

**The Commission met on Thursday, July 30, 2015, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, and Tuma present.**

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA**

**P-423/M-15-433**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Find that Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative (PBC) meets the common carrier requirement for ETC designation;
2. Find that PBC offers the supported services required for ETC designation;
3. Find that PBC's proposed service area conforms to federal and state rules;
4. Find that PBC has made a credible, but incomplete, showing of its capability and intent to provide and advertise an affordable, quality Lifeline offering, throughout its proposed service area, and that its designation for the provision of Lifeline service is in the public interest subject to conditions. Condition ETC designation upon the following:
  - a. Within 30 days of the Commission's Order conditionally approving PBC's petition, PBC must submit a formal advertising and outreach plan listing the specific local and community newspapers and commercial broadcast stations in Minnesota through which it intends to advertise the availability of voice telephony, including Lifeline service, and a proposed schedule or anticipated frequency of such advertising;
  - b. PBC must notify the Commission and the Department, in writing, immediately upon any change to its voice telephony offering terms, conditions, or rates; and
  - c. PBC must notify the Department and the Commission if it is unable to serve a Lifeline qualified customer within its service area within ten days of making the determination.
5. Find that granting the ETC designation is in the public interest.

The motion passed 4–0.

## ENERGY AGENDA

### **E-002/M-12-1278**

#### **In the Matter of A Request by Xcel Energy to Issue Renewable Development Fund Cycle 4 Requests for Proposals and Petition for Approval of a Standard Grant Contract**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the HE block grant contract with the University of Minnesota contingent upon Xcel filing an amendment to correct the error related to the royalties formula (as described in Xcel's letter of July 29, 2015 in this docket) as a compliance filing, within 30 days of the Order in this matter. Find that any benefits of the grant contract assigned to Xcel, including but not limited to royalties, must be returned by Xcel to its Minnesota electric ratepayers.
2. Approve the HE block grant contract with the University of St. Thomas. Find that any benefits of the grant contract assigned to Xcel, including but not limited to royalties, must be returned by Xcel to its Minnesota electric ratepayers.

The motion passed 4-0.

### **E-002/M-15-330**

#### **In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of Cost Recovery of the Aurora Power Purchase Agreement**

Commissioner Lange moved to take the following actions:

1. Grant Xcel's Petition and approve the Aurora PPA under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1645, Subd. 1.
2. Grant Xcel's Petition and authorize cost recovery of the Minnesota-jurisdictional costs of the Aurora PPA via Xcel's Fuel Clause Rider pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1645, Subd. 2.
3. Require Xcel to provide a compliance filing in this docket and Commission Docket E-999/15-462, due 60 days after issuance of the Commission's Community Solar Garden Order (E-002/M-13-867), regarding Xcel's current status on SES-compliance.

The motion passed 4-0.

### **E-002/M-15-401**

#### **In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of the Acquisition of the 200-Megawatt Courtenay Wind Farm**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve Xcel's proposal to purchase and develop the Courtenay Project pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1645, Subd. 2a.
2. Defer making a decision on the disputed North Dakota Investment Tax (ND ITC) allocation issue to Xcel Energy's initial cost recovery filing (either the renewable energy rider or electric rate case).
3. Require the Company to include in the initial filing in its next rate case both testimony and schedules disclosing, in detail and by project, the ND ITCs and other foreign state tax credits earned, that have resulted from the utility's investments and activity.
4. Authorize cost recovery for the Courtenay Project based on the actual, reasonable, and prudently incurred project costs, not to exceed \$300 million, plus the associated Allowance for Funds Used During Construction.

The motion passed 4-0.

**PL-5/CN-14-320**

**In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Pipe Line Company, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project to Increase Pumping Capacity on Line 4 Crude Oil Pipeline in Hubbard, Wadena, Morrison, Meeker, McLeod, and Scott Counties**

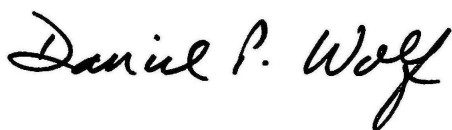
Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Summary of Public Testimony, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation for the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project, as modified by Minnesota Pipe Line's correction to Finding 1 to state "Northern Tier Energy," instead of "New Tier Energy."
2. Grant a certificate of need to Minnesota Pipe Line Company, LLC for the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project to increase pumping capacity on the Line 4 crude oil pipeline.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: August 26, 2015**



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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**