

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 28, 2021** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ET-2/TL-20-423

In the Matter of In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for a Route Permit for the Frazee to Erie 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Becker and Otter Tail Counties

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission request the Commissioner of Commerce to include in the scoping decision for environmental assessment the proposed route alternatives, Alternative 385th Avenue and Alternative County Highway 31, and to study the area on the east and west of 385th Avenue.

The motion passed 5–0.

IP-7045/CN-20-856

In the Matter of In the Matter of the Application of Andyville Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Up To 100 MW Andyville Solar Project in Mower County

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission

1. Approve the requested exemptions as represented by Andyville Solar Project, LLC and as conditioned by the Department.
2. Vary the 30-day requirement of Minn. R. 7849.0200, subp. 6.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-008/M-20-838

In the Matter of In the Matter of a Petition of CenterPoint Energy for Approval of a Variance to Minnesota Rule 7825.2700, subp. 8 Regarding Supplier (Pipeline) Refunds

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission

1. Approve CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas's (CenterPoint) proposed refund amount and interest calculations.

2. Approve CenterPoint's calculation of the refund amount per unit and allocation to customer classes.
3. Approve CenterPoint's proposal to provide refunds to all customers who have active accounts as of the date of the refund.
4. Grant a variance and allow CenterPoint to calculate the refund per unit amount using four months of actual usage rather than the 12 months required by Minn. R. 7825.2700, subp. 8.
5. Grant CenterPoint's requested variance to Minn. R. 7825.2700, subp. 8 that would allow CenterPoint more than 90 days to provide the refund discussed in CenterPoint's Reply Comments.
6. Require CenterPoint to report on the status of the refund after it is completed and to provide a reconciliation of its disbursement.
7. Require CenterPoint to submit a compliance filing in this docket, and at the same time in Docket No. G-008/GR-19-524, explaining its policy and practice for refunding customers who have left its system.

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 Schuerger moved that the Commission

1. Approve Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's (Xcel) 2021 value of solar as filed, including the correction to Attachment O filed on October 28, 2020.
2. Direct Xcel, within five business days of the issue date of an order in this matter, to submit a compliance filing reflecting the decisions made by the Commission. The 2021 value-of-solar bill-credit rate will be effective as of the date of Xcel's compliance filing.
3. Direct Xcel, the Department of Commerce, and parties to discuss the application of the actual photovoltaic fleet shape to effective load carrying capacity, peak load reduction, loss savings, and solar-weighted heat rate, as well as the possibility of developing a new profile-based approach as described by Xcel. Direct Xcel to report back with a proposal for potential changes for the 2022 value of solar by July 1, 2021.

4. Direct Xcel to file a report by March 26, 2021, addressing the performance of the residential adder and forward-looking options for increasing residential participation in community solar gardens. Xcel shall provide a recommendation on residential-adder modification in that filing. The Executive Secretary shall issue a notice for comment as soon as practicable after Xcel's filing.
5. Direct the Department of Commerce to file a status update on the stakeholder process and the development of proposals on the residential adder three months from March 26, 2021.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 24, 2021



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary