

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 18, 2020** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-111/GR-19-478

In the Matter of the Application of Dakota Electric Association for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Accept and adopt the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendations with the limited exceptions proposed by the Department and updated correction proposed by staff on pages 3 and 4 of the briefing papers.
2. Disallow Dakota Electric recovery of \$10,475 of NRECA organization and membership dues.
3. Disallow Dakota Electric recovery of \$24,367 of MREA organization and membership of dues.
4. Disallow recovery of \$3,548.86 in travel expenses.
5. Disallow recovery of \$7,964.55 in Community Events expenses.
6. Order that the \$8,227 in wholesale margin net income be removed from the revenue requirement calculation.
7. Approve the methodology used to calculate the cash working capital included in rate base.
8. Allow adjustments credits related to Meter Plant Balance to flow through the AGI Rider.
9. Approve Dakota Electric's corrected CCOSS as reasonable as recommended by the ALJ.
10. Adopt the agreed upon rate of return.
11. Approve Dakota Electric's proposed test-year customer count and energy sales volumes for all classes of customers with the exception of the Residential and Farm Service class. For the Residential and Farm Service class, approve the adjustments recommended by the Department and accepted by Dakota Electric.
12. Approve the revenue allocation as recommended by the ALJ.

13. Approve the customer charges as recommended by the ALJ.
14. Approve the Residential Time of Day Tariff as recommended by the ALJ.
15. Approve the Standby rates as recommended by the ALJ.
16. Approve the Electric Vehicle rates as recommended by the ALJ.
17. Approve the Line Extension charges as recommended by the ALJ.
18. Approve the service and connection charges as recommended by the ALJ.
19. State that the final order in this docket shall contain summary financial schedules including: a calculation of Dakota Electric's authorized cost of capital, a rate base summary, an operating income statement summary, a gross revenue deficiency calculation, and a statement of the total allowed revenues. Direct parties to work with Commission staff to prepare such schedules for inclusion in the Order, should modifications be necessary to reflect the Commission's final decision.
20. Require Dakota Electric to make the following compliance filings within 30 days of the date of the final order in this docket:
 - 1) A revised schedule of rates and charges reflecting the revenue requirement and the rate design decisions herein, along with the proposed effective date, and including the following information:
 - a) Breakdown of Total Operating Revenues by type;
 - b) Schedules showing all billing determinants for the retail sales (and sale for resale) of electricity. These schedules shall include but not be limited to:
 - i. Total revenue by customer class;
 - ii. Total number of customers, the customer charge and total customer charge revenue by customer class; and
 - iii. For each customer class, the total number of energy and demand related billing units, the per unit energy and demand cost of energy, and the total energy and demand related sales revenues.
 - c) Revised tariff sheets incorporating authorized rate design decisions;

- d) Proposed customer notices explaining the final rates, the monthly basic service charges, and any and all changes to rate design and customer billing.
- 2) A revised base cost of energy, supporting schedules, and resource and tax adjustment tariffs to be in effect on the date final rates are implemented.
- 3) A summary listing of all other rate riders and charges in effect, and continuing, after the date final rates are implemented.

21. Authorize comments on all compliance filings within 30 days of the date they are filed. However, comments are not necessary on Dakota Electric's proposed customer notice.

The motion passed 5—0.

E-999/AA-19-402

In the Matter of the Review of the 2018-2019 Annual Automatic Adjustment for Dakota Electric Association

E-111/M-20-79

In the Matter of Dakota Electric Association's 2020 Annual Resource and Tax Adjustment

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Accept Dakota Electric's FYE19 Annual Automatic Adjustment (AAA) filing.
2. Approve Dakota Electric's proposed 2020 Resource and Tax Adjustment filing.
3. Grant a variance to Minn. R. 7825.2800 to 7825.2840 to allow Dakota Electric to file its AAA reports and fuel clause adjustment (FCA) rider in future RTA petitions. Require Dakota Electric to continue to use a fiscal year for its AAA and FCA rider reporting periods.

The motion passed 5—0.

ET-6125/RP-19-425

In the Matter of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Integrated Resource Plan

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Close the docket. State that the Commission is not making a determination on the merits of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's filing or on the reliability of Basin's system.

2. Find that the Commission has the authority to require Basin to provide information that is reasonably related to “projected demand levels for the next 15 years” and “generation resources to meet any projected generation deficiencies” pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422, subd. 2 and 2b.
3. In order to assist the Commission in advising Basin regarding recommendations of generation resources to meet projected generation deficiencies, direct Basin to file a supplement to their July 2020 report by September 1, 2020, providing the following information:
 - a. For any referenced load forecast, the underlying assumptions used to meet the forecast for the 15-year period.
 - b. For each of Basin’s electric generating units referenced in its report serving Minnesota customer needs:
 - i. Remaining book life for each unit, if the unit’s remaining book or operating life, as of 2020, is 15 years or less;
 - ii. Planned capital additions in the next 15 years; and
 - iii. Recent capital additions over \$5 million at any of these units over the past 5 years.
 - c. A detailed description of the agreements under which Basin purchases output from George Neal Station Unit 4, Walter Scott Units 3 & 4, and Boswell Energy Center Unit 4.
 - d. A detailed description of the power purchase agreement for 200 MW signed in 2016 for the Burke Wind project, a second power purchase agreement signed in 2017 for Prevailing Wind Park and any other contracted or planned wind and solar projects that would serve the needs of Minnesota customers, including the power purchase price of wind in each PPA in \$/MWh if known or, if the price is not available in that format, in the format in which it is available.
 - e. A discussion about transmission constraints impacting Basin’s delivery of power on the bulk transmission system in the region that serves Minnesota both through MISO and SPP and a discussion of Basin’s plans and recommendations to alleviate any transmission system constraints.

The motion passed 5—0.

E,G-999/CI-20-375

In the Matter of an Inquiry into Actions by Electric and Natural Gas Utilities in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to:
 - a. Establish a final reporting template based on Attachment A of the Consumer Advocates' May 14, 2020 comments; and
 - b. Establish further notice and comment periods as necessary.
2. Direct utilities to use the template from Attachment A of the Consumer Advocates' May 14, 2020 comments for monthly reports to the Commission starting July 20, 2020, and include data from all of 2020.
 - a. CenterPoint Energy and Minnesota Energy Resources must also file this information on June 26, 2020.
3. In addition to the monthly reports required by ordering paragraph 2, require each utility to submit a compliance filing on the reconnection fees charged and average monthly payment requested in payment arrangements with customers seeking reconnection.
 - a. CenterPoint Energy and Minnesota Energy Resources must also file this information on June 26, 2020, and immediately begin reconnecting customers.
4. Require utilities to continue the monthly reports required by ordering paragraph 2, filed on the 20th of each month, for the duration of the Governor's peacetime emergency and for 90 days following the end of the peacetime emergency.
5. Following the end of the Governor's peacetime emergency declaration, require utilities to replace current Cold Weather Rule monthly reporting with the reporting template based on Attachment A of Consumer Advocates' May 14, 2020 comments and file monthly reports no later than 45 days after the last day of the month for which data is reported.
6. Require regulated utilities to do the following:
 - a. Suspend disconnections for residential customers for the duration of the peacetime emergency;
 - b. Suspend negative reporting to credit agencies for residential customers through the end of 2020; and

- c. Waive reconnection, service deposits, late fees, interest, and penalties for residential customers for the duration of the peacetime emergency.
7. Require regulated utilities to provide the Commission with 60 days' notice after the end of the peacetime emergency, including a transition plan, before resuming:
 - a. Residential disconnections;
 - b. Negative credit reporting; and
 - c. Imposing reconnection, service deposits, late fees, interest, and penalties for residential customers.
8. Require utilities to translate existing COVID-19 materials, including direction on how to enroll in a payment plan, into, at minimum, Spanish, and preferably other languages prominent within their service regions, and post them to their COVID-19 response webpages within 30 days from the date of the Commission's oral decision.
9. Require utilities to report on the following information. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to establish frequency and timing of reporting on any of the items:
 - a. Examples of conditions for which utilities grant Medical Account status and provide some categorical reasons for denying Medical Account Status;
 - b. Outreach efforts to inform customers of the Medical Account protection;
 - c. A summary of ongoing outreach to customers struggling to pay bills;
 - d. A comparison of annual bad debt expense from 2017 to 2020;
 - e. Actions taken to reconnect those customers whose service has been restored since the Governor declared a state peacetime emergency on March 13, 2020;
 - f. Factors that prohibit the utility from restoring service to the remaining disconnected customers; and
 - g. Plans to restore service immediately to all occupied residential properties for the duration of the national security or state peacetime emergency.
10. For ongoing reporting purposes, require utilities to report the number of LIHEAP customers on both a monthly basis (new applicants) and as a year-to-date total.

11. For ongoing reporting purposes, require utilities to report the total number of customers disconnected from the beginning of each Cold Weather Rule period (October 15) and the number disconnected during each week of the Cold Weather Rule period.

The motion passed 5—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