

The Commission met on **Thursday, March 2, 2023** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002/M-20-620

In the Matter of a Petition from Northern States Power Company, d/b/a/ Xcel Energy, for Approval of Updated Pricing for the Border Winds and Pleasant Valley Wind Repowering Projects

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's estimated \$89 million in incremental capital costs, as stated on page 2 of the Company's November 28, 2022 reply comments, above the Company's estimate in its initial September 29, 2020 petition as reasonable and in the public interest.
2. Continue to allow the Company to pursue cost recovery for its Wind Repowering Portfolio, including the Border Winds and Pleasant Valley Wind Repowering Projects, in a future Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Rider filing.
3. In Xcel's next and subsequent RES Rider filings, the Company shall file a comparison of assumed and actual PTC levels.

The motion passed 5–0.

P-999/CI-20-747

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Advertising, Outreach, and Offering of Lifeline by High-Cost ETCs

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Deny further clarification or modification of the July 20, 2021 Lifeline Best Practices Order at this time. Request that the Department engage ETCs and stakeholders regarding what would be appropriate modifications to the best practices for annual filing along with the appropriate docket and timing of an annual filing. Authorize the

Executive Secretary to establish a timeframe for comments on modifications of the July 20, 2021 Lifeline Best Practices Order for annual filing purposes.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-999/PR-22-12

In the Matter of Commission Consideration and Determination of Compliance with Renewable Energy Standards for Year 2021

E-999/M-22-85

In the Matter of Commission Consideration and Determination of Compliance with Renewable Energy Standards Biennial Reporting

E-999/PR-02-1240

In the Matter of Green Pricing Verification Filing Process.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Find that all utilities complied with the RES requirement for 2021.
2. Find that Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy complied with the SES requirement for 2021.
3. Find Otter Tail is not in compliance with the small scale carveout of the solar energy standard for 2021. Within 90 days of the order, Otter Tail may file a petition under Minn. Stat § 216B.1691, subd. 2b, addressing the statutory factors and requesting that the Commission delay and/or modify OTP's small scale carveout requirement of the solar energy standard. In order to achieve compliance, OTP shall file a plan to achieve future compliance with the small scale carveout requirement. The proposal, which will be addressed in a new docket, shall include any of the following:
 - a. The Company-owned 40 kW solar projects proposal, including detailed cost information and a comparison to the costs of existing 40 kW projects;
 - b. An incentive program similar to those utilized by Xcel Energy and Minnesota Power to secure the small SRECs for SES compliance. The proposal shall discuss the anticipated level of small SRECs the incentive program would generate, and the anticipated number of company-owned 40kW solar projects the incentive program would replace. The petition should include a thorough cost comparison of both programs; and/or
 - c. Any alternative plan proposed by the Company to reasonably and prudently achieve future compliance with the solar energy standard's small scale carveout requirement.

Should OTP choose not to propose an incentive program, OTP shall provide an explanation about the feasibility of such program and why an incentive program is not the best option for achieving future SES compliance.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-13-867

In the Matter of the Petition for Approval of Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy's Community Solar Garden Program

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel Energy's 2023 Value of Solar Vintage rates and associated tariff sheet changes as filed by Xcel Energy on September 1, 2022.
2. Decline to adopt changes to the avoided distribution cost calculation within the existing VOS methodology at this time.
3. Let the residential adder expire with the 2022 VOS vintage, recognizing that the Commission will consider the issue of the adder for the 2023 VOS vintage after Xcel files its May 2023 adder final evaluation.
4. Accept the offer from developers and interested parties to file information related to the residential adder differentials by April 1, 2023.
5. Require Xcel to work with Department and stakeholders on possible adders including but not limited to (1) an income-qualified adder, (2) required allocation for residential/income-qualified customers, and (3) a cost-neutral mixed adder, and accept the Department's offer to file a summary by May 1, 2023.
6. Require Xcel to include in its May 1, 2023 compliance filing language for exempting the adder for new Building Subscription Model subscribers with a date for implementation and delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to approve Xcel's proposed language if no objections are filed within 30 days. Require Xcel to update tariff sheets as necessary.

The motion passed 5-0.

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

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the TSG's recommendations to the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) as referenced in Attachment B effective upon the date set in the Notice by the Commission that the IEEE 1547-2018 advanced inverters are "readily available". The Commission delegates to the Executive Secretary authority to make additional minor edits to the draft TIIR before finalizing.

2. Xcel Energy shall make its TSM available to the DG Workgroup no later than April 3, 2023.
3. Each rate-regulated utility shall make its draft TSM available to the DG Workgroup no later than August 1, 2023.
4. Each rate-regulated utility shall file its final TSM by September 1. The Executive Secretary may modify this deadline.
5. Beginning April 3, 2023 and until inverters are deemed “readily available,” Xcel Energy’s System Impact Studies shall with agreement of the DER Owner either a) include the option of using a smart inverter as a mitigation measure or b) fully document why use of a smart inverter is infeasible for the specific project. Before the study, or restudy, is undertaken Xcel Energy shall notify the DER Owner whether an advanced inverter could be studied and give the DER Owner 10 days to confirm how the study should proceed.
6. Extend the temporary annual reporting on interconnection through at least 2026 by modifying the requirement in the August 13, 2018 Order, paragraph 20 as follows:

On March 1, until at least 2026, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and Dakota Electric shall each file a report with the Commission on interconnections that occurred during the preceding calendar year. This report shall include, at minimum:

- a. Facility capacity;
- b. DER type (technology);
- c. Date of application submittal;
- d. Date application deemed complete;
- e. Date and disposition at applicable milestones in the interconnection process:
 - i. Initial review,
 - ii. Supplemental review,
 - iii. System-impact study,
 - iv. Facilities study,
 - v. Interconnection agreement, and
 - vi. Permission to operate;
- f. Final process track (simplified, fast-track, or study);
- g. Number of pre-application reports requested and processed;
- h. A narrative of how the process is working and where there is potential for improvement by the utility or interconnection applicants; and

For facilities of greater than 20 kW, the variance between the cost estimate provided in the facilities-study report and the actual cost of upgrades, including an explanation for variances that fall outside a +/- 20% range.

The motion passed 4-0, with Chair Sieben having left the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: April 19, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary