

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 4, 2020**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6557/WS-06-91

In the Matter of a Site Permit Amendment to Repower the 98.9 Megawatt Mower County Wind Energy Center Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Mower County, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Grant a waiver to FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC, of the wind rights access buffer as requested in its April 17 and May 15, 2020 filings for turbines T20, T27, and T31, with the condition that the permittee shall extend a final offer to the non-participating landowners effected by Turbines T20 and T31 for the same amount and terms agreed to by other landowners in similar circumstances or their last offer, whichever is higher. At least 14 days before the pre-construction meeting, the permittee shall submit a compliance filing describing the results of these final offers. If no wind rights agreement is reached, the permittee shall agree not to oppose the installation of wind turbine generators on such property at a later date, so long as the rotor diameters of the turbines being installed on said property are fully within the non-participating landowner's property lines.
2. Grant a waiver to FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC, of the 1000 foot residence setback as requested in their December 2 application for turbine T29 with the condition that the permittee shall obtain a written consent to the specific Noise Restricted Operation from the affected landowner. As part of the post construction noise monitoring the permittee must place a monitoring station at the residence to determine compliance with the state noise standards. At least 14 days before the pre-construction meeting, the permittee must formally submit a compliance filing documenting its agreement with these terms.
3. Issue an amended Site Permit as proposed by the Energy Environmental Review & Analysis unit of the Minnesota Department of Commerce as attached to the briefing papers and include any additional permit conditions as decided by the Commission.
4. Amend Section 4.7 of the site permit to allow the permittee to file the native prairie plan 30 days prior to the pre-construction meeting.
5. Authorize Commission staff to make further refinements to the permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decision in this matter.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/M-20-437

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's Proposal to Adjust the 2020 Fuel Forecast Monthly Fuel Cost Charges

E-002/AA-19-293

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of its 2020 Annual Fuel Forecast and Monthly Fuel Cost Charges

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission approve Xcel's proposed \$25 million fuel clause adjustment reduction.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-017/D-19-547

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of its 2019 Annual Review of Depreciation Certification

This item was removed from the Commission's agenda.

E-015/M-16-564

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Revised Petition for a Competitive Rate for Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) Customers and an EITE Cost Recovery Rider

E-015/GR-19-442

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for Authority to Increase Electric Service Rates in Minnesota

E-015/M-20-429

In the Matter of the Emergency Petition of Minnesota Power for Approval to Move Asset-Based Wholesale Sales Credits to the Fuel Adjustment Clause and Resolve Rate Case

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's request to shift recovery of the Company's energy and capacity asset-based wholesale sales margins from base rates to its Fuel Adjustment Clause with the following three conditions.
 - Before Minnesota Power's next rate case, ensure parties can modify the Company's class cost of service study (CCOSS) model inputs and cost allocators to allow parties to receive real-time calculations and outputs, and track and report any costs related to complying with this requirement.
 - Require Minnesota Power to provide reasonable intervenor compensation to parties participating in this proceeding to promote a public purpose or policy.

- In its next rate case, require Minnesota Power to submit information on its process for collecting residential late fees and the costs expended in these collection efforts. Before its next rate case, require the Company to work with interested parties to discuss alternative methods of allocating residential late payment and similar fees.
2. Approve Minnesota Power's request to defer residential rate design issues in the rate case to Docket No. E-015/M-12-233, *In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Compliance Report for its Temporary Rider for Residential Time-of-Day Rate for Participants of the Smart Grid Advanced Metering Infrastructure Pilot Project*.
 3. Accept Minnesota Power's commitment to work with its Large Light & Power customers on rate design alternatives and to report to the Commission on those discussions within six months.
 4. Require Minnesota Power to also work with its Large Power customers on rate design alternatives and to report to the Commission on those discussions within six months.
 5. Approve Minnesota Power's request to maintain the current Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed Customer (EITE) rider rate discount through February 1, 2021.
 6. Require Minnesota Power to submit a compliance filing within ten days of the date of this order showing final rates, and all related tariff changes, including supporting spreadsheets with formulas included and a brief narrative to explain all changes to the rate calculations made since Minnesota Power's April 30, 2020 supplemental filing in this docket.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission encourage Minnesota Power to work with stakeholders to bring forward a proposal by August 31, 2020, to extend the EITE rider rate discount.

The motion passed 4–1; Commissioner Tuma voted no.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 17, 2021



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary