

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 27, 2018** with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

P-999/PR-18-20

In the Matter of 2017 Lifeline Recertification Results

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission accept the Department's analysis regarding the ETCs 2017 Lifeline recertification surveys. All ETCs must file their 2018 Form 555 Lifeline survey results by January 31, 2019.

The motion passed 5-0.

P-999/PR-18-8

In the Matter of Annual Certifications Related to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers' (ETCs) Use of the Federal Universal Service Support Required Pursuant to C.F.R § 54.313

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Certify that all the petitioning ETCs in Attachment 2 have used High Cost Universal Service Support received in 2017 and will use Federal High Cost Universal Support received in the coming year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.
2. Require in future years that an officer for each company subject to state certification file an affidavit with the Commission concurrently with the FCC Form 481 filing. The affidavit must include:
 - a. The position of the affiant.
 - b. That the affiant understands and is familiar with the requirements of the FCC concerning universal service funding.
 - c. That the funds are and will be used appropriately.
 - d. That the company is compliant with applicable rules on service quality and consumer protection.
 - e. That there is sufficient backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source, and the company is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergencies.
3. Establish a notice and comment period on whether a financial summary should be filed along with the affidavit, and whether there is interest in establishing a stakeholder process for further discussion of such issues.

4. Delegate administrative authority to the Executive Secretary to set the comment periods.

The motion passed 5-0.

ET-9/RP-17-753

IN the Matter of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's Submittal of its 2018-2032 Integrated Resource Plan

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Accept SMMPA's 2018-2032 Integrated Resource Plan for planning purposes.
2. Require SMMPA to file its next resource plan no later than December 1, 2021.

The motion passed 5-0.

IP-6981/CN-17-306

**In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge, Steele, and Olmsted Counties
IP-6981/WS-17-307**

**In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the Dodge County Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota
IP-6981/TL-17-308**

In the Matter of the Application of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Route Permit for the 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Associated with the Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge and Olmsted Counties

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the certificate of need application as substantially complete.
2. Accept the LWECs site permit application as substantially complete.
3. Accept the HVTL route permit application as substantially complete.
4. Refer the HVTL site permit application to the OAH for a contested case hearing under the contested case procedures of Minn. Stat. Ch. 14.
5. Refer the certificate of need application to the OAH for a contested case hearing to be held jointly with the HVTL route permit application contested case hearing.

6. Refer the LWECS site permit application to the OAH for a contested case hearing to be held jointly with the HVTL route permit application contested case hearing.
7. Approve joint public hearings and combined environmental review of the certificate of need, LWECS site permit, and HVTL route permit applications to the extent practical.
8. Request that the DOC-EERA prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in lieu of an Environmental Report under Minn. R. 7849.1900.
9. Require a prehearing conference at a date, time, and place to be set by the ALJ in consultation with Commission staff.
10. Request that the ALJ prepare a report setting forth findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the merits of the proposed project, applying the routing criteria set forth in statute and rule; and provide comments and recommendations, if any, on the conditions and provisions of a route permit.
11. Request that the ALJ prepare a report setting forth findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the merits of the proposed project, applying the certificate of need criteria set forth in statute and rule.
12. Request that the ALJ prepare a report setting forth findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the merits of the proposed project, applying the siting criteria set forth in statute and rule; and provide comments and recommendations, if any, on the conditions and provisions of a site permit.
13. Delegate administrative authority, including timing issues, to the Executive Secretary.
14. Designate Charley Bruce as the Commission's Public Advisor who will facilitate citizen participation in the process.
15. Request that the Department of Commerce continue to study the issues and indicate during the hearing process through testimony or comment its position on the reasonableness of granting a certificate of need, site permit, and a route permit.
16. Require the Applicant to facilitate in every reasonable way the continued examination of the issues requested by the Department of Commerce and Commission staff.
17. Require the Applicant to place a print or electronic copy of the certificate of need application, LWECS site permit application, and HVTL route permit application in the government center or library located closest to the proposed project site.
18. Direct the Applicant to work with Commission staff and the Department of Commerce staff to arrange for publication of the notices related to public information meetings and

public hearings in newspapers of general circulation under the timelines prescribed in rule and statute, that such notice be in the form of visible display adds, and that proof of publication be obtained from the newspapers selected.

19. Vary Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 5, to extend the 30-day timeframe for a Commission decision on certificate of need application completeness.
20. Vary Minn. R. 7854.0600, subp. 1, to extend the 30-day timeframe for a Commission decision on LWECs site permit application completeness.
21. Vary Minn. R. 7854.0800, subp. 1, to extend the 45-day timeframe for a Commission decision on the issuance of a draft site permit.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 24, 2018



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary