

The Commission met on **Thursday, November 30, 2017** with Chair Lange and Commissioners Lipschultz, Schuerger, Sieben, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

G-002/M-16-382

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2015 Annual Gas Service Quality Reports

G-002/M-17-341

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's 2016 Annual Gas Service Quality Reports

Commissioner Sieben moved that the Commission accept Xcel Energy's 2015/2016 Annual Gas Service Quality Reports.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-017/M-17-152

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for Approval of the Company's Proposed LED Street and Area Lighting Rate Schedule 11.07 and Associated LED Implementation Plan

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission approve Otter Tail's Petition for approval of the Company's LED Street Area Lighting rate schedule 11.07 as modified in later party comments and with a March 1, 2018 effective date of the tariff.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-17-530

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for Approval to Terminate the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Benson Power, LLC, Acquire the Benson/Fibrominn Plant, and Close the Facility

E-002/M-17-551

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition for approval to Terminate the PPA with Laurentian Energy Authority 1, LLC

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Xcel's proposal to terminate the PPA with Benson Power, LLC, acquire the plant, and close facility.
2. Approve Xcel's proposed FCA variance request to recover investments, expenses and costs, and earnings associated with this transaction through the FCA as set out in Xcel's petition and Department analysis.

3. Approve Xcel's request for the creation of a regulatory asset for the costs associated with the transaction but do not allow FCA recovery of legal expenses which are built into base rates. The rate of return on the asset is subject to future revision by the Commission and any payments by customers through the FCA are subject to a true-up.
4. Xcel must seek termination of the backup power agreement with the City of Benson in accordance with the terms of that contract if it is in the best interests of ratepayers. If Xcel enters into such a contract, the Company must file a compliance filing within 30 days after the issuance of this order that includes a description of the termination provisions of the contract and an explanation, in any FCA filings where the Company seeks recovery of these payments, how the Company fulfilled the requirement to seek termination in the best interest of ratepayers.
5. Vary Minn. R. 7825.1800 (B) because the information required is not needed for a determination in this case.
6. Find that the transaction to temporarily acquire the Benson facility is consistent with the public interest and otherwise meets the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216B.50.
7. Approve the petition to terminate the PPA with Laurentian Energy Authority I, LLC (LEA) and corresponding RDF grant contract.
8. Approve cost recovery of the expenses and costs associated with the LEA transaction through the FCA.
9. Approve Xcel's proposed FCA rule variance requests, as set forth in Xcel's petition and the Department's analysis.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: May 16, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary