



Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Decisions

Thursday, February 20, 2020

9:30 AM

Large Hearing Room

INTRODUCTION

DECISION ITEMS

1. * **IP7006/WS-19-394** **Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the 109 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln and Pipestone Counties, Minnesota.

Should the Commission issue a preliminary draft site permit for the Buffalo Ridge Wind Project? (PUC: **Panait**)

Attachments: [Corrected Briefing Papers](#)
 [Site Permit](#)

Authorized issuance of Draft Site Permit; authorized staff to modify as needed.

2. * **E002/MC-19-758** **Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of the Application for a Minor Alteration of Xcel Energy's 500 kV Transmission Line 5702.

Should the Commission authorize the minor alteration request? If the minor alteration is approved, should any conditions be required? (PUC: **Bruce**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Authorized minor alteration with EERA conditions and requirements for Plan and Profile submission.

3. * **E002/M-19-721** **Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider.

Should the Commission adopt the Department's December 9, 2019, recommendation and grant provisional approval of Xcel Energy's petition with the understanding that a final decision on the matter will be made subsequent to receipt of parties' comments? (PUC: Bonnett, Hetherington; DOC: Johnson)

Staff Note: The Commission granted the Department's request for an extension of the

comment period in its December 13, 2019, Notice of Extended Comment Period. Xcel Energy does not object to the Department's recommendation for provisional approval of its petition.

Attachments: [DOC Letter 12-9-19](#)
[Xcel Letter 12-20-19](#)

Granted provisional approval and extended comment deadline.

4. * **E002/M-19-663 Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of a Petition Requesting Approval of the Amended Agreement with Liberty Paper, Inc. and Approval of Accounting and Rate Treatment. (PUC: Manning; DOC: Rakow)

Attachments: [DOC Comments 11-25-19](#)
[Xcel Reply Comments 1-10-20](#)

Approved the petition and set additional requirements.

5. ** **E015/D-19-534 Minnesota Power**
In the Matter of Minnesota Power's 2019 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition.
1. Should the Commission approve Minnesota Power's 2019 remaining lives annual depreciation petition?
 2. Should the Commission accept Minnesota Power's proposal to separately depreciate certain Account 390.0 buildings?
 3. Should the Commission authorize Minnesota Power's request to transfer an asset (a loader) from regulated operations (Laskin Energy Center) to non-regulated operations (Rapids Energy Center) and its associated accounting treatment?
 4. Should the Commission authorize Minnesota Power's request for an offsetting transfer of an asset (a bulldozer) from non-regulated operations (Rapids Energy Center) to regulated operations (Taconite Harbor Energy Center) and its associated accounting treatment? (PUC: **Hetherington, Bender**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Approved remaining lives, salvage rates, effective date, depreciation request, asset transfer, and required filing.

6. ** **E002/M-19-568 Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval of a Solar Energy Purchase with Elk Creek Solar, LLC for 80 MW of Solar Generation.
1. Should the Commission approve Xcel's Petition for Approval of the Elk Creek Solar PPA? If so, should the Commission impose any conditions upon approving the petition?
 2. Should the Commission require Xcel to propose a new bidding process or use an

existing, Commission-approved bidding process for future acquisitions of Renewable*Connect resources? (PUC: **Stalpes**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

No action.

7. **** E002/CI-17-401 Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy**
In the Matter of a Commission Investigation to Identify and Develop Performance Metrics and, Potentially, Incentives for Xcel Energy's Electric Utility Operations.

What metric calculations and reporting requirements should the Commission establish as part of the Performance-Based Regulation (PBR) process? (PUC: **Martone**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
[Briefing Papers Attachment A](#)
[Briefing Papers Attachment B](#)

Approved proposed methodology and reporting schedules, with modifications.

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