

The Commission met on **Thursday, February 28, 2019**, with Acting Chair Lipschultz and Commissioners Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

G-001/GR-17-563

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service in Minnesota

Acting Chair Lipschultz moved that the Commission deny the OAG's request for reconsideration.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-011/GR-17-563

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Sieben moved that the Commission approve MERC's proposed GAP surcharge as filed, and require the Company, in its next rate case, to discontinue directly assigning regulatory costs to the GAP rider, and instead include all regulatory costs, including those incurred for GAP evaluation, in base rates.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-004/M-18-286

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Great Plains' 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.
2. Require Great Plains to file, within 60 days of the Commission's order, a compliance filing that:
 - a. identifies the maximum customer service window of no more than 8 hours.
 - b. documents that communications between customers and customer service representatives reflects the maximum customer service window.
 - c. identifies all other measures the utility is undertaking, contemplating, or could undertake to reduce the maximum customer service window to a timeframe less than the maximum 8 hours.

3. Require Great Plains to include, in its 2018 Annual Gas Service Quality Report, the following:
 - a. the utility's filing under 49 CFR 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures, monitoring results, and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting.
 - b. a summary of any 2018 emergency response violations cited by MNOPS along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance.
 - c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from MNOPS during the year in question.
 - d. a discussion of how to provide ongoing monitoring and metrics towards the deployment of Excess Flow Valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-008/M-18-312

In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept CenterPoint's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report as supplemented and revised on July 23 and October 22, 2018.
2. Require CenterPoint to file, within 60 days of the Commission's order, a compliance filing that:
 - a. identifies the maximum customer service window of no more than 8 hours.
 - b. documents that communications between customers and customer service representatives reflects the maximum customer service window.
 - c. identifies all other measures the utility is undertaking, contemplating, or could undertake to reduce the maximum customer service window to a timeframe less than the maximum 8 hours.
3. Require CenterPoint to include, in its 2018 Annual Gas Service Quality Report, the following:
 - a. the utility's filing under 49 CFR 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures, monitoring results, and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting.
 - b. a summary of any 2018 emergency response violations cited by MNOPS along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance.

- c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from MNOPS during the year in question.
- d. a discussion of how to provide ongoing monitoring and metrics towards the deployment of Excess Flow Valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-002/M-18-314

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept GMG's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.
2. Require GMG to include, in its 2018 Annual Gas Service Quality Report, the following:
 - a. the utility's filing under 49 CFR 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures, monitoring results, and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting.
 - b. a summary of any 2018 emergency response violations cited by MNOPS along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance.
 - c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from MNOPS during the year in question.
 - d. a discussion of how to provide ongoing monitoring and metrics towards the deployment of Excess Flow Valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-002/M-18-316

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Xcel's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.
2. Require Xcel to include, in its 2018 Annual Gas Service Quality Report, the following:

- a. the utility's filing under 49 CFR 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures, monitoring results, and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting.
- b. a summary of any 2018 emergency response violations cited by MNOPS along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance.
- c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from MNOPS during the year in question.
- d. a discussion of how to provide ongoing monitoring and metrics towards the deployment of Excess Flow Valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41.

The motion passed 4–0.

G-011/M-18-317

In the Matter of MERC's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Accept MERC's 2017 Annual Gas Service Quality Report.
2. Find that MERC is in compliance with all applicable reporting requirements and that the Company has demonstrated that MERC has satisfied the benchmarks set for 2017 associated with the Improved Customer Experience (ICE) project; allow the Company to retain the \$500,000 ICE performance incentives for 2017. In addition, MERC must continue reporting on its ICE metrics, as clarified and revised in the Company's August 29, 2018 Additional Reply Comments, in MERC's annual service quality report to be filed May 1, 2019.
3. Require MERC to file, within 60 days of the Commission's order, a compliance filing that:
 - a. identifies the maximum customer service window of no more than 8 hours.
 - b. documents that communications between customers and customer service representatives reflects the maximum customer service window.
 - c. identifies all other measures the utility is undertaking, contemplating, or could undertake to reduce the maximum customer service window to a timeframe less than the maximum 8 hours.
4. Require MERC to include, in its 2018 Annual Gas Service Quality Report, the following:
 - a. the utility's filing under 49 CFR 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures, monitoring results, and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting.

- b. a summary of any 2108 emergency response violations cited by MNOPS along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance.
- c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from MNOPS during the year in question.
- d. a discussion of how to provide ongoing monitoring and metrics towards the deployment of Excess Flow Valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. G-999/CI-18-41.

The motion passed 4–0.

IP-6984/CN-17-676

In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 152 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota

Consideration of the petition of Flying Cow Wind, LLC, (Flying Cow) to withdraw its petition for Certificate of Need removed from the Commission's agenda.

IP-6984/CN-17-676

In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 152 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota

IP-6984/WS-17-749

In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 152 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota

Acting Chair Lipschultz moved to grant reconsideration for purposes of tolling the statutory deadline under Minn. Stat. § 216B.27, subd. 4, and continue the matter until Flying Cow's withdrawal petition could be rescheduled.

The motion passed 4–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: September 18, 2019



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary