

The Commission met on **Thursday January 24, 2013**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Boyd, O'Brien, and Reha present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

P6586/M-11-910

In the Matter of the Petition of Global Connection, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in Minnesota

Commissioner Boyd moved to take the following actions:

1. Find that Global Connection is a common carrier and will provide voice telephony services.
2. Find that, by virtue of the FCC's waiver, Global Connection is not required to meet the facilities-ownership requirement of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).
3. Find that Global Connection submitted information describing the terms and conditions of its Lifeline plans.
4. Find that Global Connection meets the advertising-plan requirement, subject to the condition that within 30 days of the Commission's Order, Global must submit a formal advertising and outreach plan detailing timing, locations, and examples of signage and marketing materials. Additionally, Global shall advertise all its Lifeline plans approved by the Commission.
5. Find that Global Connection has demonstrated its ability to remain functional in emergency situations.
6. Find that Global Connection has demonstrated that it will satisfy applicable consumer-protection and service-quality standards.
7. Find that Global Connection meets the informational-tariff requirement, subject to the condition that within 30 days of the Commission's Order, Global must file an amended informational tariff or customer service agreement containing rates, terms, conditions, service quality commitments, and other provisions that apply to its Lifeline service. Additionally, Global should be required to notify the Commission and DOC, in writing, immediately upon any change to the Lifeline offering terms, conditions, or rates, or if it seeks to withdraw its Lifeline offering or any portion thereof. Global must submit a revised tariff or customer service agreement page to reflect such changes.
8. Find that Global Connection has demonstrated that it is financially and technically capable of providing Lifeline service.

9. Find that Global Connection's proposed rates for its Lifeline service are in the public interest and require that, going forward, Global shall be required to offer, in Minnesota, the highest number of free minutes of usage offered in any jurisdiction by Global, and supplementary minutes priced at the lowest level offered in any other jurisdiction in which Global provides wireless Lifeline service.
10. Find that Global Connection's proposal to offer its customers refurbished handsets with a 90-day warranty is in the public interest.
11. Find that Global Connection will meet the PSAP-certification requirement upon a showing that it has obtained certification of its handsets by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Absent such a showing it shall not offer service to Lifeline customers in Minnesota.
12. Find that the Commission need not set a date certain for review of Global Connection's ETC designation and that Global's ETC designation need not be limited to one year.
13. Require Global Connection to meet the following conditions:
 - a. If Global determines that it cannot reasonably serve a consumer, it will report the unfulfilled request to DOC and the Commission within 10 days after making such a determination.
 - b. Global shall comply with the collection and remittance provisions of Minn. Stat. §§ 403.11 and 237.52.
 - c. Global shall only assign its Lifeline customers telephone numbers that are assigned to the free calling area for the local telephone exchange where the customer resides.
14. Approve Global Connection's petition for ETC designation for Lifeline services subject to the terms and conditions above.

The motion passed 4-0.

ENERGY AGENDA

IP6828/CN-09-937

In the Matter of the Application of Pleasant Valley Wind LLC for a Certificate of Need for up to 301 MW at the Pleasant Valley Project in Dodge and Mower Counties in Southeastern Minnesota

IP6828/WS-09-1197

In the Matter of the Application of Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 301 MW Pleasant Valley Wind Project in Dodge and Mower Counties

Commissioner Reha moved to take the following actions:

1. Determine that the change in timing from October 27, 2012, to October 27, 2014, is acceptable without recertification.
2. Grant the amendments as requested by Pleasant Valley Wind in its Petition incorporating permit language amendments identified in the amended permit attached to Commission staff's briefing papers.

The motion passed 4-0.

ET-2/CN-12-1235

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Need for a 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Elco, New Market, and Cleary Lake Areas in Scott and Rice Counties

Commissioner Boyd moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the proposed notice plan as modified by the Department in its comments;
2. Approve the requested variance to Minn. Rule 7829.2550, subp. 6, on the timing of the implementation of the notice plan;
3. Approve the requested variance to waive Minn. Rule 7829.2500, subp. 5, which requires an applicant to publish a newspaper notice upon filing a certificate of need application; and
4. Grant the exemption request incorporating the Department's proposed modifications to the substitute data proposed by GRE.

The motion passed 4-0.

ET-2/TL-08-1474

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission line from Brookings County, South Dakota, to Hampton, Minnesota

Chair Heydinger moved to take the following actions:

1. Table Applicant's request to adjust the route alignment.
2. Hold the Commission's September 10, 2012 Order Approving Minor Alteration to Route Permit in abeyance for further proceedings before the Commission.

3. Request EFP staff to
 - A. Confer with Applicant to obtain additional information to better evaluate the alignment options in question:
 1. the originally proposed alignment;
 2. the alignment north of County Road 62 proposed by the Applicant; and
 3. the alignment south of County Road 62 recommended by the Department.
 - B. Issue a notice for additional public comment by potentially affected landowners.
 - C. Request the parties to confer in an attempt to come up with a mutually agreed-upon alignment proposal to present to the Commission.

The motion passed 4-0.

Chair Heydinger later moved to affirm the prior motion but to correct provision 2 to state as follows:

2. Hold the Commission's November 5, 2012 order approving the plan and profile in abeyance pending the outcome of the remaining issues in this docket.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-002/M-12-248

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Deferred Accounting for Costs to Comply with Gas Pipeline Safety Programs

Commissioner Boyd moved to approve Xcel's request for deferred accounting with the following conditions:

1. Approve deferral of only TIMP and DIMP O&M costs that exceed what is recovered through current rates.
2. Require the Company to justify any outsourcing of TIMP and DIMP tasks in the annual reports beginning March 1, 2013 and in the summary to be provided 60 days prior to Xcel's next general natural gas rate case.
3. Approve the Company's implementation of deferred accounting to begin on March 21, 2012 without interest and to continue until the earlier of the time of the utility's next rate case, or March 20, 2015.

4. Approve the recording of the deferral of the Minnesota natural gas retail jurisdictional amounts in FERC Account 182.3 – Other regulatory Assets.
5. Require that Xcel Energy provide annual reports detailing the amounts deferred for future recovery beginning March 1, 2013.
6. Require Xcel Energy to provide a filing with a summary of all deferred TIMP and DIMP costs in this same format 60 days prior to the Company's next general gas rate case.
7. Xcel shall include, in the initial filing in its next natural gas rate case, justification and supporting testimony regarding all deferred TIMP and DIMP costs for which it seeks rate recovery.
8. Include in the order the following language: “. . . [G]ranted deferred accounting neither guarantees rate recovery nor creates a presumption of rate-recoverability; it merely reflects a Commission finding that the costs in question warrant deferral for consideration in a later rate-setting proceeding.”

The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Reha voted no.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: February 27, 2013



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary