

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 16, 2021**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-015, E-112/SA-20-734**

**In the Matter of a Petition for Approval of Service Territory Exception Agreement between East Central Electric Association and Minnesota Power**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the requested service territory transfers.
2. Request the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office update the Commission's maps for Pine County to reflect the service area designations.
3. Require Minnesota Power to file the correspondence that was discussed.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-111/M-21-203**

**In the Matter of the Petition to Clarify Special Fees and Charges for Meters Removed without Authorization**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve Dakota Electric Association's proposed changes to the Special Fees and Charges tariff language to recover costs to respond to situations where meters are removed without authorization. a

The motion passed 5–0.

**P-999/PR-21-8**

**In the Matter of the Annual Certifications Related to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers' (ETCs) Use of Federal Universal Service Support Required Pursuant to C.F.R. § 54.313**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission

1. Recertify all companies as indicated in –

- A. Table 1 of Attachment A of the revised decision options document (September 16, 2021), with a minor correction to the study area code for Felton Telephone Company, Inc., and
  - B. Table 4 of Attachment A of the original briefing papers (September 9, 2021).
2. Certify the companies whose service area codes are registered in a state other than Minnesota, but who have customers within Minnesota as listed in Attachment A, Table 2, of the comments of Minnesota's Office of the Attorney General (August 31, 2021).

Commissioner Tuma revised the motion to add the following:

3. Regarding tribal outreach, direct each ETC to –
- A. Provide a detailed plan on how, in 2021, it will meaningfully and appropriately engage with all the Tribes it serves during the remainder of 2021 and the first half of 2022, within 30 days of the Commission's order in this matter. The plan should include:
    - 1) The company's plan to address the individual reporting requirements in Form 481 promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission;
    - 2) The name, position, and contact information of the person primarily responsible for Tribal engagement, and
    - 3) The ongoing duties that person will have with respect to Tribal engagement.
  - B. Provide quarterly reports to memorialize the ongoing efforts of each of the companies that serve Tribal lands. The quarterly reports are on the following dates each year:
    - 1) January 1;
    - 2) April 1;
    - 3) July 1 (as part of an ETCs annual filing of Form 481); and
    - 4) October 1.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-002/M-20-812**

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy 2020 Hosting Capacity Report Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425, Subd. 8**

This item was pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting.

**G-011/M-20-405**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation [MERC] for Approval of a Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost [GUIC] Rider True-Up Report for 2019, 2021 GUIC Rider Revenue Requirements and Revised Surcharge Factors**

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

1. Accept and approve Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's (MERC) proposed 2021 gas utility infrastructure costs (GUIC) rider revenue requirement and adjustment factors as filed, except as modified herein.
2. Accept MERC's GUIC rider true-up report, except as modified herein.
3. Require MERC to limit proration of accumulated deferred income taxes to only the forecasted months following the effective date of its GUIC rider in this and all subsequent GUIC rider petitions.
4. Require MERC to use a three-year cost average, using the most recent three years (2017-2019), to estimate its right-of-way project costs.
5. Require MERC to use its most recent year's actual weather normalized sales for MERC's forecasted GUIC rider.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Means moved that the Commission:

6. Direct MERC to remove all internal costs from both its 2019 true-up and its 2021 revenue requirements requests. The adjustment should also be reflected in the future GUIC petition true-ups and forecasts.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

7. Require MERC to reflect \$178,563 as an offset to its 2021 GUIC rider revenue requirement in order to recognize the level of Geographic Information System mapping project cost recovery included in its base rates.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

8. Deny inclusion of any right-of-way operations and maintenance expense work in MERC's GUIC rider recovery, both in its 2019 true-up and in its projected 2021 GUIC revenue requirement calculations.
9. Determine that a 6-inch line is not a betterment under the GUIC statute and authorize recovery of project costs.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

10. Require MERC to reduce its 2019 right-of-way services work plan costs by the extrapolated adjustment necessary to remove ineligible costs for new meter sets and installation that MERC included in the GUIC rider and to remove these costs from future rider rates.
11. Require MERC to reduce its 2019 obsolete materials plan costs by the extrapolated adjustment necessary to remove ineligible costs for new meter sets and installation that MERC included in the GUIC rider and to remove these costs from future rider rates.

The motion passed 5–0.

Chair Sieben moved that the Commission:

12. Deny MERC's request to include an additional recovery amount of \$154,535 for outside legal services in the 2019 GUIC true-up.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

13. Require MERC to submit a compliance filing within ten days of the date of this order showing the final rate adjustment factors, and all related tariff changes.

The motion passed 5–0.

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

14. Adjust MERC's proposed 2021 revenue requirement to account for the various corrections to its 2019 GUIC Rider eligible project costs.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 19, 2022**

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