

The Commission met on **Thursday, September 27, 2012**, with Commissioners Heydinger, O'Brien, Reha, and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

G008/M-12-905;

G008/CI-04-2001

**In the Matter of the Request of CenterPoint Energy to Revise the Script Used by its Customer Service Representatives Relating to Cold Weather Rule Matters;
In the Matter of CenterPoint's Implementation of the Cold Weather Rule and Reconnection Policies (PUC: Rebholz, Swanson; DOC: Medhaug)**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission approve the proposed script revisions.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

E-001/GR-10-276

In the Matter of the Application of Interstate Power and Light Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

1. Accept IPL's compliance filing and communication plan as revised and agreed to by the parties as follows:
 - a. IPL will send a direct mail letter with a quad-fold energy efficiency and time-of-use pricing program insert to all potentially affected customers once its plans are approved by the Commission.
 - b. IPL agrees to send the direct mail letter with energy efficiency and time-of-use pricing program insert to those customers who have used over 1,000 kWh in any one non-summer month since January 1, 2011 (about 14,000 customers).
 - c. IPL will provide information to low income agencies explaining customer options for reducing utility bills; the information will be provided in a Q&A format and will explain how to participate in community action agency programs and how to take advantage of energy efficiency programs and rate options, such as time-of-use to reduce bills and usage.
 - d. Beginning in spring 2013, as part of its billing history report entitled: "Your Personal Electricity Report" sent to all Minnesota customer, IPL will include information on how the elimination of declining block rates could affect that customer's bill based on the previous year's actual usage.

- e. IPL agrees to track all customer comments and record all customer calls related to the elimination of the declining block rate and to file these concerns as part of its next electric rate case.
2. Require IPL to submit a compliance filing that includes copies of the final insert and communications mailed to customers under Option #2. The compliance filing should be submitted to the Commission no later than July 1, 2013.
3. Request that IPL work with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office in finalizing language in the letter and inserts to be mailed to customers in this docket.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Docket No. G-008/GR-05-1380

In the Matter of the Application of CenterPoint Energy for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

Docket No. G-007,011/M-07-1131

In the Matter of the Petition Submitted by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission of a Gas Affordability Service Program

Docket No. G-004/M-07-1235

In the Matter of the Petition by Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Approval of a Gas Affordability Service Program

Docket No. G-001/M-07-1295

In the Matter of a Petition Submitted by Interstate Power and Light Company Requesting Approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission of a Proposed Natural Gas Affordability Program, Including a Cost Recovery Surcharge

Docket No. G-022/CI-08-1175

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Failure to File an Affordability Program Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, Subd. 15

Docket No. G-002/GR-06-1429

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation and Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service in Minnesota

Commission Wergin moved that the Commission accept the 2011 calendar year GAP annual compliance reports.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

G022/CI-08-1175

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Failure to File an Affordability Program Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, Subd. 15.

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Greater Minnesota Gas's evaluation of its pilot gas affordability program with the following clarification:
 - a. Accept Greater Minnesota Gas's financial cost-benefit analysis and evaluation of its program for informational purposes only.
2. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to continue its pilot gas affordability program for two years.
3. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to start using a December 31 program expiration date with an evaluation for the period to be filed by the Company no later than June 1 in the year the pilot program is scheduled to expire.
4. Increase the annual arrearage forgiveness credit to \$102 per year.
5. Authorize Greater Minnesota Gas to suspend the tracking, reporting, and customer awareness requirements of the gas affordability pilot program. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to continue notifying LIHEAP participants of their eligibility for the gas affordability program as part of the Company's arrears management effort. Require the Company to work with the Department and Commission staff to develop alternate reporting requirements and present them to the Commission.
6. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to submit revised tariff sheets that reflect the Commission's decision in this docket within ten days of the Commission's order.
7. Require Greater Minnesota Gas to notify its customers of any authorized change in the gas affordability program and to submit copies to the Commission, in its ten-day compliance filing, copies of any materials (e.g., bill insert, customer newsletters, bill messages, call center phone scripts, etc.) that the company plans to use in the future to communicate this information to its customers.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

G002/GR-06-1429

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation and Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service in Minnesota.

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Xcel's offer to immediately stop its practice of automatically removing customers from its gas affordability and PowerOn programs when the credit balance in the customer's account exceeds \$500.

2. Require Xcel to consult with the Department, the OAG, and the Energy CENTS Coalition on an appropriate new removal threshold, and to propose a new threshold in a compliance filing within 90 days of the Commission's order.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Commissioner Wergin then moved that the Commission:

1. Accept Xcel's evaluation of its pilot gas affordability program.
2. Authorize Xcel to continue its pilot gas affordability program for an additional four years (until December 31, 2016), with an evaluation to be submitted by May 31, 2016 and annual compliance reports by March 31 of each year.
3. Require Xcel to work with the Energy CENTS Coalition to identify and implement opportunities to increase program spending over the next four years.
4. Reduce the gas affordability program surcharge rate for four years at a level that would reduce the gas affordability program tracker balance by approximately \$1 million and that would also allow for an increase in outreach and participation levels. After the four-year period the \$0.00445 per therm gas affordability program surcharge would be reinstated.
5. Require Xcel to:
 - a. Work with the Department and the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office to develop a customer communications plan (e.g., customer bill messages) that explains the surcharge reduction and the reinstatement of the current gas affordability program surcharge at the end of the four-year period.
 - b. Submit a compliance filing within 45 days of the Commission's order that describes and explains:
 - i. The customer communication plan (e.g., any bill insert, customer notices, bill messages, or call center phone scripts) that Xcel plans to use in connection with this program.
 - ii. Any changes in the content and level of outreach activities that Xcel or its agent, Energy CENTS Coalition, will implement to increase gas affordability program spending.
 - c. Provide a status report and gas affordability program tracker account forecast in its March 31, 2013 gas affordability program annual compliance report to help parties assess, prior to Xcel's next gas affordability program evaluation report, the impact of this four-year gas affordability program surcharge reduction.
6. Require Xcel to submit revised tariff sheets that reflect the Commission's decision in this docket within 45 days of the Commission's order.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

E104,114,121,126,145/CG-12-146

In the Matter of the Petition by Renewable Energy SD, LLC for Resolution of Cogeneration and Small Power Production Disputes with Benco Electric Cooperative, Federated Rural Electric Association, Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association, Nobles Cooperative Electric and Tri-County Electric Cooperative under Minn. Stat. 216B.164, Subd. 5.

Commissioner Wergin moved to deny reconsideration.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

E-002/M-11-801

IN the Matter of the Petition by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement with Zephyr Wind, LLC Moriah Wind, LLC and Chinook Wind, LLC.

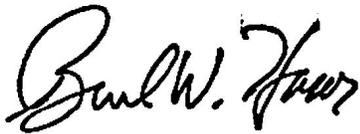
Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

1. Take no action regarding its January 18, 2012 Order Approving Power Purchase Agreements in this docket; and
2. Acknowledge Xcel's July 5 and August 12, 2012, compliance filings and take no further action.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 10, 2012



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary