

The Commission met on **Tuesday, November 29, 2011**, with Chair Anderson and Commissioners Boyd, O'Brien, Reha, and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

## **ENERGY AGENDA**

### **E-002/TL-10-1026**

#### **In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the St. Cloud Loop 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota**

Commissioner Boyd moved to approve and adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for Xcel Energy's St. Cloud Loop 115-kV overhead transmission line, which

1. Determines that the environment assessment and record created at the public hearing address the issues identified in the environmental assessment scoping decision;
2. Approves the proposed route for the construction of the transmission line; and
3. Issues a high-voltage transmission line route permit, with appropriate conditions, to Xcel Energy;
4. Together with the editorial corrections set forth below:
  - a. On the cover sheet of the route permit, replace XCEL ENERGY with NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION.
  - b. On Page 4 of the route permit, Section 1, first sentence, replace "Xcel Energy" with "Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (permittee or Xcel Energy).
  - c. On Page 11 of the route permit, Section 4.2.5, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, add to the beginning of the first sentence the phrase, "Where feasible" and add at the end of the second sentence, "to the maximum extent possible."
  - d. In Finding 205 of the Energy Facility Permitting Staff's proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Issuing a Route Permit to Xcel Energy for a 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line and Associated Facilities, Finding 205, correct a typographical error and change \$100,00 to \$100,000.

The motion passed 5-0.

**ET-2/TL-11-867**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy for the Parkers Prairie 115-kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County**

Commissioner Wergin moved to

1. Accept the Great River Energy route permit application for the Parkers Prairie 115-kV transmission line project as complete, and authorize EFP staff to process the application under the alternative permitting process pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900;
2. Authorize 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 5-0.

**IP-6855/WS-11-608**

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application of Ellerth Wind LLC for a 98.9 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Marshall County**

Commissioner Reha moved to

1. Accept the application as complete, with the condition that Ellerth Wind LLC will provide additional information as requested by the Commission and the Energy Facility Permitting staff for the Ellerth Windpark project.
2. Authorize the Energy Facility Permitting staff to name a public advisor for this project.
3. Grant a variance to Minnesota Rules, part 7854.0800 to extend the period for the Commission to make a preliminary determination on whether a draft permit may be issued or should be denied for an unspecified, but reasonable period of time.

The motion passed 5-0.

**E-002, ET-2/TL-09-1056**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345-kV Transmission Line Project**

Commissioner O'Brien moved to deny the petitions for a Route Permit Amendment filed by Rob and Pauline Undersander, Hal and Patricia Undersander, Kenneth and Linda Eikmeier, Lynn Richert and Terra O'Neil, and Tim and Brenda Weisbrich.

The motion passed 5-0.

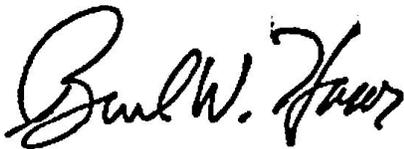
Commissioner Wergin moved to approve the following requests for minor alterations filed by Permittees, widening the route width or relocating the transmission line outside the designated route:

1. Adjustment 2, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
2. Adjustment 3, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
3. Adjustment 5, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
4. Adjustment 6, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
5. Adjustment 8, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
6. Adjustment 9W, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
7. Adjustment 9C, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
8. Adjustment 11, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
9. Adjustment 13, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.
10. Adjustment 15, as depicted on the Permit Amendment maps.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 18, 2012**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Burl W. Haar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

**Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary**