

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 14, 2020**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

P-6944/RL-19-195

In the Matter of the Petition of Lake County for Relinquishment of ETC Designation

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission grant Lake County's petition to relinquish its ETC status, effective June 3, 2019.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-999/M-19-205

In the Matter of the 2019 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2019 Biennial Transmission Projects Report.
2. Encourage the Minnesota Department of Commerce to collect information on mitigation costs in future certificate of need applications for energy projects, including transmission projects.
3. Regarding the 2021 Biennial Transmission Projects Report:
 - a. Extend the variance to the public participation requirements of Minn. R. 7848.0900 and decline to require a webinar presentation on the projects report as an alternative measure.
 - b. Require Minnesota Transmission Owners (MTO) to file the 2021 Report with the content similar to 2019 Report and additional findings as modified below.
 - c. Additionally, require MTO to include in the 2021 Report the requirements addressed in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425, subd 2.
 - d. Find that for future reports, MTO may provide a link to the report on the MTO website, www.minnelectrans.com, as well as directions to access the report via eDockets, in lieu of mailing CDs or jump drives with electronic copies of the report to the required notice lists.

4. Require the MTO to make a compliance filing by August 15, 2020, including initial discussion and recommendations for next steps for identifying gaps between the existing and currently planned transmission system and the transmission system that will be required to meet the companies' publicly stated clean energy goals in the Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report process. The MTO will include a full discussion and analysis in the next biennial report.
5. Require the MTO in its next biennial report to address the new or expanded transmission needed to accommodate the following:
 - a. The requirements in all approved Minnesota resource plans.
 - b. The public clean energy commitments of the MTO member utilities, and
 - c. The relevant Minnesota statutory goals.
6. Require in the next biennial report that the MTO describe their efforts to engage with MISO to ensure that Minnesota's transmission needs have been met, and provide an assessment from the MTO of whether MISO has been responsive to Minnesota's identified and likely transmission needs.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-015/M-19-440

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Request for Approval of its 2019 Transmission Factors under its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Minnesota Power's petition as updated in Minnesota Power's supplemental reply comments dated February 24, 2020.
2. Clarify that the 28.3% limit in rider recovery in its June 30, 2015 order was intended to apply to the capital costs over the entire life of the Great Northern Transmission Line project and not the Construction-Work-In-Progress balance prior to the Great Northern Transmission Line project's in-service date.
3. Require Minnesota Power to include in this proceeding the net credits it receives from MISO under Schedule 9 for Dog Lake and Great Northern Transmission Line.
4. Require Minnesota Power to file a copy of FERC's audit report regarding Minnesota Power's transmission formula rates in this proceeding when it becomes available.

5. Require Minnesota Power to include any refunds that it receives for 2016–2019 return on equity reductions in future Transmission Cost Recovery Rider filings.
6. Require Minnesota Power to file compliance tariffs reflecting the modifications adopted by the Commission.
7. Require Minnesota Power to file in their Transmission Cost Recovery Factor filing, annually, descriptions of all potentially eligible projects that they will seek recovery for in the future, and the impacts those projects will have on the Transmission Cost Recovery factor.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: March 17, 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