



Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Decisions

Thursday, February 4, 2021

1:00 PM

Online via Webex

INTRODUCTION

DECISION ITEMS

1. * **IP6961/WS-16-686 Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC**
In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

What action should the Commission take on Mr. Ron Weverka's Noise Complaint?
(PUC: Ek)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)

Required filings.

2. ** **IP7013/CN-19-408; Big Bend Wind, LLC**
IP7013/WS-19-619;
IP7013/TL-19-621
In the Matter of the Applications of Big Bend Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need, a Site Permit for the 308 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System and a Route Permit for the 161 kV Transmission Line in Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota.
1. Should the Commission accept the certificate of need, site permit and route permit applications as substantially complete?
 2. Should the Commission direct that the application for the certificate of need be evaluated using the informal review process or refer the application to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding?
 3. What procedural process should the Commission authorize for evaluation of the site permit application?
 4. What procedural process should the Commission authorize for evaluation of the route permit application?
 5. Should an Environmental Assessment be prepared instead of the environmental report required under the certificate of need process?
 6. Should the certificate of need, site permit, and route permit applications be processed jointly, i.e., joint public information meetings, joint environmental review and joint public hearings?
 7. Should an advisory task force be appointed for the route permit application?

8. Should the Commission vary the time limits of certain rules related to the processing of the applications? (PUC: **Panait**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
[Revised Decision Options](#)

Accepted applications; approved informal review processes; referred to OAH for contested case proceedings; approved joint proceedings; took no action on an advisory task force; established administrative and procedural guidance; granted intervenor status; varied rules; endorsed proposed timelines.

3. * **IP7014/CN-19-486; Red Rock Solar, LLC**
IP7014/GS-19-620

In the Matter of the Application of Red Rock Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the up to 60 MW Red Rock Solar Project in Cottonwood County, Minnesota;
In the Matter of the Application of Red Rock Solar, LLC for a Site Permit for the up to 60 MW Red Rock Solar Project in Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

1. Should the Commission accept the certificate of need application as substantially complete and authorize review using the Commission's informal process or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings?
2. Should the Commission accept the site permit application as substantially complete and authorize review under the alternative permitting process?
3. Should the Commission direct that the certificate of need and site permit applications be processed jointly (i.e. joint public information meetings, joint public hearings, and an environmental assessment in lieu of an environmental report)?
4. Should the Commission appoint an advisory task force for the siting of the proposed solar energy generating system?
5. What actions should the Commission take concerning the public hearing process and procedures?
6. Should the Commission vary the time limits of certain rules related to the processing of the applications? (PUC: **Bruce**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
[Revised Decision Options](#)

Accepted applications; approved informal review processes; referred to OAH for contested case proceedings; approved joint proceedings; took no action on an advisory task force; established administrative and procedural guidance; granted intervenor status; varied rules; endorsed proposed timelines.

4. ** **E,G999/CI-20-375 All Regulated Natural Gas and Electric Utilities**

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

What next steps should the Commission take in its Inquiry? (PUC: **Dornfeld, Martone**)

Attachments: [Briefing Papers](#)
 [Briefing Papers Att A](#)
 [Briefing Papers Att B](#)
 [Briefing Papers Transition Plan Template](#)
 [ECC - Decision Options - 2-2-2021](#)
 [Staff Redlined Decision Options](#)

Accepted reports and required filings.

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