

The Commission met on **Thursday, November 3, 2022**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-015/M-22-163

E-017/M-22-159

E-002/M-22-162

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's, Otter Tail Power Company's, and Xcel Energy's 2021 Annual Safety, Reliability and Service Quality Report and Proposed System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), and Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) Reliability Standards for 2022

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Otter Tail Power, Minnesota Power, and Xcel Energy's 2021 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality reports.
2. Set Minnesota Power's 2022 statewide Reliability Standard at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd Quartile for medium utilities. Set Minnesota Power's work center reliability standards at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd quartile for small utilities. Require a supplemental filing to Minnesota Power's 2022 SQSR report 30 days after IEEE publishes the 2022 benchmarking results, with an explanation for any standards the utility did not meet.
3. Set Otter Tail Power's 2022 statewide Reliability Standard at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd Quartile for medium utilities. Set Otter Tail's work center reliability standards at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd quartile for medium utilities. Require a supplemental filing to Otter Tail Power's 2022 SQSR report 30 days after IEEE publishes the 2022 benchmarking results, with an explanation for any standards the utility did not meet.
4. Set Xcel Energy's 2022 statewide Reliability Standard at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd Quartile for large utilities. Set Xcel's Southeast and Northwest work center reliability standards at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd quartile for medium utilities and Xcel's Metro East and Metro West work center reliability center standards at the IEEE benchmarking 2nd quartile for large utilities. Require a supplemental filing to Xcel Energy's 2022 SQSR report 30 days after IEEE publishes the 2022 benchmarking results, with an explanation for any standards the utility did not meet.
5. Initiate a work group to simplify Xcel Energy' SQSR reporting requirements. The workshop shall file recommendations or a progress update with the 2023 SQSR report.

6. Require Xcel Energy to provide, beginning with its April 1, 2023 service quality filing, an additional data set that reports discreet meters unread for 6-12 months and 12+ months, with a single meter listed in the longest appropriate category only, in Xcel Energy's reporting under MN Rules Section 7826.1400. To the extent possible, include historic data in this format as well, with the past five years being optimal.
7. Require Xcel Energy to document response duration in days, beginning from the date of initial customer contact to the date of Company reply, for inquiries, complaints, or disputes related to DERs and/or the interconnection process that are received through Xcel's call center, email, or otherwise. Information shall be shared in a .xlsx format in the Company's 2023 service quality filing and in the temporary annual report in Docket No. E999/CI-16-521.
8. Require Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power to each display, either directly or via a link to a PDF file, the utility's public facing summary, as shown in Attachment A, on the utility's website placed such that the summary is available to a website user after a single click away from the home page.
9. Require Minnesota Power to describe in its 2023 filing its efforts to recruit, hire and train new call center representatives if data for service in 2022 show that the Company has not answered 80 percent of calls either made to the business office during regular business hours or for service interruption within 20 seconds.
10. Require Minnesota Power to make a compliance filing, within 30 days of the issuance of this order in Docket No. E-0015/M-22-163 and in next years' service quality docket, which reports monthly average answer time and call duration for all calls offered to agents, Customer Care and Support Representatives or otherwise, in the Company's Call Center during business hours. Minnesota Power shall provide the data in spreadsheet (.xlsx) format and to the greatest extent practicable. Where the Company is not able to do so, it shall explain why.

The motion passed 5-0.

P-999/CI-21-86

In the Matter of a Notice to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Grant Winners

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Determine that the Commission has the necessary jurisdiction to impose additional regulatory requirements on eligible telecommunications carriers.
2. Require ETCs to have its 911 plan approved by DPS as a condition of ETC status.

3. Require ETCs to keep an updated price list on the company's website of the service offerings supported as an ETC.
4. Require ETCs to promptly report detailed/intelligent notification of any disruption affecting the ability of customers to place a 911 call to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). What constitutes a reportable disruption and what is required to address the disruption shall be defined in an ETC's 911 plan on file or to be filed in the future. Notifications need to explain the area affected, number of customers affected, and expected length of outage as required in an ETC's plan. Within 3 days of restoration of service, ETC shall provide a narrative of the outage, the duration of the outage and the root cause of the outage to the DPS, the PUC, and Commerce.
5. Require ETCs to ensure that location information and callback number are visible to the State Emergency Network, and any contracts entered for the provision of voice/911 services must allow for location information to be visible to the State Emergency Network.
6. Calls placed to 911 are not to accrue any associated charges to the subscriber.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-18-714

In the Matter of Northern State Power d/b/a Xcel Energy's Cost Sharing Implementation Plan and Tariff on Interconnection Standards for Distributed Generation

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the Cost Sharing Fund program filed by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) and the request to amend tariff sheet 10-204.01 as listed in Attachment A to staff briefing papers as modified below.
2. Allow for annual updates to the Cost Sharing Fund fee amount using the Commission's standard 30-day negative check off process. If an objection is filed, the fee will not change until a Commission decision has been made.
3. Modify the tariff to address the following:
 - A. Tariff Section 6.2 is modified as follows:

A mandatory cost sharing fee of \$200 is applicable to every application subject to these Cost Sharing provisions. Payment of this fee is a prerequisite to the application being Deemed Complete under MN DIP 1.5.2. This fee is non-refundable and in addition to the applicable MN DIP processing fee associated with each application. The fee is

subject to change annually on January 1 based on a filing with the Public Utilities Commission made on or before September 30.

B. Tariff Section 6.1 shall be modified as follows:

These Cost Sharing provisions, terms and conditions apply to every MN DIP application with 40 kW AC or less that, on or after January 3, 2023, has been Deemed Complete under MN DIP 1.5.2. ~~on or after August 31, 2022.~~

C. The Cost Sharing Program is not a section of the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP).

4. Require Xcel to exempt homeowners receiving energy assistance and those who are receiving Xcel income-qualified Solar*Rewards from having to pay the Cost Sharing Fee.
5. Require Xcel to begin the Cost Sharing Program on January 3, 2023.
6. Require Xcel to create a waitlist for projects that require a distribution upgrade when the Cost Sharing Fund has insufficient funding.
7. Require Xcel to report the following on a quarterly basis in the Company's MN DIP progress reports (in Docket No. E-999/CI-16-521, *In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1611*) starting in 1st quarter 2023. Where applicable, Xcel shall include data in spreadsheet (.xlsx) format.
 - A. Total amount of funds available at start of reporting period (at one point in time).
 - B. Total dollar amount of fees received from the number of applications during reporting period (between two points in time).
 - C. Total number of completed projects that received disbursements from the fund.
 - D. Total dollar amount of funds allocated to the number of applications during reporting period.
 - E. Listing of each project (anonymized) showing dollar amount credited toward overall interconnection costs.
 - F. Eligibility Issues:
 - 1) Total number of eligible projects for which there was insufficient funds (below \$15,000).
 - 2) Number of projects hitting the \$15,000 cap.

- 3) Number of otherwise eligible projects with ineligible costs (e.g. studies)
 - 4) Number of projects that were ineligible and therefore withdrew.
- G. Description of categories of costs paid for by the Cost Share Fund, the number of upgrades in each category paid for by the Fund, and the total cost of upgrades performed in each category paid for by the Fund. Categories could include transformer upgrades, reconducting, line extensions, and other types of Distribution Upgrades and Interconnection Facilities for distributed energy resources.
- H. Total amount of funds available at end of reporting period (point in time).
- I. An evaluation of whether an adjustment to the \$200 interconnection fee is warranted.
- J. The total number of low-income customers exempted from the fund fee.
8. Xcel shall not be allowed to include any of the costs covered by the Cost Sharing Fund in its rates or revenue requirement. Require Xcel to separately account for costs recovered from the Cost Sharing Fund consistent with treatment of other customer-recovered expenses.
 9. Require Xcel to file a compliance filing with updated tariff consistent with this order within 10 days of the effective date of the order.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 28, 2022



Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary