

The Commission met on **Thursday, July 15, 2021**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-220,002/SA-21-192

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Brownton Electric Utility and Xcel Energy for Approval to Update Electric Service Territory Boundaries

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the permanent service territory transfer from Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to Brownton Electric Utility.
2. Request that MnGeo update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002,228/SA-21-277

In the Matter of the Compensation and Orderly Transfer Agreement Between Delano Municipal Utilities and Xcel Energy

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the permanent service territory transfer from Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to Delano Municipal Utilities.
2. Request that MnGeo update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002,235/SA-21-319

In the Matter of the Compensation and Orderly Transfer Agreement Between the City of Waseca and Xcel Energy

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the permanent service territory transfer from Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy to the City of Waseca.

2. Request that MnGeo update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

P-999/CI-17-509

In the Matter of In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into the Appropriate Notice and Outreach Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers under 47 USC §214(e)

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission:

1. Amend Paragraph 1 of the Commission's November 20, 2020 order in Docket No. P-999/CI-17-509 to provide that mobile wireless Lifeline-only eligible telecommunications carriers shall distribute customer notices to newly enrolled customers and may do so in a batch no later than one month after the customer's enrollment date.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-004/M-20-452

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Service Quality Report for 2019

G-004/M-19-280

In the Matter of Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Service Quality Report for 2018

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Great Plains Natural Gas Company's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019.
2. Require the company by October 1, 2021, to supplement its 2020 Service Quality Report with a discussion of what would be an appropriate method to compare performance nationally or regionally. The discussion shall identify already existing industry service quality comparisons, what service qualities could be best for comparison, appropriate similar utilities to compare against, and how such a national comparison could be integrated in the future service quality reporting.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-008/M-20-453

In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019

G-008/M-19-300

In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019 and modify the future reporting requirements to require CenterPoint Energy to file:
 - a. the utility's filing under 49 C.F.R. § 192.1007(e): integrity management plan performance measures; monitoring results; and evaluation of effectiveness in a manner to establish a baseline for ongoing reporting;
 - b. a summary of any emergency response violations cited by the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety along with a description of the violation and remediation in each circumstance;
 - c. the number of violation letters received by the utility from the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety during the year in question; and
 - d. continue to report metrics on excess flow valves and manual service line shutoff valves pursuant to Docket No. G-008/M-19-300.
2. Require the company by October 1, 2021, to supplement its 2020 Service Quality Report with a discussion of what would be an appropriate method to compare performance nationally or regionally. The discussion shall identify already existing industry service quality comparisons, what service qualities could be best for comparison, appropriate similar utilities to compare against, and how such a national comparison could be integrated in the future service quality reporting.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-011/M-20-456

In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019

G-011/M-19-303

In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2019 Natural Gas Service Quality Report of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC).
2. Require the company by October 1, 2021 to supplement its 2020 Service Quality Report with a discussion of what would be an appropriate method to compare performance nationally or regionally, and identify already existing industry service quality comparisons, what service qualities could be best for comparison, appropriate similar utilities to compare against and how such a national comparison could be integrated in the future service quality reporting.
3. Allow MERC to retain the \$500,000 set-aside as an Improved Customer Experience incentive.
4. Find that the Improved Customer Experience-related ongoing monitoring and reporting is no longer necessary and that the \$500,000 no longer needs to be set aside as a performance incentive.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-002/M-20-459

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas’s Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019

G-002/M-19-304

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas’s Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Greater Minnesota Gas’s Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019.
2. Require the company by October 1, 2021, to supplement its 2020 Service Quality Report with a discussion of what would be an appropriate method to compare performance nationally or regionally. The discussion shall identify already existing industry service quality comparisons, what service qualities could be best for comparison, appropriate similar utilities to compare against, and how such a national comparison could be integrated in the future service quality reporting.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-002/M-20-460

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019

G-002/M-19-305

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2018

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's Natural Gas Service Quality Report for 2019.
2. Require the company by October 1, 2021, to supplement its 2020 Service Quality Report with a discussion of what would be an appropriate method to compare performance nationally or regionally. The discussion shall identify already existing industry service quality comparisons, what service qualities could be best for comparison, appropriate similar utilities to compare against, and how such a national comparison could be integrated in the future service quality reporting.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-002/M-20-592

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Petition Requesting Approval of AGIS Initiative Related Tariff Changes and a Variance to Commission Rules

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission grant approval of the petition of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) subject to the following conditions:

1. Require Xcel to include the following information for its customers in its Communication Plan:
 - a. Scope of Advanced Metering Infrastructure-Distributed Intelligence (AMI-DI), including projected Day 1 uses and future capabilities (e.g. Field Area Network, Home Area Network, Green Button Connect My Data)
 - b. Xcel customer data access, frequency, access by utility
 - c. Customer Energy Usage Data access and rights
 - d. Information on Customer Data Disaggregation
2. Require Xcel to consult with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office on its customer engagement and education plan, subject to the above content requirement.

3. Delegate approval of Xcel's customer engagement and education plan to the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Consumer Affairs Office, and require Xcel to issue its customer engagement and education plan and bill inserts in a compliance filing in this proceeding and in other, related proceedings (e.g., Docket Nos. E-002/M-19-666 and E-002/M-20-680).
4. Grant Xcel's variance request conditioned upon the provision of information on customer's interval bills regarding the frequency of interval reading on which the customer's interval bill is based.
5. Grant approval of Xcel's proposed tariff sheets, subject to further discussion of the Department's recommended modification to the proposed interval bill.
6. Require Xcel to file within 30 days of the Commission's decision on this tariff an update on the selected Manual Meter Read (MMR) Meter and updated cost estimates and tariff sheets in the instant proceeding and in any future cost recovery request that reflects the final cost differential of the non-standard meter.
7. Require Xcel to file within one year of full Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) implementation a formal review of the pricing for the Manual Meter Reading Service and include a recommendation as to whether Xcel believes any of the cost components should change.
8. Require Xcel to file estimated and actual revenue information in any upcoming cost-recovery requests for AMI and Field Area Network.
9. Require Xcel to include information on costs and savings resulting from opt-out customers in the compliance filing, including information on the actual costs for the MMR meters, operational costs, and all other incremental changes to revenue associated with AMI opt-out customers.
10. Require Xcel to exclude its AMI cost recovery from its next rate case if the company requests cost recovery through its next Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Petition.

The motion passed 5–0.

E-015/M-11-409

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Minnesota Power's ninth annual report on its Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) program rider.
2. Approve Minnesota Power's request for CARE program administrative costs.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: July 28, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary