

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 12, 2012**, with Chair Anderson, and Commissioners Boyd, O'Brien, Reha and Wergin present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

## **ENERGY FACILITIES**

### **IP-6838/TL-10-134**

#### **In the Matter of the Prairie Rose Transmission, LLC Route Permit Application for a 115 kV Transmission Line in Rock County for Interconnection of the Prairie Rose Wind Farm**

Commissioner Boyd moved that the Commission:

Approve and adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for the Prairie Rose 115 kV overhead transmission line interconnecting the Prairie Rose Wind Farm by:

1. Determining that the Environmental Assessment addresses the issues identified in the Scoping Decision, and
2. Issue the high voltage transmission line Route Permit as attached, with appropriate conditions, to Prairie Rose Transmission, LLC.

The motion passed 5-0.

### **E-002/CN-10-694**

#### **In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for a Certificate of Need for Two 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Lines in the Midtown Area of South Minneapolis**

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission:

1. Find that the Environmental Report in this matter adequately addresses the issues identified in the Environmental Assessment Scoping Decision.
2. Find that the Applicant has met the statutory and rule criteria for a certificate of need and grant a certificate of need to the applicants for the double circuit 115 kV transmission lines between the Hiawatha and Midtown Substations.

The motion passed 5-0.

**E-002/T1-09-38**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Hiawatha 115 kV Transmission Project**

Commissioner Anderson moved that the Commission:

Modify the first sentence of Finding 328 of the Report of the Administrative Law Judge (the ALJ's Report) to state that "underground transmission alternatives with lower magnetic and electric fields ~~would~~ may reduce the safety and health impacts of the Hiawatha Project."

The motion failed 2-3, with Commissioners Boyd, O'Brien, and Wergin voting against the motion.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission:

Adopt the EFP's recommended changes to Findings 314, 315, 321, 328, and 457 of the ALJ's Report.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

Change Finding 259 of the ALJ's Report to remove the following parenthetical: (within 200-300 feet).

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission modify Finding 296 of the ALJ's Report to read:

Route A1 ~~would~~ may be more likely to deter use of the bicycle and pedestrian trail than the alternative routes because of its proximity to and visibility along the Midtown Greenway.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission:

Make two technical corrections, as recommended by the Energy Facilities Permitting Unit of the Department of Commerce (EFP), to Findings 137 and 191 of the ALJ's Report to clarify that neither the Metropolitan Council nor the Department of Transportation opposes Xcel's use of the G-4 substation site.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission:

Adopt typographical corrections as detailed on pages 2 and 5 of the EFP's supplemental filing.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission:

Defer a decision on the route permit until after the issue of cost allocation has been addressed.

Commissioner O'Brien subsequently withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission:

Adopt the EFP's recommended decision alternatives on page 17 of the EFP's comments.

Commissioner Reha subsequently withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Boyd moved that the Commission:

Adopt the EFP's recommended changes to Recommendations 1-4 of the ALJ's Report and to amend the site permit to include those changes.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wergin moved that the Commission:

Modify Finding 240 and Conclusion 7 of the ALJ's Report as follows:

Modifying Finding 240 to read:

State agencies are required to consider the environmental factors before making decisions, including the routing of high voltage transmission lines, ~~that potentially have significant environmental effect~~, and shall not make a decision that is likely to cause pollution, impairment, or destruction of a natural resource so long as there is a feasible and prudent alternative consistent with the public health, safety and welfare.

Modify Conclusion 7 to read:

Although it is the least expensive alternative in this instance, cost, convenience and efficiency are not sufficient reason to select a route that has the potential to impair a protected resource.

The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission:

Adopt the EFP's recommendations 1, 2, and 3 on page 17 of the EFP's comments.

The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner O'Brien voting against the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: April 4, 2012**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Burl W. Haar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

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**Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary**