

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 21, 2020** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

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. Accept the proposal of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (the Company) to notify operators of planned outages and its proposal for ongoing quarterly reporting on planned outages as filed April 3, 2020, with written notification to occur at least 24–48 hours prior to the outage and earlier if reasonably possible. Direct the Company to implement the proposal for notification and reporting starting in July 2020, or as soon as practicable thereafter. The Commission’s acceptance of the Company’s proposal for notification and reporting does not alter or displace existing interconnection agreements or tariffs.
2. Direct the Company to continue Community Solar Garden (CSG) stakeholder workgroup discussions of potential options to reduce and mitigate planned outages for CSGs, including possible utility protocols. Also explore refining the earlier notice of the window of planned outages so developers can plan for outages. Direct the Company to file an update and detailed summary of these discussions and potential mitigation strategies by November 1, 2020.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002, ET-6675/TL-17-185

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC for a Route Permit for the Huntley-Wilmarth 345-kV Transmission Line Project

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission approve the amendment requests with the following condition:

1. Commission staff is authorized to make further refinements to the route permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record and the Commission’s decision on this matter.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-022/S-19-727

In the Matter of the Petition of GMG for Approval of its 2020 Capital Structure and Permission to Issue Securities

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Approve GMG's proposed 2020 capital structure until the Commission issues a 2021 capital structure Order.
2. Require that GMG maintain at all times an equity ratio contingency range of at least 34.00 percent, increasing to 35.0 percent beginning March 31, 2021.
3. Authorize GMG to discontinue filing monthly compliance reports. However, for any month that GMG is not in compliance with the capital structure requirements, the Company must file a report containing a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, with full explanation. The report must be filed with the Commission no later than 45 days after the end of the month for which the Company is not in compliance.
4. Approve a short-term debt contingency cap of 10 percent (i.e., GMG's short-term debt is not to exceed 10 percent of its total capitalization, including the contingency, for more than 60 days).
5. Approve a level of long-term debt that allows GMG the flexibility to issue securities provided that the Company remains within all of its authorized contingency ranges and does not exceed them for more than 60 days.
6. Approve a total capitalization contingency of \$4.5 million above the estimated 2020 year-end total capitalization of \$44.7 million, for a total capitalization of \$49.2 million.
7. Require GMG to file a new securities issuance and capital structure petition by January 1, 2021.
8. Require GMG to propose in its next capital structure petition a plan that:
 - a. would be expected to result in a 38.0 percent equity ratio by December 31, 2021, assuming normal weather, or explain why such an increase is not possible; and
 - b. reflects the increase in GMG's minimum equity ratio from 34.0 percent to 35.0 percent beginning March 31, 2021, or explain why such an increase is not possible.
9. Require GMG to propose in its next capital structure petition a step-increase in its equity ratio floor from 35.0 percent to 36.0 percent beginning March 31, 2022, or explain why such an increase is not possible.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-017/M-20-338

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of the Annual Update to its Energy-Intensive, Trade Exposed Rider Surcharge Rate, Rate Schedule 13.09

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission approve Otter Tail's EITS surcharge rate of \$0.00033 per kilowatt hour (kWh) effective October 1, 2020, and associated tariff revisions. The Department also recommends that the Commission approve the proposed notice language with the modification that the EITE surcharge rate be changed to \$0.00033 per kWh.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-017/M-03-30

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Notice of Implementation of Annual Fuel Clause Adjustment True-Up Mechanism

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission approve Otter Tail's compliance report and the annual true-up credit of 0.5 mills per kilowatt hour to be refunded over the 12-month period beginning March 1, 2020.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/AA-20-182

In the Matter of the Filing by Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, Regarding the Fuel Clause Adjustment True-up for the November and December

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission approve the proposed March and April 2020 fuel cost charges with true-up, subject to any input adjustment to Xcel's calculations following the Commission's Order in Xcel's upcoming AAA report for the July 2018-December 2019 period (Docket No. E-999/AA-20-171).

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/GR-15-826

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission approve Xcel Energy's compliance filing to include a surcharge of \$37,782,000. The majority (99.7 percent) of this surcharge is due to the decrease in sales in the Demand class, as discussed in detail above.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/M-20-180

E-002/GR-15-826

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's 2019 Annual Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Pilot Program Report

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Xcel's 2019 (Year 4) revenue decoupling evaluation report.
2. For implementation beginning on April 1, 2020, approve Xcel's revenue decoupling rate adjustment factors.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/M-19-809

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of a Plan to Offer Generating Resources into the MISO Market on a Seasonal Basis

E-002/AA-19-293

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of the 2020 Annual Fuel Forecast and Monthly Fuel Cost Charges

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel's proposed plan for seasonal deployment of the King and Sherco 2 facilities.
2. Require Xcel to provide an analysis of the impact of its unit commitment plan annually with the reporting required by the Commission's November 13, 2019 Order¹ in the Commission's investigation into self-commitment and self-scheduling of large baseload generation facilities.²
3. Require Xcel to include in its reports and analysis, an analysis of hours each plant would have been committed if offered into the MISO day-ahead market under both must commit and economic commit plans.

¹ ORDER ACCEPTING 2017-2018 ELECTRIC REPORTS AND SETTING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, In the Matter of the Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Automatic Adjustment Reports for All Electric Utilities, Docket No. E-999/AA-17-492, and In the Matter of the Review of the 2017-2018 Annual Automatic Adjustment Reports for All Electric Utilities, Docket No. E-999/AA-18-373 (November 13, 2019).

² In the Matter of an Investigation into Self-Commitment and Self-Scheduling of Large Baseload Generation Facilities, Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704.

4. Require Xcel to include in its reports a comparison of cost and revenue from both must commit and economic commit to actual costs and revenues from the seasonal commitment plan and to the models presented in Xcel's filing. This should include:
 - a. a comparison of actual fuel costs, O&M costs, and capital costs for seasonal commitment, and estimated fuel costs, O&M costs, and capital costs for must commit and economic commitment. It should also include an analysis of emissions savings due to the plan relative to must run and economic commitment.
 - b. reporting on operations of each unit in each quarter, including offline days, starts by type (MISO economic, MISO reliability, Company must run) and duration of each start by type
 - c. Actual workforce impacts at each unit.
5. Require Xcel to include in its reporting an analysis of marginal energy costs and marginal emissions and whether and by how much the plan changes marginal energy costs and marginal emissions for attribution of savings to energy efficiency and other distributed energy purposes.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 17, 2021



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary