



Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Decisions

Thursday, October 24, 2019

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

INTRODUCTION

DECISION ITEMS

1. * **IP7006/CN-19-309** **Buffalo Ridge Wind Energy, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Wind Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 109 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln County, Minnesota.
 1. Should the Commission accept the certificate of need application as substantially complete?
 2. Should the Commission direct that the application be evaluated using the informal review process or refer the application to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding?
 3. Should the Commission vary the time limits of its rules that relate to application completeness and date of the information/ER scoping meeting? (PUC: **Panait**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted CON application as complete; directed use of informal review process; granted LIUNA intervention as party; and varied rules.

2. * **IP7006/WS-19-394** **Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Wind Energy, LLC for a Site Permit for the 109 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln County, Minnesota.
 1. Should the Commission accept the site permit application as substantially complete?
 2. What procedural process should the Commission authorize for evaluation of the site permit application?
 3. Should the Commission vary the time limits of its rules that relate to application completeness and draft permit issuance? (PUC: **Panait**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
 [Sample Site Permit](#)

Accepted site permit application as complete; requested OAH to preside and provided requested process; set administrative responsibilities; granted LIUNA intervention as party; and varied rules.

3. ** E111/GR-19-478 **Dakota Electric Association**
In the Matter of the Application by Dakota Electric Association for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota.

Should this filing be accepted? If so, should the proposed rates be suspended, this matter referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceeding, and interim rates set as requested? (PUC: **Bonnett; Alonso; Krishnan; Manning; O'Grady; Ubani**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Filing accepted, proposed rates suspended, interim rates set.

4. * G004/D-19-376 **Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (Great Plains),
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.**
In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s Petition for Approval of its 2019 Depreciation Certification.

Should the Commission approve Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s 2019 annual depreciation certification? (PUC: **Hetherington, Schwieger**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Petition approved.

5. ** G011/D-19-377 **Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation**
In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for the Annual Review of Depreciation Rates for 2019.

1. Should the Commission approve MERC's proposed depreciation lives and rates effective January 1, 2019?
2. Should the Commission approve MERC's proposal to establish a one-percent threshold of total net depreciable plant at year-end to determine whether structures are depreciated as a part of the Major group or the Minor group in FERC Account 390, Structures & Improvements? (PUC: **Schwieger**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Approved depreciation parameters and rates, with additional requirements.

The following items will not be heard before 10:00 AM

6. ** G6278,6279,6280/
CI-18-770 **Gorham's Inc., et al**
In the Matter of an Inquiry into Exemptions for Small Gas Utility Franchises Under Minn.

Stat. § 216B.16, Subd. 12, for Gorham's Inc., Northwest Natural Gas, LLC, Northwest Natural Gas of Murray County, Inc., and Northwest Natural Gas of Cass County LLC.

1. Does Gorham's Inc., et al qualify as an exempt small gas utility under Minn. Stat. §216B.02, subd. 4 and Minn. Stat. §216B.16, subd. 12?
2. What action, if any, should the Commission take to bring Gorham's Inc., et al, into compliance with the applicable statutes? (PUC: **Bartusch**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Required additional filings.

7. * E,G999/CI-08-133 All Electric and Gas Utilities with Approved DSM Financial Incentives

In the Matter of Commission Review of Utility Performance Incentives for Energy Conservation Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.241 Subd. 2c.

1. What Shared Savings Demand-Side Management financial Incentive mechanism should be approved for 2020? (PUC: **Fournier**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Kept 2019 DSM incentive mechanism for 2020. DOC, stakeholders to discuss potential changes.

8. ** E017/M-19-256 Otter Tail Power Company

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's 2018 Demand-Side Management Financial Incentive and Annual Filing to Update the Conservation-Improvement Program Rider.

1. What 2018 tracker account balance should be approved by the Commission?
2. What level of Shared Savings financial incentive should the Commission approve for Otter Tail's 2018 CIP achievements?
3. What Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) should the Commission approve for 2019/2020?
4. Should the Commission approve the request for a variance to Minnesota Rule 7820.3500 (E) and (K) to allow Otter Tail to continue to combine the Fuel Clause Adjustment (FCA) with the Conservation Improvement Adjustment on customer bills? And
5. Should the Commission require Otter Tail to submit a compliance filing, within 10 days of the issue date of the Order in the present docket, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter? (PUC: **Fournier**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Approved \$3 million incentive and \$0.0071 CCRA.

9. * **G004/M-19-280** **Great Plains Natural Gas Co.**
In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Service Quality Report for 2018.
- Should the Commission accept Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Service Quality Report? (PUC: **O'Grady**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report and modified future reporting requirements.

10. * **G008/M-19-300** **CenterPoint Energy**
In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018.
- Should the Commission Accept CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report? (PUC: **O'Grady**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report and required future filings.

11. ** **G011/M-19-303** **Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation**
In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018.
1. Should the Commission accept Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's (MERC's) Natural Gas Service Quality Report?
 2. Should the Commission allow MERC to retain the \$500,000 performance incentive set-aside for 2018?
 3. Should the Commission terminate MERC's ongoing monitoring and set-aside requirements? (PUC: **O'Grady**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report, modified future reporting requirements.

12. * **G022/M-19-304** **Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.**
In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas' Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018.
- Should the Commission accept Greater Minnesota Gas' (GMG's) Natural Gas Service Quality Report? (PUC: **O'Grady**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report and modified future reporting requirements.

13. * **G002/M-19-305** **Northern States Power d/b/a Xcel Energy**

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018.

Should the Commission accept Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report?
(PUC: O'Grady)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Accepted report and modified future reporting requirements.

14. * **G004/M-19-280;** **Great Plains Natural Gas Co.;**
 G008/M-19-300; **CenterPoint Energy;**
 G011/M-19-303; **Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation;**
 G022/M-19-304; **Greater Minnesota Gas;**
 G002/M-19-305 **Xcel Energy**

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Service Quality Report for 2018;
In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018;
In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018;
In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas' Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018;
In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018.

Should the Commission Implement Annual Transmission and Distribution Integrity Management Plan Reporting Requirements for Five Gas Utilities as Proposed by the Office of the Attorney General? (PUC: O'Grady)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Required TIMP/DIMP reporting.

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