysis of:

- the potential rate impact of various levels of residential solar garden penetration under the Department’s proposal, and
- how a solar residential carve-out would be implemented and enforced.

The motion passed 4–0.

Commissioner Schuerger left the meeting.

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Draw inferences against GreenMark Community Solar (GreenMark) and Sunrise Energy Ventures (Sunrise), two developers of community solar gardens, based on their failure to respond to discovery requests in this matter.
2. Find that 17 one megawatt (MW) solar gardens under development by GreenMark are collocated with 17 one MW solar gardens under development by Sunrise.
3. Under the circumstances of the case, make an exception to the one MW cap under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1641(b) for these 17 pairs of solar gardens.

Commissioner Tuma proposed a friendly amendment to grant the exception to the one MW cap on the condition that GreenMark and Sunrise each do the following:

- Refrain from taking actions suggesting a further integration of their respective solar gardens.
- Comply with the representations set forth in Xcel’s June 1, 2017 Co-Location Dispute Appeal for Sunrise and Greenmark, Exhibit 12, and
- make filings on each anniversary of the Commission’s order affirming their continued compliance with the two prior conditions.

Commissioner Lipschlutz declined the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Lipschultz amended the motion as follows:

3. Under the circumstances of the case, make an exception to the one MW cap under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1641(b) for these 17 pairs of solar gardens on the condition that the developers—
 - be held to their representations in Exhibit 12, and
 - refrain from taking ownership of all the gardens in question.

Commissioner Lipschultz further amended the motion to add the following:

4. GreenMark and Sunrise shall make a compliance filing clarifying the relevant commitments set forth in Exhibit 12.

Commissioner Lipschultz further amended the motion to add the following:

5. GreenMark and Sunrise shall make annual filings certifying compliance with the conditions set forth above.

The motion passed 3–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 21, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary