

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 23, 2011**, with Chair Anderson and Commissioners O'Brien and Wergin present.

The following matters came before the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

G-002/M-11-203

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation for Approval of an Extension of a Rule Variance to Use a Monthly Demand Cost True-Up Mechanism

Commissioner Wergin moved to approve the request of Northern States Power Company (Xcel) to extend until September 30, 2014, its variance to the Purchase Gas Adjustment rules, Minn. Rules, part 7825.2700, subp. 5 -- permitting Xcel to continue collecting or returning under- and over-recoveries of demand costs on a monthly basis instead of solely on an annual basis – while retaining the existing reporting requirements.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

ET-2/M-10-1188

In the Matter of Great River Energy's Proposed Carbon Offset Plan Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §216H.03

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve Great River Energy's request to withdraw its August 1, 2010 Petition for Approval of Offsets, and close the current docket.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

E002/M-10-1278

In the Matter of a Petition by Xcel Energy For Approval of Revisions to its Solar*Rewards Program

O'Brien moved to do the following:

1. Approve changes to the Solar*Rewards program proposed by Xcel in its December 20 filing.
2. Approve Xcel's May 9, 2011 amended petition, including the method of calculating the Minnesota Bonus Rebate as set forth in the May 9 amended petition and as described in Xcel's May 25, 2011 reply comments.
3. Require Xcel to add a check-off statement to the application that must be completed by customers.

4. Approve Xcel's request to make payments to the 31 projects that were initiated under the rebate formula outlined in Xcel's December 20, 2010 filing, provided that the projects otherwise qualify for payment, and provided that payments are capped at an amount where no customer receives government incentive payments, federal depreciation tax benefits, a Solar*Rewards incentive payment, or a Minnesota Bonus rebate resulting in an aggregate total of more than 100 percent of the installed cost.
5. Approve the addition of tariff contract language proposed by Xcel in its May 9, 2011 amended petition allowing the Company to recalculate rebate payments if the Legislature or the Commission changes the program. The tariff contract language shall be amended to include the word "retroactively" as appropriate.
6. Require Xcel to work with parties to mitigate possible adverse impacts of the Solar*Rewards program requirements on customer interest in electric vehicles or other large energy additions with potential to be served through the program.
7. Require Xcel to submit information on the Company's Solar*Rewards and Minnesota Bonus rebate program in a compliance filing once a year starting September 1, 2012, in Docket No. E-002/M-10-1278 and include required information.
8. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing reflecting the decisions made by the Commission and providing updated tariff sheets if necessary within 30 days from the date of the order.

The motion passed 3 - 0.

E-017/GR-10-239

In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Wergin moved to deny the requests of Otter Tail Power Company and the Office of Attorney General's Residential and Small Utilities Division to reconsider the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order (April 25, 2011).

The motion passed 3 – 0.

IP-6855/CN-11-112

In the Matter of the Application of Ellerth Wind LLC for a Certificate of Need for a 98.9 MW Wind Project in Marshall County, Minnesota

Commissioner Wergin moved to do the following:

1. Grant a variance to Minnesota Rules, part 7849.0200, subp. 5, to extend for an unspecified but reasonable period of time the period for Commission consideration of the completeness of the application of Ellerth Wind LLC for a certificate of need for a 98.9 megawatt wind project in Marshall County, Minnesota.

2. Grant a variance to Minnesota Rules, part 7849.1400, to allow more time to begin the process of environmental review and the conduct a public meeting to scope the Environmental Report.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

IP-6853,IP6866/CN-11-471

In the Matter of the Application of Black Oak Wind, LLC and Getty Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for an up to 82 MW Large Energy Facility in Stearns County, Minnesota

Commissioner O'Brien moved to grant a variance to Minnesota Rules, part 7849.0200, subp. 6, to extend for an unspecified but reasonable period the time for Commission consideration of the request of Black Oak Wind, LLC and Getty Wind, LLC, for exemption from certain filing requirements for a certificate of need application.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

E-002/GS-11-307

In the Matter of the Site and Route Permit Application for the Black Dog Repowering Project in Burnsville, Minnesota

Commissioner O'Brien moved to do the following:

1. Accept the Xcel site and route permit application for the Black Dog Repowering Project as complete, and authorize the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff to process the application under the alternative permitting process pursuant to Minnesota Rules, parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.
2. Authorize the EFP staff to name a public advisor in this case.
3. Determine that based on the available information an advisory task force is not necessary at this time.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

ET-2/TL-10-86

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Potato Lake 115 kV Transmission Line and Substation in Park Rapids, Minnesota

Commissioner Wergin moved to approve Great River Energy's request to amend its November 17, 2010 route permit to build a 115 kilovolt transmission line and substation in Park Rapids, Minnesota.

The motion passed 3 – 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: August 3, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burl W. Haar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary