

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 8, 2017**, with Chair Lange, and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters came before the Commission:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

P-999/PR-17-5

In the Matter of TAM's 2016 Annual Report

P-999/M-17-276

In the Matter of TAM's FY 2018 Proposed Budget and Surcharge Recommendations

Chair Lange moved to do the following:

1. Accept the 2016 Annual Report of Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM).
2. Request a report on the 2015-2016 Telephone Equipment Distribution program (TED) and TAM Fund studies to be filed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) in this docket within 60 days of the order.
3. Accept TAM's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal.
4. Approve the continuation of the monthly surcharge at \$0.05 per access line.
5. Request the Department to file a report detailing the results of the iPhone/iPad pilot program with the Commission within 60 days of the Commission's order.

The motion passed 5-0.

P-6402/RL-17-351

In the Matter of the Petition of Budget PrePay, Inc. d.b.a. Budget Phone to Relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Status in Minnesota

P-999/CI-17-509

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Appropriate Notice and Outreach Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Grant the petition of Budget Pre-Pay, Inc. d.b.a. Budget Phone to relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status and to cancel its informational tariff with the following conditions:

- A. Budget Phone shall send a minimum of two text messages to its Minnesota Lifeline customers prior to discontinuing service informing them of the impending disconnection. In at least one text, Budget Phone shall provide contact information for the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office.
 - B. Budget Phone shall also send an e-mail to all of its Minnesota Lifeline customers prior to discontinuing service, to the extent it has e-mail addresses on file.
 - C. Budget Phone shall submit a report by July 20, 2017, to inform the Commission of the status of its Minnesota Lifeline customers as of the date the carrier discontinued service.
2. Initiate Docket No. P-999/CI-17-509, *In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Appropriate Notice and Outreach Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)*, and ask the Department to do the following:
- A. Organize a taskforce of stakeholders to develop a proposed list of customer notice and outreach requirements for ETCs offering Lifeline in Minnesota.
 - B. File the proposed list of notices and requirements on a schedule to be determined by the Executive Secretary.

Commissioner Tuma proposed amending Motion Paragraph 1 to add the following:

- D. The Commission understands that each customer's existing service minutes will be available for use until gone or, if this is not feasible, that Budget Phone will notify the Commission of that fact promptly.

Commissioner Lipschultz accepted the amendment.

The amended motion passed 5-0.

ENERGY FACILITIES PERMITTING AGENDA

IP-6646/WS-16-618 Red Pine Wind Farm, LLC

In the Matter of the Application of Red Pine Wind Farm, LLC for a Site Permit for the 200.1 Megawatt Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota

Commissioner Schuerger moved to do the following:

- 1. Adopt the ALJ Report, as modified to include the changes in Attachment A with the subsequent changes by staff enclosed as Attachment A, and issue a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) Site Permit to Red Pine Wind Farm, LLC.

2. Authorize Commission staff to make further refinements to the findings of fact and permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decision on this matter.

The motion passed 5-0.

PL-9/CN-13-153

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Need for the Alberta Clipper (Line 67) Phase 2 Upgrade Project

Commission Lipschultz moved to direct Enbridge as follows:

1. After January 1, 2020, Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (Enbridge) will retire Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) equal to the actual carbon-based energy consumed by the Alberta Clipper (Line 67) Phase 2 Upgrade Project (the Project) on an annual basis.
2. Enbridge will be required to offset only the incremental energy from a carbon-producing source used by the Project, so long as Enbridge is not exempt from paying for the renewable energy purchased. That is, if a utility that Enbridge receives energy from is 25% carbon-free, then only 75% of the energy consumed by Enbridge from that utility needs to be offset. Moreover, as the utility's portfolios become less carbon-based, Enbridge's requirements shift accordingly.
3. Enbridge will be allowed to offset the Project's consumption of carbon-based energy with RECs from an Enbridge-owned project in Minnesota or elsewhere, or from a third party renewable provider offering green credits.

Chair Lange proposed to amend the motion as follows:

3. Enbridge be allowed to offset the Project's consumption of carbon-based energy with RECs from an Enbridge-owned project in Minnesota or elsewhere, or from a third party renewable provider offering verifiable green credits.

Commissioner Lipschultz accepted the amendment.

Commissioner Tuma proposed to amend the motion to add the following:

Require Enbridge to provide verifiable documentation specific to Phase 2 of the project that it has provided renewable energy as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422, subd. 1, to offset the incremental increase in energy consumed by the pump stations since they were turned on at the completion of the Phase 2 project by October 1, 2020, in such a way that there is no double-counting.

Verification shall be from the Minnesota Renewable Energy Trading System (M-RETS) or another entity the Commission determines is substantially equivalent to M-RETS.

Commissioner Lipschultz accepted the amendment, inserting the new language into the beginning of the proposed Ordering Paragraph 2 as follows:

2. Require Enbridge to provide verifiable documentation specific to Phase 2 of the project that it has provided renewable energy as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422, subd. 1, to offset the incremental increase in energy consumed by the pump stations since they were turned on at the completion of the Phase 2 project by October 1, 2020, in such a way that there is no double-counting. Verification shall be from M-RETS or another entity the Commission determines is substantially equivalent to M-RETS. Enbridge will be required to offset only the incremental energy from a carbon-producing source used by the Project, so long as Enbridge is not exempt from paying for the renewable energy purchased. That is, if a utility that Enbridge receives energy from is 25% carbon-free, then only 75% of the energy consumed by Enbridge from that utility needs to be offset. Moreover, as the utility's portfolios become less carbon-based, Enbridge's requirements shift accordingly.

Commissioner Tuma proposed to amend the motion as follows:

2. Require Enbridge to provide verifiable documentation specific to Phase 2 of the project that it has provided renewable energy as defined in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422, subd. 1, to offset the incremental increase in energy consumed by the pump stations since they were turned on at the completion of the Phase 2 project by ~~October~~ November 1, 2020, in such a way that there is no double-counting. Verification shall be from M-RETS or another entity the Commission determines is substantially equivalent to M-RETS. Enbridge will be required to offset only the incremental energy from a carbon-producing source used by the Project, so long as Enbridge is not exempt from paying for the renewable energy purchased. That is, if a utility that Enbridge receives energy from is 25% carbon-free, then only 75% of the energy consumed by Enbridge from that utility needs to be offset. Moreover, as the utility's portfolios become less carbon-based, Enbridge's requirements shift accordingly.

Commissioner Lipschultz accepted the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Tuma proposed to amend the motion to add the following:

4. Require Enbridge to file compliance updates on the neutral footprint objectives annually beginning not later than October 1, 2017.

Commissioner Lipschultz accepted the proposed amendment.

The amended motion passed 4-1; Commissioner Schuerger voted no.

ENERGY AGENDA

G-008/M-95-292

In the Matter of the Request of Minnegasco for Approval of Its Annual Manufactured Gas Plant Update Compliance Filing

G-008/GR-08-1075

In the Matter of an Application by CenterPoint Energy for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved to accept the annual compliance filing of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, and discontinue this annual filing requirement.

The motion passed 5-0.

G-011,002/C-17-305

In the Matter of the Complaint and Petition for Relief by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) Against Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel-Gas) for Violations of Minn. Stat. § 216B.01 and Commission Policy

G-999/CI-17-499

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Parameters for Competition Among Natural Gas Utilities Involving Duplication of Facilities and Use of Promotional Incentives and Payments

Commissioner Schuerger moved to do the following:

1. Dismiss MERC's complaint without further investigation.
2. Find that the Commission is not making a determination with regard to prudence or whether or not Xcel-Gas's new facilities can be added to rate base.
3. Find that the Commission is not making any determination regarding allegedly abandoned facilities owned by MERC or any decision regarding the prudence of those investments or the recovery of the associated costs in this proceeding.
4. Require Xcel-Gas, within 30 days, to file this agreement as a public document in its entirety; the agreement would be effective upon filing.
5. Require Xcel-Gas, within 30 days of the order, to file as public documents all existing competitive service agreements and to do so for future agreements upon execution; apply the same requirement to MERC.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Sieben moved to do the following:

1. Open a generic docket to review and investigate the parameters of inter-gas-utility competition that involves the duplication of existing facilities.
2. Open a generic docket to review and investigate the use of promotional incentives and other non-tariffed payments provided by utilities to their existing customers and potential future customers.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: September 20, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary