

The Commission met on **Thursday, April 22, 2021**, with Acting Chair Sullivan and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

G-004/M-20-562

In the Matter of the Petition of Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements for the 2020-2021 Winter Heating Season.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Accept Great Plains' proposed design-day method for its consolidated Purchased Gas Adjustment areas.
2. Approve Great Plains' proposed level of demand entitlements for the 2020-2021 winter heating season as amended by Great Plains in its Supplemental Filing.
3. Allow Great Plains to recover associated demand costs through the monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment, effective November 1, 2020.
4. Direct Great Plains, in its future demand entitlement filings, to continue to check the regression models it ultimately uses for autocorrelation, and correct the models, if autocorrelation is present.

The motion passed 4—0.

G-002/M-20-633

In the Matter of the Petition by Northern States Power Company for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's proposed level of demand entitlements as amended by its Supplemental Filing.
2. Allow Xcel Energy to recover associated demand costs through the monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment effective November 1, 2020.
3. Require Xcel Energy to submit a compliance filing within 10 days of the issue date of this order that explains and confirms how it handled the pipeline refund in January 2021 in accordance with the Commission supplier refund rules.

4. Direct Xcel Energy to, in its next Demand Entitlement filing, explain how it evaluated, tested, and repaired its peak shaving plants (Wescott, Sibley and Maplewood) to ensure their availability for the 2021-22 heating season.

The motion passed 4—0.

E-017/M-21-99

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company’s Petition for Approval of the Customer Eligibility, Updated Baseline and Annual Update to its Energy-Intensive, Trade-Exposed Rider Surcharge Rate, Rate Schedule 13.09.

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve the 2020 Annual Update as proposed by Otter Tail Power Company (OTP).
2. Approve OTP’s request to renew its Energy-Intensive, Trade-Exposed (EITE) rider, decrease its baseline usage by 2.18%, and adopt the EITE discount rates for a four-year period.
3. Decline to cap the EITE Customer Group’s annual energy baseline usage.
4. Require OTP to provide a compliance filing that verifies that it has made a \$10,000 contribution to a low-income agency consistent with Minnesota Statute.
5. Approve OTP’s revised customer bill message for the new EITE surcharge.
6. Require OTP to submit revised EITE rider tariff language in a compliance filing within 10 days of the date of the Commission’s order.

The motion passed 4—0.

E-002/M-21-69

In the Matter of the Petition by Northern States Power Company for Approval of a Credit Mechanism to Return to Customers Department of Energy Settlement Payments.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve Xcel’s Minnesota-jurisdiction calculation of \$9,589,930.
2. Approve Xcel’s proposal that the credit include the actual amount of interest earned by the Company, net of any bank fees through July 31, 2021. If the refund is not commenced by July 31, 2021, require Xcel to cover any additional fees incurred past that date and pay the interest to customers at a rate of 0.81% commencing on August 1, 2021, until the refund is paid.

3. In its next petition for approval of a credit mechanism to return to customers Department of Energy settlement payments, require Xcel to provide a thorough discussion of the process used to determine the financial institution and arrangements for the short-term deposit. Require Xcel at a minimum to document that it sought proposals from at least three financial institutions capable of these types of short-term deposits along with a thorough explanation of why it selected the financial institution used.
4. Approve the refund allocation proposed in Xcel's initial filing, as reflected in Table 1 of the staff briefing papers, with the exception that the \$2,934,126 allocated to the Residential Class shall instead be used to fund the PowerOn program. Allow Xcel to use these funds over a two-year period.
5. Require Xcel to add authorized funds to the PowerOn program within 30 days of the Commission's order in this docket and make a compliance filing confirming the funding.
6. Require Xcel to commence issuance of the refunds no later than July 31, 2021.
7. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing within 30 days after completing the bill credits in this docket.
8. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing that provides information and documentation consistent with order point 11 of the Commission's December 16, 2011 order in Docket No. E-002/M-11-807 within 30 days of receiving future Department of Energy payments

The motion passed 4—0.

E015/CN-21-140

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Duluth Loop Reliability Project in Saint Louis County, Minnesota.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's proposed notice plan.
2. Grant a variance to Minnesota Rule 7829.2550, subpart 6, and direct that the notices identified in the notice plan shall occur no more than 60 days and no less than 14 days prior to the time of filing of the certificate-of-need application.
3. Allow Minnesota Power to publish a smaller-sized notice in a newspaper of statewide distribution.

4. Approve the requested exemptions with modifications as provided in the Department of Commerce's March 22, 2021 comments.

The motion passed 4—0.

E002/M-12-1278

In the Matter of Renewable Development Fund Cycle 4 Request for Approval of an Amendment to the First Amended and Restated Grant Contract for an Energy Production Project (EP4-15); In the Matter of Renewable Development Fund Cycle 4 Petition for Approval of a Change in Scope of a Renewable Development Fund Grant Contract with Bergey Windpower Co. (EP4-24) and the University of Minnesota (RD4-11).

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission approve the EP4-24 and RD4-11 grant contract amendments proposed in Xcel's January 8, 2021 filing.

The motion passed 4—0.

E002/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 take the following actions:

1. Take no action on Xcel's November 2, 2020 compliance report. Direct the Company to file updates on stakeholder discussions, the arc flash study, and any other technical solutions contemplated by the Company by June 1, 2021.
2. Direct Xcel to file, by September 1, 2021, a plan to reduce frequency and duration of planned outages and to make associated changes to its work practices, operating procedures, Technical Specifications Manual (TSM), business and/or other procedures necessary to carry out the plan immediately after filing with a target completion of no later than June 1, 2022.
3. Direct Xcel to propose a method and process, to be potentially included in its tariff, for reimbursing CSG developers for lost revenues, and/or other relief, where the Commission determines that Xcel has acted in violation of tariff provisions. Direct Xcel to file its proposal by September 1, 2021 for consideration by the Commission.
4. Direct Xcel to develop a utility protocol defining the procedures and the timing to provide advanced notification to the CSG operator as soon as reasonably practicable (i.e., more than 24-48 hours) prior to CSG planned outages due to Xcel Energy System Maintenance and city, county, or state road work. Direct the Company to file the protocol by June 1, 2021.

5. Delegate to the Executive Secretary authority to vary time periods, establish schedules, and issue notices for additional comments in this docket as necessary.

The motion passed 4—0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 13, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary