

The Commission met on **Tuesday, November 23, 2010**, with Chair Boyd and Commissioners Pugh, O'Brien, and Reha present.

The following matters came before the Commission:

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA**

#### **P-999/CI-10-135**

##### **In the Matter of the Telephone Assistance Plan**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission

1. accept the TAP reports;
2. take no action now and revisit issue after 6 months with updated data through December 31, 2010;
3. take no other TAP-related action.

The motion was adopted, 4-0.

### **ENERGY AGENDA**

#### **E,G-002/M-09-224**

##### **In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Modifications to the Service Rules in the Company's Natural Gas and Electric Tariffs**

#### **G-002/CI-08-871**

##### **In the Matter of an Investigation into Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy Inaccurate Gas Meters, Recalculation of Bills, and Related Issues**

Commissioner Pugh moved that the Commission

1. approve Xcel's May 17, 2010 proposed tariff language for Meter Equipment Malfunctions, effective January 1, 2011;
2. direct Xcel to make a compliance filing with revised tariff pages for inclusions in the General Rules and Regulations section of its Minnesota Gas Rate Book and its Minnesota Electric Rate Book within 15 days of the Order;
3. direct Xcel to file the following information with its annual electric service quality reports filed pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7826.0500 and its annual gas service quality reports established in Docket No. G-999/CI-09-409 starting in 2013:
  - A. Volume of Investigate and Remediate field orders

- B. Volume of Investigate and Refer field orders
  - C. Volume of Remediate upon Referral field orders
  - D. Average Response Time for each of the above categories by month and year
  - E. Minimum days, maximum days, and standard deviations for each category
  - F. Volume of excluded field orders
4. direct Xcel to file the information listed in II above and a review and report on its meter investigation and remediation performance and time-lines in the instant dockets on or before April 1, 2012.

The motion passed, 4-0.

**G-002/M-10-297**

**In the Matter of a Petition by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2009 CIP Tracker Account, DSM Financial Incentive and CIP Adjustment Factor**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission

1. approve Xcel's 2009 gas CIP tracker account, as provided in the Company's Petition and summarized in Table 2 of the OES's initial comments (filed August 30, 2010);
2. approve a 2009 DSM financial incentive for Xcel gas of \$965,307, which reflects the complete exclusion of Next Generation Act of 2007 (NGEA) and Minnesota Institute for Renewable Energy and Environment (IREE) assessments from the calculation of net benefits for 2009; the 2009 DSM financial incentive is to be included in the Company's CIP tracker account no sooner than the issue date of the Order in this matter;
3. approve Xcel's proposed method for the calculation of carrying charges of \$130,437 for its 2009 gas CIP tracker account;
4. approve a CIP adjustment factor of \$0.032364 per therm for Xcel gas. Authorize Xcel to begin collecting the new CIP adjustment factor on the first billing cycle in the next full month after Commission approval, conditioned upon submitting a compliance filing within 10 days of this meeting that includes a calculation of a revised factor to reflect the implementation date (if necessary), and relevant tariff sheets that comply with the Commission's determination in this matter;
5. approve Xcel's proposed bill message with the following modification:
  - A. adjust the October 1, 2010 effective date to reflect the Commission's determination of the effective date; and

- B. update the gas CIP adjustment factor listed in the bill message to be \$0.032364 per therm;
- 6. require Xcel to continue to account on a monthly basis for any CIP costs that are not recovered from flexible rate customers due to rate discounts, and to provide this information in the Company's annual CIP tracker account and DSM financial incentive filings;
- 7. require that in the Company's next gas CIP tracker account filing, Xcel discuss how the Company's method for estimating CIP revenues and expenses used in the calculation of the 2011-2012 CIP adjustment factor produces reasonable results.

The motion was adopted, 4-0.

**E-6675/MC-10-1086**

**In the Matter of the Application by ITC Midwest, LLC for a Minor Alteration to the Elk Substation in Nobles County, Minnesota**

Commissioner Pugh moved that the Commission authorize the minor alteration request for the Elk substation expansion with the following conditions:

- 1. at least ten days before the expanded substation is to be placed into service, ITC shall notify the Commission of the date on which the substation will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete;
- 2. at least ten days before the expanded substation is to be placed into service, ITC shall verify that construction of the substation is consistent with the site plan and drawings submitted with ITC's request for minor alteration authorization; if ITC anticipates significant changes to this plan, it shall notify the Commission at least ten days before implementing the changes;
- 3. within 60 days after completion of construction, ITC shall submit to the Commission updated geo-spatial information for the substation.

The motion was adopted, 4-0.

**IP-6684/WS-08-1448**

**In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, for an up to 138 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln Counties**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission

1. adopt the attached proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Order prepared for the 138 MW Bitter Root Wind Farm Project in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties; and
2. issue the proposed LWECS Site Permit for the 138 Bitter Root Wind Farm Project to Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC.

The motion was adopted. 4-0.

**IP-6830/CN-09-1110**

**In the Matter of the Application of Paynesville Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Project in Stearns County**

**IP-6830/WS-10-49**

**In the Matter of the Application of Paynesville Wind, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Farm in Stearns County**

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission take action as follows:

1. in Docket No. IP-6830/CN-09-1110, find that the Environmental Report adequately addresses the issues identified in the Environmental Report Scoping Decision and grant Paynesville Wind, LLC a Certificate of Need for up to 95 MW for the Paynesville wind project and associated facilities; and
2. in Docket No. IP-6830/WS-10-49, adopt the attached Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order prepared for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Farm in Stearns County; issue the proposed LWECS Site Permit for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Farm to Paynesville Wind, LLC and find good cause to not adopt all of the provisions in the Stearns County November 2009 Ordinance as explained in the Findings of Fact, as well as in the submissions made to the record by Stearns County on July 22 and November 16, 2010.

The motion was adopted, 4-0.

**IP-6701/CN-09-1186**

**In the Matter of the Application of AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC for Certificate of Need for an up to 78 MW Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Goodhue County**

**IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

**In the Matter of the Application of In the Matter of the Application of AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC for Certificate of Need and a LWECS Site Permit for an up to 78 MW Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Goodhue County for an LWECS Site Permit for an up to 78 MW Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Goodhue County**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission deny the request by AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC for reconsideration.

The motion was adopted, 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: DECEMBER 8, 2010**



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**Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary**