



**Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission
Decisions
PUC Agenda Meeting**

121 7th Place East
Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Thursday, January 26, 2017

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

INTRODUCTION

ORAL ARGUMENT ITEMS

DELIBERATION ITEMS

DECISION ITEMS

1. * **ET2/TL-12-1245** **Great River Energy**
In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties, Minnesota.

Should the Commission authorize the permit transfer from Great River Energy to Xcel Energy?
Should the Commission impose any additional conditions as part of the approval?
Should the Commission take any other action? (PUC: **Ham**)

Issued modified permit.

2. **G002/M-16-649** **Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements. (PUC: Bender; DOC: Ryan)

Approved proposed demand entitlement and authorized recovery of associated costs.

3. * **G999/AA-15-612, et al** **All Commission-Regulated Natural Gas Utilities**
In the Matter of the Review of the 2014-2015 Annual Automatic Adjustment Reports and Annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) True-up Filings.

Should the Commission accept the natural gas utilities' 2014-2015 annual automatic adjustment reports and 2014-2015 annual true-up filings? (PUC: **Bender, Brill**)

Accepted annual automatic adjustment reports and true-ups.**4. ** G011/M-15-992 Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC)**

In the Matter of MERC's Petition for Authorization to Establish Amortization Periods Related to the Pre-Acquisition Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits Costs.

What amount, if any, of the pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) costs, that Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) and Integrys realized as a result of WEC's acquisition of Integrys, should the Commission allow MERC to amortize?

Should the Commission require MERC to transfer its share of allowed costs related to the IBS legacy benefit plans to MERC's balance sheet, add this amount to the MERC-specific allowed costs, and amortize the combined balance over 14 years?

Should the Commission require MERC to ring-fence the costs such that none are eligible to be included in rate base? (PUC: **Bender, Morrissey**)

Allowed amortization, excluding non-qualified plan amounts; required amortized costs be excluded from rate base.

5. ** E002/M-15-805 Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Rider True-up Report for 2015, Revenue Requirements for 2016, and a Revised Adjustment Factor.

Should the Commission approve Xcel Energy's request to modify its RES Tariff, update its 2016 RES rate factors and allow a true-up in the RES rider for 2015?

Should the Commission require Xcel to credit Minnesota ratepayers for their proportionate share of used North Dakota Income Tax Credits (NDITC) associated with the Courtney Wind Project, based on the prorate share of the costs of the Courtenay project that is charged to Minnesota ratepayers?

Should Accumulated Deferred Income Tax (ADIT) balances be prorated or non-prorated when the Company forecasts its test year for rate base. And, if the Commission decides proration of the ADIT balances is required, must the true-up also be calculated using the proration method when adjusting for actual ADIT? (PUC: **Schwieger, Morrissey**)

Deferred ADIT decision; allowed recovery of Courtenay project costs with credit for associated North Dakota ITCs; authorized RES rider recovery of actual 2016 costs; approved 2015 tracker report and true-up; approved recalculated adjustment factors; approved

revised tariff and customer notice; and required compliance filing.

6.

**** E002/M-13-867 Xcel Energy**

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

Should the Commission affirm or reject the decisions issued by the Department of Commerce regarding the co-location of Community Solar Garden projects by SunEdison and NextEra? (PUC: Mackenzie)

Denied appeals.

7.

PULLED

**** ~~P421/AM-16-496~~; CenturyLink QC**

~~P421/AM-16-547~~

In the Matter of the Petition of CenturyLink QC to be Regulated Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.025: Competitive Market Regulation (See Also Docket 16-547 for “Highly Sensitive Protected Data”); Repository for “Highly Sensitive Protected Data” Subject to Additional Protection in Docket 16-496 (In the Matter of the Petition of CenturyLink QC to be Regulated Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.025: Competitive Market Regulation).

Should the Commission approve the Petition for Intervention submitted by the U.S. Department of Defense and all other Federal Executive Agencies? (PUC: O’Grady)

ADJOURNMENT

* One star indicates agenda item is unusual but is not disputed.

** Two stars indicate a disputed item or significant legal or procedural issue to be resolved. (Ex Parte Rules apply)

Please note: For the complete record, please see eDockets