

The Commission met on **Wednesday, January 6, 2021**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**G-004/M-20-813**

**In the Matter of a Request by Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Great Plains), for a Variance and Notice of Refund Plan for Northern Natural Gas and Viking Gas Transmission Pipeline Refunds**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Great Plains' proposal to provide the Northern Natural Gas and Viking Gas Transmission refunds to customers through a single bill credit based upon actual usage by customers for the time period of January through April 2020.
2. Grant a rule variance and allow Great Plains to calculate the refund per unit cost using four months of actual usage rather than the 12 months required by Minn. R. 7825.2700, subp. 8.
3. Require Great Plains to report on the status of the refund after it is completed; specifically, require Great Plains to report the percentage of the refund that was returned by bill credit by customer class as well as the percentage of the refund returned through the issuance of individual checks and the amount of un-refunded monies.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-011/M-20-700**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for a Variance and Notice of Refund for Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Refund**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's refund proposal with the Department's modification of the customer class allocation based on their actual natural gas use during the period of January through April 2020.
2. Grant variances to the purchased gas adjustment rules as needed and allow Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation to disburse the Northern Natural Gas refund via the purchased gas adjustment over one month as soon as feasible.

3. Require Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation to report in a compliance filing on the status of the Northern Natural Gas refund after it is completed. Specifically require Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation to report the percentage of the refund that was returned through the purchased gas adjustment, by customer class.

The motion passed 5–0.

**G-011/M-20-702**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for a Variance and Notice of Refund Plan for Viking Gas Transmission Pipeline Refund**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Viking Gas Transmission refund proposal and rule variance request as modified by the Department and Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation in their comments and reply comments.
2. Require Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation to report on the status of the refund in its 2021 True-up filing filed in September 2021.
3. Grant a variance to Minnesota Rules part 7825.2700, subp. 8, to allow Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation to return the proposed refunds to its customers via the consolidated purchased gas adjustment in the earliest month possible following Commission approval, rather than through customer bill credits, and to apply the refund amount per unit based on a forecasted one month of usage rather than individual 12-month usage.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-999/M-20-464**

**In the Matter of Utilities' Annual Reports on Progress in Achieving the Solar Energy Standard**

**E-999/M-13-542**

**In the Matter of the Implementation of Solar Energy Standards Pursuant to 2013 Amendments to the Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.1691**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2019 solar energy standard reports of Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy; and
2. Adopt Commission staff's reporting recommendations set forth in Attachment B to the staff briefing papers, with the following modifications:

- a. reporting on annual solar generation on the utility's system for the previous calendar year should be broken down between facilities with 40 kW capacity or less, and those over 40 kW;
- b. generation from eligible community solar garden subscriptions shall be reported; and
- c. summaries of ongoing efforts to obtain solar energy, progress toward compliance with the 10% small-scale solar carveout, and efforts to reach the 10% goal by 2030 should be included in the biennial reporting.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 20, 2021**

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

---

**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**