

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 13, 2018**, with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present .

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-229,147/SA-18-493**

**In the Matter of the Joint Request of Detroit Lakes Public Utilities and Wild Rice Electric Cooperative for Approval of a Service Territory Transfer Agreement Between the Two Utilities**

Commissioner Tuma moved to do the following:

1. Approve the requested service territory transfer from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative to Detroit Lakes Public Utilities.
2. Direct MnGeo to update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the parties' petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-017/S-18-313**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) for Approval of 2018 Capital Structure and Permission to Issue Securities**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to do the following:

1. Approve a common-equity range of 47.9% to 58.5%, not to be exceeded for more than 60 days without Commission approval.
2. Approve a short-term debt range up to 15%, not to be exceeded for more than 60 days without Commission approval.
3. Approve a total maximum capitalization of \$1,204,416,000, not to be exceeded for more than 60 days without Commission approval.
4. Continue to vary Minnesota Rules 7825.1000, subpart 6, to allow OTP to treat borrowings under its multi-year credit agreement as short-term debt for approved capital-structure purposes.
5. Within the approved capital structure, allow OTP to issue debt and receive equity contributions from its parent company, Otter Tail Corporation.

6. Make the above approvals effective until the Commission issues its next capital structure Order.
7. Require OTP to make its 2019 capital structure filing on May 1, 2019.
8. Direct OTP to provide the following information on all future capital structure filings:
  - A. A schedule comparing its actual capital investments in the past year with the capital investments projected by OTP in the preceding year's capital structure filing.
  - B. OTP's investment plan for at least the next five years.
  - C. A report on the OTP's use of its multi-year credit facility, including how often the facility was used, the amount involved in any usage, rates and financing costs, and the intended uses of the financing.
  - D. To the extent practicable, demonstrate that any bond issuances since the date of OTP's last annual capital structure filing were cost-competitive, with the analysis including, at a minimum, a detailed comparison of OTP's bond issuances to all bond issuances over the same period by other U.S. electric utilities with an investment-grade long-term issuer credit rating from Standard & Poor's BBB- to A-.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-017/M-18-380**

**In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of Tariff Changes to Facilitate Implementation of a New Customer Information System**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to do the following:

1. Approve the tariff revisions of Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) as filed on June 8, 2018, except for Section 4.07 and Section 4.12.
2. Approve OTP's Section 4.12 as filed on August 7, 2018 in OTP's Supplemental Filing.
3. Approve OTP's Section 4.07 with edits found in Attachment 3 of Otter Tail's August 22, 2018 Reply Comments and require OTP to track customer complaints and inquiries regarding proration of the customer charge and, as compliance filings in this docket, file periodic reports.
4. Require OTP in a compliance filing to file the two bill samples under Section 1.05 demonstrating that they reflect the Commission's decision regarding bill proration.

5. Direct OTP to obtain Commission approval of its bill message to customers, delegate approval authority to its Executive Secretary, and directed OTP to consult with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office regarding website content relating to pro-rated customer charges.

Commissioner Schuerger amended the motion to omit Motion Paragraph 4.

The amended motion passed 5–0.

**PL-6580/M-06-1063**

**In the Matter of a Petition from Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC, a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Minnesota Gas Synergy, Inc., for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy**

**PL-6580/M-13-91**

**In the Matter of a Request by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC for Approval of Firm Transportation Agreements between Greater Minnesota Transmission and the Prairie Island Indian Community**

**PL-6580/M-13-94**

**In the Matter of a Request by Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. for Approval of Affiliated Interest Agreements with Intrastate Pipeline Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC and Approval of GMT's Contracts under Minn. Stat. § 216B.045**

**G-022/M-14-342**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. for Approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**

**PL-6580/M-14-386**

**In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC's (GMT) Petition for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel)**

**PL-6580/M-14-578**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with West Central Ag Services**

**PL-6580/M-14-1056**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Community Co-ops of Lake Park**

**PL-6580/M-15-967**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC's (GMT) Petition for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Community Co-ops of Lake Park for Red Lake Falls, MN Community**

**PL-6580/M-15-968**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC's (GMT) Petition for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Community Co-ops of Lake Park for Beltrami and Fertile, MN Communities**

**PL-6580/M-15-1041**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC's Petition for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with United Natural Gas, LLC for Lafayette, Klossner, and Courtland, MN Communities**

**PL-6580/M-16-936**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC (GMT) for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with Lake Region Energy Services (LRES), a subsidiary of Lake Region Energy Cooperative**

**PL-6580/M-16-1026**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC's (GMT) for Approval of a Firm Gas Transportation Agreement with United Natural Gas, L.L.C. (UNG), a subsidiary of United Farmers Cooperative**

Commissioner Tuma moved to do the following:

1. Accept the 2017 annual utilization load factor compliance report of Greater Minnesota Transmission, LLC (GMT).
2. Direct GMT to meet with Commission staff prior to filing its 2018 Report (March 1, 2019) to answer ongoing staff questions, and direct Commission staff to invite the Department of Commerce (Department) and the Office of Attorney General to participate for this meeting.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-6956/M-15-856**

**In the Matter of Community Co-ops of Lake Park's Petition for an Exemption for a Small Gas Utility Franchise**

**G-6960/M-16-214**

**In the Matter of a Petition by United Natural Gas, LLC for approval of its Request for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption**

**G-6977/M-17-186**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Lake Region Energy Services, Inc., for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption**

**G-6915/M-13-672**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Dooley's Natural Gas LLC for Exemption for a Small Gas Utility**

**G-6915/M-16-756**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Dooley's Natural Gas II, LLC for a Small Gas Utility Franchise Exemption**

Commissioner Tuma moved to do the following:

1. Determine that all small gas utilities are compliant with Commission order requirements.

2. Approve the annual compliance filings of Lake Region Energy Services, Inc. (LRES), Dooley's Natural Gas LLC, and Dooley's Natural Gas II, LLC.
3. In lieu of prior filing requirements, require all small gas utilities to file a report on May 1st of each year providing data about the prior year, including—
  - A. updated customer counts;
  - B. any approved municipality rates changes that occurred in the prior year and when these changes went into effect. Require all small gas utilities to be compliant with Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subp. 12 (b), which states “The public utility shall file with the commission and the department all initial and subsequent changes in rates, tariffs, and contracts for service outside the municipality at least 30 days in advance of implementation;”
  - C. all changes to its tariff book in redlined and final revised tariff form;
  - D. a copy of its cold weather disconnection notice sent to the customers, including how the notice was communicated and date communicated - Minn. Stat. § 216B.096, Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule;
  - E. a copy of any utility disconnection reports served to any of the municipalities as required by Minn. Stat. § 216B.0976 – Minnesota's Notice to Cities of Utility Disconnection;
  - F. a copy of its notice form sent to customers who are in arrears pursuant to the utility's obligation under Minn. Stat. § 216B.098 – Minnesota's Residential Customer Protections, along with any policy not clearly identified in the tariffs regarding budget billing plans, payment arrangements, and under-charge repayment.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 19, 2018**



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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**