

The Commission met on **Thursday, December 18, 2014**, with Chair Heydinger and Commissioners Boyd, Lange, Lipschultz, and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

ENERGY AGENDA

IP-6853,866/CN-11-471

In the Matter of the Application of Black Oak Wind, LLC and Getty Wind Company, LLC for a Certificate of Need

Chair Heydinger recused herself from participation in this determination in the certificate-of-need matter and on the motion for reconsideration filed in the siting/routing dockets (IP-6853/WS-10-1240 and IP-6866/WS-11-831).

Commissioner Wergin moved to take the following actions:

1. Deny the Township Residents' petition for a contested-case hearing;
2. Deny the Township Residents' petition for intervention; and
3. Determine that the change in timing from December 31, 2013, to December 31, 2015, is acceptable without recertification.

The motion passed 4–0.

PL-9/CN-13-153

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Need for the Line 67 (Alberta Clipper) Station Upgrade Project, Phase 2, in Kittson, Red Lake, Cass, and St. Louis Counties

Chair Heydinger moved to deny reconsideration or rehearing of the November 7, 2014 order.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-011/GR-13-617

In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

Chair Heydinger moved to deny the petitions for reconsideration filed by MERC and the Office of the Attorney General.

The motion passed 5–0.

G-002/M-14-336

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Request for Approval of a Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost (GUIC) Rider

Chair Heydinger moved to take the following actions:

1. Approve the GUIC rider as proposed by the Company.
2. Determine that the appropriate ROR is the ROR calculated using the capital structure and cost of debt from the 13-868 Xcel electric rate case and the cost from equity from the 09-1153 gas rate case (7.56%).
3. Require the revenue requirement to be allocated to customer classes in the same manner as approved by the Commission and as revenues were apportioned in the 09-1153 rate case in the final rate compliance filing.
4. Approve a five-year amortization period for the deferred costs.
5. Approve Xcel's proposed GUIC rate-adjustment factors, modified to reflect a reduced overall rate of return and any other modifications made by the Commission.
6. Determine that no carrying charge will be allowed on the tracker account balances.
7. Approve Xcel's proposed tariff sheets, modified to reflect a reduced overall rate of return and any other modifications made by the Commission.
8. Approve an effective date for the rider of the date of the order and allow the Company to calculate the final rate-adjustment factors to recover the 2015 revenue requirements over the remaining months of 2015.
9. Require Xcel to make a compliance filing showing the final rate-adjustment factors, and all related tariff changes, ten days after the date of the order.
10. Require Xcel to submit in its next gas general rate-case filing detailed schedules, any necessary supporting documentation, and an explanation of all O&M costs that were being recovered in the rider and are included in the test year for base rate recovery.
11. Require Xcel, 60 days in advance of its next annual GUIC filing, to submit information on what it believes the appropriate rate of return should be for the coming year.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 28, 2015



Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary