



# Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

## Decisions

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Thursday, May 17, 2018

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

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### INTRODUCTION

### DECISION ITEMS

1. \* **G011/M-17-587; Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC)**  
**G011/M-17-588**  
In the Matter of the Petitions of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of a Change in Demand Entitlement for the Consolidated (17-587) and Northern Natural Gas (NNG) (17-588) PGA Areas.

Should the Commission approve MERC's proposed demand entitlement capacity (levels) and cost changes to meet Its Design Day and Reserve Margin requirements for the 2017-2018 Heating Season for Its Consolidated and NNG PGA areas, effective November 1, 2017? (PUC: **Brill**)

**Approved MERC –Consolidated and MERC-NNG’s filings; granted request for advance approval of ANR storage contract.**

2. \*\* **E015/GR-16-664; Minnesota Power**  
**E015/D-17-118;**  
**E,G999/CI-17-895**  
In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota;  
In the Matter of Minnesota Power’s 2017 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition;  
In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Effects on Electric and Natural Gas Utility Rates and Services of the 2017 Federal Tax Act.

1. Should the Commission reopen, reconsider and/or clarify its March 12, 2018 Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order?
2. If the Commission reopens its March 12, 2018 Order in the rate case, should it also reopen its March 21 Depreciation Order (In the Matter of Minnesota Power’s 2017 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition, Docket No. E-015/D-17-118)? (PUC: **Bender, Bartusch, Schwieger, Krishnan, O’Grady, Harding**)

The Commission has the authority to accept or decline a petition for reconsideration **with or without** a hearing or oral argument (Minnesota Rules 7829.3000, Subpart 6) In other words, a decision on a petition for reconsideration can be made without taking oral comments at the Commission meeting.

**Petition granted with regard to Boswell Depreciation, the current period tax expense, and certain clarifications; Petitions otherwise denied.**

3. \* **IP6961/WS-17-597 Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC**  
In the Matter of the Application of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Nobles County, Minnesota.
1. Should the Commission issue a preliminary draft site permit for the Nobles 2 Wind Project?
  2. Should the Commission refer the matter to the OAH for a contested case hearing? (PUC: **Kaluzniak**)

**Issued draft site permit.**

4. \* **IP6984/WS-17-749 Flying Cow Wind, LLC**  
In the Matter of the Application of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 152 MW Bitter Root Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota
- Should the Commission issue a preliminary draft site permit for the Bitter Root Wind Project? (PUC: **Panait**)

**Issued draft site permit.**

5. \* **E999/M-17-377 Minnesota Transmission Owners**  
In the Matter of the 2017 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report.
- Should the Commission accept the 2017 Biennial Transmission Projects Report? (PUC: **Panait**)

**Accepted 2017 Projects Report; Extended public participation variance for 2019 Report and imposed requirements.**

6. \* **IP6985/TL-17-701 Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC**  
In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC for a 115-Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line in Lincoln County, Minnesota.
1. Should the Commission accept the route permit application as substantially complete?
  2. What procedural process should the Commission authorize for evaluation of the route permit application?
  3. Are there any other actions the Commission should take? (PUC: **DeBleekere**)

**Accepted application as complete and set procedural requirements.**

7. \*\* ET6657/WS-08-573      **Wisconsin Power and Light Company**  
In the Matter of the Site Permit Issued to the Wisconsin Power and Light Company for the Bent Tree Project in Freeborn County.

What action should the Commission take in light of the Confidential Settlement Agreements filed on April 19, 2018? (PUC: **DeBleekere**)

**Resolved and dismissed current complaints with conditions.**

8. \* IP6908/WS-13-294      **Lake Benton Power Partners, LLC**  
In the Matter of the Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 107.25 Megawatt Lake Benton Wind Facility in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Should the Commission amend the site permit as requested? (PUC: **Ek**)

**Site Permit amendment granted as modified.**

9. \*\* IP6907/WS-13-258      **Trimont Wind I, LLC**  
In the Matter of the Site Permit of Trimont Wind I, LLC in Martin and Jackson Counties, Minnesota.

Should the Commission amend the site permit as requested? (PUC: **DeBleekere**)

**Site Permit amendment granted as modified, filing required.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \* One star indicates agenda item is unusual but is not disputed.  
\*\* Two stars indicate a disputed item or significant legal or procedural issue to be resolved. (Ex Parte Rules apply)  
Please note: For the complete record, please see eDockets