

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 29, 2017**, with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

### **ENERGY FACILITIES PERMITTING**

#### **IP-6981/CN-17-306**

#### **In the Matter of Petition of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 200 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System and an Associated 345 kV Transmission Line in Dodge County**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Determine that the following data requirements are not applicable:
  - 7849.0260(A)(3) and (C)(6): Line Loss Data
  - 7849.0260(B)(1): Alternatives to the Transmission Line
  - 7849.0260(C)(5): Details Regarding Alternatives
  - 7849.0260(D): Map of Applicant’s System
  
2. Approve the following exemptions conditioned upon Dodge County Wind providing equivalent data from the purchaser:
  - 7849.0240, subp. 2(B): Promotional Activities
  - 7849.0250(B)(2), (3), and (5): Description of Certain Alternatives
  - 7849.0250(C)(7): Effect of Project on Rates System-wide
  - 7849.0300: Consequences of Delay—System
  - 7849.0340: The Alternative of No Facility
  
3. Approve the following exemptions as proposed:
  - 7849.0250(B)(1) and (4): Description of Certain Alternatives
  - 7849.0250(C)(1)–(6), (8), and (9): Availability of Alternatives to the Facility
  - 7849.0250(D): Map of Applicant’s System
  - 7849.0270: Peak Demand and Annual Consumption Forecast
  - 7849.0280: System Capacity
  - 7849.0290: Conservation Programs
  - 7849.0330: Alternatives Involving an LHVTL
  
4. Approve the Applicant’s proposed Notice Plan, as modified by the Applicant’s reply comments, with the clarification that the Notice Area will encompass the entire width of Dodge County Wind’s proposed route alternatives; and

5. Grant the Applicant a variance to Minn. R. 7829.2550, subp. 6, to allow implementation of the Notice Plan within two to four weeks prior to filing of the certificate-of-need petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

## **ENERGY AGENDA**

### **E-001/RP-17-374**

#### **In the Matter of Interstate Power and Light Company’s (IPL’s) 2017 Integrated Resource Plan**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve IPL’s extension request and set a due date of February 1, 2018, for its next Integrated Resource Plan; and
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to further delay IPL’s next Integrated Resource Plan, if agreed to by the parties.

The motion passed 5–0.

### **E-111/M-17-314**

#### **In the Matter of a Petition from Dakota Electric Association for Approval of an Electric Service Agreement Under the Association’s Member-Specific-Discount Rider**

Commissioner Schuerger moved to approve the electric service agreement.

The motion passed 5–0.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA**

### **P-999/M-16-227**

#### **In the Matter of the Department of Human Services – Telephone Equipment Distribution Program’s Request to Amend Its Fiscal Year 2017 Line Item Budget**

Commissioner Tuma moved to take no action on the request for a budget amendment and to direct the Department–TAM Administrator and DHS–TED to provide a written report to the Commission updating it on the further implementation of the January 2017 Legislative Report, “Analysis of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Services,” explaining how it is addressing the two consulting reports embedded in the Legislative Report not later than 60 days following the

date of the Commission's order. This report is in addition to the reporting of progress that will be included in the upcoming year's TAM Annual Report.

The motion passed 5–0.

## ENERGY AGENDA

### **E-017/M-17-257**

#### **In the Matter of a Petition by Otter Tail Power Company for a Competitive Rate for Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed Customers**

Commissioner Lipschultz moved to take the following actions:

1. Find that Otter Tail has the ability to propose for Commission approval various EITE rate options within its service territory under an EITE rate schedule pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 2(a), because it is an investor-owned electric utility that has at least 50,000 retail electric customers, but no more than 200,000 retail electric customers.
2. Find that the three customers to whom Otter Tail seeks to offer the EITE rate discounts are eligible to receive those discounts and, more specifically, that customers need only satisfy one of the criteria Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subds. 1(c)(1) through 1(c)(4) to satisfy the definition of an EITE Customer.
3. Find that Otter Tail has complied with Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 3, with its proposal to deposit \$10,000 with the Salvation Army, Roseville, Minnesota to increase low-income customer awareness of the Gas Affordability Program administered by Great Plains Natural Gas Company and approved by the Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15.
4. Find that Otter Tail's Proposed EITE Rate Schedule and EITE Rate, as filed by Otter Tail, discounting current rates by 20%, can be expected to yield a net benefit to the utility. Approve Otter Tail's Schedule and its corresponding EITE Rate.
5. Find that the Commission needs more information in order to determine the reasonableness of the EITE Cost Recovery Mechanism. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to issue notices, establish procedures, and set timelines.
6. Approve Otter Tail's proposed EITE Cost Recovery Mechanism via a flat kWh charge.
7. Approve Otter Tail's proposed EITE Cost Recovery Mechanism without the inclusion of outside attorney fees.

8. Approve Otter Tail's proposed EITE Cost Recovery Mechanism allowing for low-income customers to self-certify for the EITE Surcharge exemption with the effective date being on or after the date of self-certification.

The motion passed 4–1. Commissioner Tuma voted against the motion.

Commissioner Tuma moved to suspend the \$10,000 payment for 120 days from the date of the order to give Otter Tail the opportunity to apply for approval of a low-income affordability program under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15, to be administered by one or more of the community action agencies providing LIHEAP benefits within its service territory. If Otter Tail files an application during the 120-day period, the \$10,000 payment will remain suspended until such time as the Commission acts on the application. If the application is approved, the \$10,000 would be divided among those agencies included in the application. If the application is not approved, the \$10,000 will be made to the Roseville Salvation Army as previously ordered. Nothing in this motion will affect Otter Tail's ability to implement an EITE rate immediately.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: December 13, 2017**



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**Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary**