

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 24, 2020**, with Acting Chair Sullivan and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

IP-6946/WS-17-410

In the Matter of the Application of Freeborn Wind Energy LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 84 Megawatt Freeborn Wind Farm in Freeborn County

Acting Chair Sullivan moved that the Commission accept in its entirety the Investigative Report Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216A.037 as filed by the Administrative Law Judge on September 11, 2020.

The motion passed 3–0; Commissioners Sieben and Tuma took no part in the matter.

E,G-999/CI-20-425

In the Matter of an Inquiry into the Financial Effects of COVID-19 on Natural Gas and Electric Utilities

E,G-999/M-20-427

In the Matter of the Petition of the Minnesota Rate Regulated Electric and Gas Utilities for Authorization to Track Expenses Resulting from the Effects of COVID-19 and Record and Defer Such Expenses Into a Regulatory Asset

Commissioner Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the joint petitioners' methodology as outlined in Attachment A of their June 10, 2020 comments.
2. Require the utilities to provide prorated revenue requirement comparisons of approved test year amounts to 2020 actual amounts of tracked items for the pandemic-related period approved by the Commission.
3. Require all utilities to track budgeted activities that will not take place as a result of the pandemic and that correspond to savings and reduced expenses.
4. Do not allow deferral and tracking of carrying costs; working capital impacts; or lost production tax credits.
5. Allow deferred COVID-19-related expenses to be tracked through the end of the Minnesota peacetime emergency, plus 30 days.
6. Require future compliance reporting to continue on a quarterly basis.

7. Require the utilities to report, in a format prescribed by the Executive Secretary, actual and estimated expenses, including amounts provided in base rates, and as further refined and amended by the Executive Secretary.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Sieben left the meeting.

E-002/M-19-186

In the Matter of Xcel Energy’s Petition for Approval of Modifications to the Residential EV Subscription Service Pilot Program

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission do the following:

1. Approve the requests of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to extend the term of the Pilot for an additional 12 months and offer participants enrolled in the Pilot as of June 1, 2020 the opportunity to extend the term of their customer agreements by an additional 12 months.
2. Approve Xcel’s request to add 50 participants to the Pilot, increasing the number of participation slots to a total of 150.

The motion passed 4–0.

P-405,407,5361/PA-20-504

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Frontier Communications Corporation, Frontier Subsidiary Telco, LLC, Citizens Newtel, LLC, Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC, and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for Approval of a Transfer of Control due to a Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Frontier Communications Corporation and its Subsidiaries

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission approve the application of Frontier Communications Corporation, Frontier Subsidiary Telco, LLC, Citizens Newtel, LLC, Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC, and Frontier Communications of America, Inc., for the transfer of control of Frontier’s Minnesota operating subsidiaries to New Frontier Communications Parent with the following conditions:

1. Allow Frontier’s Minnesota operating subsidiaries to retain their certificates of authority and hold them responsible for regulatory filings and fees.
2. Require Frontier to file notices of completion within 20 days of the completion of the transaction.

3. Require Frontier Communications Corporation and its obligated corporate affiliated entities to memorialize their commitments under the Settlement Order of January 22, 2020, including their commitment to pay claims to current and former customers by submitting within 20 days of emerging from Chapter 11 bankruptcy a sworn affidavit from an authorized officer affirming this commitment.

The motion passed 4–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 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