

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 30, 2016**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Lange, Lipschultz, Schuerger and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

E,G-002/M-16-358

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's Request for Approval of Miscellaneous Tariff Modifications

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the cancellation of the Quick Pay payment option and removal of the related customer agreement and all references to the Quick Pay option from the Company's electric and gas tariff books.
2. Delegate to the Executive Secretary authority to revise and approve the company's disconnection notice and disconnection notice backer.
3. Approve the Company's revisions to Xcel's Customer Bill Backer.
4. Require that the Company submit a compliance filing reflecting the Commission's order within 10 days of issuance of the order.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-999/CI-07-1199

In the Matter of Establishing an Updated 2016 Estimate of the Costs of Future Carbon Dioxide Regulation on Electricity Generation under Minn. Stat. §216H.06

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Maintain the current regulatory cost range of \$9 to \$34 per ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
2. Begin applying the regulatory cost values in 2022.
3. Apply this cost range and timeframe to resource plans filed in 2017 as well as 2016.
4. At this time, do not open a generic docket to re-examine the relationship between the Commission's estimates of the external cost of CO₂ and the anticipated regulatory cost of CO₂.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-017/M-16-373

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of the Annual Rate Update to its Environmental Upgrades Cost Recovery Rider Rate, Rate Schedule 13,08;

E-017/M-16-374

In the Matter of the Petition of Otter Tail Power Company for Approval of a Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Annual Adjustment

Commissioner Lange moved that the Commission:
Grant provisional approval of Otter Tail Power's petitions in dockets E-017/M-16-373 and E-017/M-16-374, with the understanding that the final decision will be made subsequent to the comment period, which is expected to end before the end of the year.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-115/M-11-409

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Fourth Annual Report of its Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) Program

Commissioner Schuerger moved to take the following actions:

1. Accept Minnesota Power's fourth annual Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) program report; and
2. Not allow Minnesota Power to recover its administrative costs associated with the CARE program.

The motion passed 5-0.

G-008/M-16-266

In the Matter of the Application of CenterPoint Energy's Gas Affordability Program 2015 Annual Compliance Report

G-002/M-16-272

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy's Gas Affordability Program 2015 Annual Compliance Report

G-011/M-16-273

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Gas Affordability Program 2015 Annual Compliance Report

G-004/M-16-275

In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Natural Gas Company, a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s Gas Affordability Program 2015 Annual Compliance Report

G-022/M-16-233

In the Matter of the Application of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Gas Affordability Program 2015 Annual Compliance Report

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the gas utilities' 2015 GAP reports.
2. Keep the current method of allocating responsibility for GAP program costs in place.

The motion passed 5-0.

ET-2,E-015/TL-15-204

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for a 115 kV Transmission Line near Motley, Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Authorize Minor Alteration 1 without conditions.
2. Authorize Minor Alteration 2 and require the Permittees to adhere to the following mitigation measures proposed by the MNDNR:
 - Use of a native pollinator-friendly seed mix containing milkweed to replace the loss of some pollinator habitat at the proposed substation site. The DNR can assist with identifying an appropriate seed mix;
 - Reduction of the substation footprint by reducing clearing along the edge of the substation along the eastern side, which borders on what appears to be a native plant community; and
 - Emphasizing invasive species best management practices.
3. Require Great River Energy to coordinate with Crow Wing Power and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure the area within and surrounding the decommissioned Crow Wing Power Motley Substation is properly restored.

The motion passed 5-0.

IP-6646/CN-13-193

In the Matter of the Application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need for an up to 105 MW Large Energy Facility in Pipestone and Murray Counties

IP-6646/WS-13-216

In the Matter of the Application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a LWECS Site Permit for an up to 105 MW Large Energy Facility in Pipestone and Murray Counties

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Determine that the change in timing to the certificate of need in-service date to December 2018 is acceptable without recertification.
2. Grant the amendments as requested by Stoneray in its May 2016 petition as modified by the EERA's permit amendments as further modified by staff and outlined above in permit conditions 5.2 and 11.5.
3. Authorize Commission staff to make further permit modifications as necessary to ensure consistency with recently issued permits.
4. As a condition of the extension, the permittee must request, within 90 days of the order, to meet in person with each county, city, and township within the site boundaries at a duly called public meeting of their respective governing authorities to explain the extension and the present state of the project. The permittee shall notify each regional development commission, local fire district, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, and watershed management district office with jurisdiction in the county where the site is located of these meetings. Also, each affected landowner should get written notice of these public meetings at least 10 days in advance. Within 120 days of the order, the permittee shall file with the Commission and the EERA a report documenting compliance with this provision and a description of the meetings including any actions, requests or concerns raised by these boards.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: September 7, 2016



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary