

The Commission met on **Thursday, April 30, 2020**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-999/PR-19-9**

**In the Matter of Trade Secret Designations of 2019 Cogeneration and Small Power Production Reports**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to deny the Joint Commenters' petition for reconsideration.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-002/M-13-867**

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

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Deny the appeal of Northern States Power Company, dba Xcel Energy (Xcel), affirm the January 10, 2020 determination of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department), and find that the Helen CSG1 community solar garden and the Helen Solar LLC 1-4 community solar garden exhibit the characteristics of separate developments and are not co-located.
2. Condition the decision above on a compliance filing made by ReneSola and any future successors in ownership. The compliance filing must be made within 10 days of the Commission order, and upon energization, asserting the following:
  - a. The owner does not have any formal or informal, direct or indirect, common debt; equity; umbrella sales arrangement; revenue-sharing arrangement; or any other arrangement of any nature with the owner of the adjacent garden or any affiliate of the owner of the adjacent garden.
  - b. The owner and the adjacent garden have separate marketing efforts to obtain subscribers and will be wholly independent of one another with no plan to share subscribers.

- c. The owner's lease is an arms-length transaction with the current third-party property owner, who does not have an ownership interest in the adjacent garden and who is not in the business of owning and operating community solar gardens under Xcel's CSG tariff.
- d. If the owner becomes aware of any changes to this information, the owner must immediately notify Xcel and the Commission of the changes.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-999/CI-07-1199**

**E-999/DI-19-406**

**In the Matter of Establishing an Updated 2020 Estimate of the Costs of Future Carbon Dioxide Regulation on Electricity Generation under Minn. Stat. § 216H.06**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Quantify and establish the range of regulatory costs of carbon dioxide emissions as \$5 to \$25 per short ton effective 2025 and after.
2. Require that, in all electricity generation resource acquisition proceedings during 2020 and 2021, utilities shall analyze potential resources under a range of assumptions about environmental values, including scenarios that:
  - a. Incorporate, for all years, the low end of the range of environmental costs for carbon dioxide as approved by the Commission in its January 3, 2018 Order Updating Environmental Costs in Docket No. E-999/CI-14-643.
  - b. Incorporate, for all years, the high end of the range of environmental costs for CO<sub>2</sub> as approved by the Commission in its January 3, 2018 Order.
  - c. Incorporate the low end of the range of environmental costs for CO<sub>2</sub> but substituting, for planning years after 2024, the low end of the range of regulatory costs for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in lieu of environmental costs.
  - d. Incorporate the high end of the range of environmental costs for CO<sub>2</sub> but substituting, for planning years after 2024, the high end of the range of regulatory costs for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in lieu of environmental costs.

3. Utilities shall develop and submit a reference scenario based upon the Commission's middle or high values of the established environmental and regulatory cost ranges. Regulatory cost shall begin to take effect in 2023.

Commissioner Schuerger proposed amending the motion to remove the last sentence of Motion Paragraph 3 as follows:

3. Utilities shall develop and submit a reference scenario based upon the Commission's middle or high values of the established environmental and regulatory cost ranges. ~~Regulatory cost shall begin to take effect in 2023.~~

Chair Sieben adopted the amendment.

The amended 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/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**

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's proposal to lower its interim rate adjustment from 5.8% to 4.1% effective May 1, 2020.
2. Require Minnesota Power to lower the interim rate adjustment on customer bills as soon as reasonably practicable and include the balance in the interim rate refund at the end of the pending rate case.
3. If Minnesota Power's proposal is approved, authorize Minnesota Power to implement on customer bills revised interim rates beginning May 1, 2020.

4. Require Minnesota Power to include on each customer's first bill under the new interim rates the following bill message:

In response to COVID-19, Minnesota Power has reduced the interim rate customers are paying from 5.8% to 4.1%. The MPUC approved change is effective May 1, 2020. Learn more about MP's proposed resolution to its Nov. 2019 rate review at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com)

5. Require the Company to make a filing certifying its compliance with this requirement as soon as compliance is complete.
6. Require Minnesota Power to file with the Commission and the Department, as soon as it is practicable, revised interim rate tariff sheets and supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with the decisions made in this order.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: May 12, 2021**



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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**