

The Commission met on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**G-004/M-20-448**

**In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2019 Conservation Improvement Program Tracker and Shared Savings Demand Side Management Incentive**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Great Plains Natural Gas Company's 2019 CIP tracker account, as summarized in Table 1 of the Department of Commerce Comments dated July 1, 2020, resulting in a 2019 CIP tracker balance of (\$716,193);
2. Approve a 2021 Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) rate of \$(0.0597) per Dth, to be effective January 1, 2021;
3. Require Great Plains Natural Gas Company to include the following bill message<sup>1</sup> in the billing month immediately following the date of the Order in the current docket:

Great Plains recovers the cost changes in its energy conservation programs, from the base established 2021, through its Conservation Cost Recovery Adjustment (CCRA) subject to MN Public Utilities Commission approval. A CCRA Factor of [insert rate] per dk is effective [insert effective date]. Learn more about reducing your energy use by visiting our website at [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com) or calling us at 1-877-267-4764.

4. Require Great Plains Natural Gas Company to submit a compliance filing, simultaneously with the filing of compliance tariffs in Docket No. G-004/GR-19-511, with revised tariff sheets reflecting the Commission's determinations in this matter. The Conservation Improvement Program Adjustment Clause tariffs shall reference both Docket No. G-004/M-20-448 and Docket No. G-004/GR-19-511.
5. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to resolve any remaining issues with the bill message.

The motion passed 5–0.

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<sup>1</sup> At the Commission meeting, the Company requested slight changes to the bill message, and the Department did not object.

**E-999/CI-19-704**

**In the Matter of an Investigation into Self-Commitment and Self-Scheduling of Large Baseload Generation Facilities**

**E-002/M-19-809**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of a Plan to Offer Generating Resources into the MISO Market on a Seasonal Basis**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Find that Xcel Energy's filing in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704 is adequate and met the filing requirements.
2. Find that Otter Tail's filing in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704 is adequate and met the filing requirements.
3. Find that Minnesota Power failed to meet the requirements in Ordering Paragraph 8 of the November 2019 Order and instruct Minnesota Power to file a complete report covering July 2018 through December 2020 with its February 1, 2021 filing in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704.
4. Require Minnesota Power, Otter Tail, and Xcel Energy to file in their March 1, 2021 filing a complete analysis of the costs and benefits of economic or seasonal dispatch relative to self-scheduling at the following facilities:
  - a. Boswell 3 and Boswell 4 – Minnesota Power
  - b. Coyote Station – Otter Tail
  - c. Sherco 1 and Sherco 3 – Xcel Energy
  - d. Big Stone – Otter Tail
5. Carry forward all requirements from prior orders in Docket No. E-999/AA-18-373 and E-999/CI-19-704, and include the following changes and additions:
  - a. Include ancillary services revenues and any other make-whole payments as a separate column in all reporting on revenue from generation.
  - b. Utilities should provide Unit Fuel Costs and Unit Variable Cost as separate line items.
  - c. If a utility excludes any fuel costs from its MISO offer curves, the utility should also provide an analysis that includes all fuel costs, including those currently treated as fixed costs due to contractual terms.

- d. Utilities should include all preventative maintenance in O&M costs for reporting purposes.
- e. Any hours with unavoidable self-commitment should be labeled as such, with a cause listed for the self-commitment in that hour. (Testing, contract, dispatch of co-owned generation, etc.)
- f. Future analyses of self-commitment and self-scheduling should include all production costs including fuel, variable O&M, and other variable costs associated with the plant.
- g. To the extent not already provided, utilities should provide the following:
  - i. Length of minimum decommit time for each unit;
  - ii. Number of times in the analysis period that each unit incurred losses over a duration greater than or equal to its minimum decommit time;
  - iii. Of the periods identified in (ii), the number of periods when losses were greater than the relevant startup cost (warm or cold startup cost, depending on the length of the period); and
  - iv. Sum of losses in excess of startup cost that were incurred during periods identified in (iii).
- 6. Require Otter Tail to provide a discussion of the options and costs of changing its current coal contract at Coyote Station and an evaluation of how potential costs of changing the contract compare to Coyote Station's past and forecast operating losses in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704.
- 7. Require utilities with co-ownership of baseload generating units to discuss options of economically committing those units within the terms of their partnership in the March 1, 2021 compliance report.
- 8. Require Minnesota Power, Otter Tail, and Xcel Energy to evaluate whether reducing minimum operating levels would benefit customers and include that evaluation and discussion in the March 1, 2021 compliance report.

9. Minnesota Power, Otter Tail, and Xcel Energy shall file a compliance filing within 60 days of this order containing the required data consistent with the decisions in this order, with formulae intact, that the utility will fill out for each unit in future filings, including clear definitions of each input. The utilities shall do this in consultation with each other, the Department, and stakeholders. The Commission delegates authority to the Executive Secretary to approve this compliance filing for use in the March 2021 filings in Docket No. E-999/CI-19-704.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 17, 2021**

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

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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**