

The Commission met on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, with Acting Chair Tuma and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sieben, and Sullivan present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6871/WS-11-863

In the Matter of the Site Permit Amendment Application of Zephyr Wind, LLC for the Community South Wind Repower Project in Nobles County, Minnesota

Acting Chair Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Find good cause to amend the site permit based on the record evidence, which demonstrates application of the criteria for siting wind farms set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 216E, 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854.
2. Grant a waiver to Community Wind South Project of the wind access buffer setback as requested by the Applicant with the addition of the following language to permit condition 6.2:

If no wind rights agreement is reached, Permittee acknowledges that the affected landowners will not be foreclosed from installing wind turbine generators on their property at a later date, even if such turbine generators cannot be installed on their property in compliance with the setbacks set forth in section 4.1 of site permit.

3. Issue an amended site permit as revised by the Applicant and including revisions proposed by DOC EERA and Commission staff.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-004/M-21-272

In the matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's (Great Plains) Annual Report and Petition for Approval of Recovery for Gas Utility Infrastructure Costs and Revised Adjustment Factors for 2021

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission:

1. Find that Great Plains' Gas Utility Infrastructure Costs (GUIC) Petition complies with Minnesota Statutes, § 216B.1635.
2. Approve Great Plains' proposed 2021 revenue requirement of \$246,491, which includes the 2020 GUIC true-up.
3. Approve Great Plains' proposed GUIC adjustment rates, effective October 1, 2021.
4. Approve Great Plains' revised bill insert.
5. Require Great Plains to submit, within 10 days of the order, a compliance filing that includes (1) the GUIC tariff sheet, updated with the newly authorized adjustment rates and their approved effective date, and (2) the final version of the GUIC customer notice that Great Plains plans to include as a bill insert following Commission approval of new GUIC adjustment rates.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-004/D-21-372

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Petition for Approval of its 2021 Annual Depreciation Certification

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Great Plains' proposed depreciation rates, as outlined in Table 1 of the Petition, with an effective date of January 1, 2021.
2. Require Great Plains to continue to exclude Account 388.0 – Asset Retirement Obligations from its future depreciation studies.
3. Require Great Plains to continue to provide an update on the Company's PVC replacement program in its future depreciation studies.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-017/D-21-669

In the Matter of the Petition by Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of its 2021 Annual Review of Depreciation Certification

Acting Chair Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve all of Otter Tail Power's proposed remaining life and salvage rates.
2. Approve OTP's proposed effective date of January 1, 2022.
3. Require OTP to file its next annual depreciation study by September 1, 2022.
4. Require OTP, in its next depreciation filing, to include peaking capacity cost information ordered by Commission's decision in Docket No. E-017/RP-05-968, comparing its new in-service Astoria Station peaking capacity costs to the short-term peaking capacity costs approved in the general rate case Docket No. E017/GR-15-1033.
5. Require OTP to provide in its next depreciation filing, the status of its hydro license application including the decided term granted by the FERC.
6. Approve OTP's proposed remaining life of 0 years for the Bemidji plant for use in depreciation expense and reserve calculations in 2022.
7. Approve OTP's proposed 34-year remaining life for Astoria Station and require OTP to set Astoria Station's net salvage rate to negative 1.60 percent for prospective use in 2022 depreciation expense and accumulated reserve calculation purposes.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-111/M-21-810

In the Matter of a Request by Dakota Electric Association for a Variance to Billing Error Rules

Acting Chair Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the request by Dakota Electric Association (DEA) for a billing error variance, authorize the requested refunds, and require DEA to make a compliance filing within 14 days of the payment indicating the date of payment, total payment, and interest.
2. Establish a 30-day negative check off process for billing error variance requests filed by DEA and authorize DEA to provide refunds if no objections are filed within 30 days of a petition for a billing error variance.
 - a. The petition shall include estimated interest to be paid through the date of estimated payment.

- b. The petition shall also include a citation of the order issued on January 26, 2022, in Docket No. E-015/M-21-790.
- c. DEA shall make a compliance filing within 14 days of the payment indicating the date of payment, total payment, and interest.
- d. The Commission delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to issue a Notice affirming the refund can be provided to the customer.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/M-13-867

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

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. The Commission approves Xcel’s 2022 Value of Solar rates and associated tariff changes.
2. The Commission delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to open a comment period on the Department’s February 2022 Report in the current docket, including a request to compile current approaches and recommendations to improve locational avoided distribution cost calculations and locational value signals across various dockets.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: April 27, 2022



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary