

The Commission met on **Thursday, August 23, 2007**, with Chair Koppendray and Commissioners Boyd, Johnson, Pugh and Reha present.

Comment [COMMENT1]: Minutes by Carol Casebolt and Eric Witte. 6 motions were made.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

P-6037/RV-07-65

In the Matter of the Revocation of Ntera, Inc.'s Conditional Certificate of Authority

Commissioner Pugh moved to revoke Ntera, Inc.'s Conditional Certificate of Authority.

The motion passed 5-0.

ENERGY AGENDA

E-002/CN-06-154

In the Matter of the Application for Certificates of Need for Three 115 kV Transmission Lines in Southwestern Minnesota

Commissioner Johnson moved to do the following:

1. Find that the Environmental Report of April 24, 2007, fulfills the requirements of the March 22, 2007 Scoping Decision of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department).
2. Affirm the substantive findings and conclusions of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), as corrected, and issue a Certificate of Need for the construction of the three proposed 115 kilovolt transmission lines with endpoints as identified in the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation, with an in-service date of Spring 2009.
3. Direct Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) to file a status report identifying the authorities from which it will seek route permits.
4. Direct Xcel to file the required route permit applications no later than January 2008.

The motion passed 5-0.

E,G-999/M-07-1102

In the Matter of Establishment of General Permit Standards for the Siting of Wind Generation Projects Less than 25 Megawatts.

Commissioner Boyd moved to ask the Department to consult with appropriate stakeholders and, by November 30, 2007, prepare recommendations to satisfy the provisions of Minnesota Session Laws 2007, Chapter 13 (Senate File 145), relating to wind siting standards.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/RP-04-1752

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of its 2005-2019 Resource Plan

E-002/M-07-2

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy's Emissions Reduction Project at its Sherburne County Generating Plant

Commissioner Reha moved to modify Ordering Paragraph 2 of the October 18, 2006 ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION CLARIFYING FILING REQUIREMENTS, REQUIRING NOTICE TO ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS, SETTING DEADLINES FOR BASELOAD PROPOSALS, AND ACCEPTING REPORTS in Docket No. E-002/RP-04-1752 to extend to October 1, 2007, the time to request any Certificates of Need required to implement Xcel's planned upgrades to the Sherco, Prairie Island, and Monticello baseload power plants.

The motion passed 5-0.

E,G-002/CI-02-2034

In the Matter of an Investigation and Audit of Northern States Power Company's Service Quality Reporting

Commissioner Boyd moved to do the following:

1. Require an independent audit of the accuracy and reliability of Xcel's outage data for the calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007, with the objectives and scope set out by Commission Staff in the body of these briefing papers.
2. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to set time lines, procedures, and take other procedural and administrative actions necessary to oversee and implement the independent audit.
3. Direct that --
 - Xcel bear the entire expense of the audit, as required by the Commission's March 10, 2004 Order and Xcel's Service Quality Tariff.
 - The audit be overseen by Commission staff, in consultation with the Department and the Residential and Small Business Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General.
 - Xcel be responsible for drafting and issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP), and all other administrative actions necessary to implement and complete the audit, under the oversight of Commission staff.
 - The RFP, bidders list, selection of the independent firm, and the engagement contract have the prior approval of Commission staff.
 - Xcel cooperate fully with representatives of the independent firm, including providing access to all data, information, systems and personnel necessary to effectively carry out the audit.

4. Allow the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) standard of 98 minutes to remain in effect for calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-112, 286/SA-07-754

In the Matter of North Branch Water & Light Commission's Petition to Extend its Service Area into the Area Presently Served by East Central Energy Under the Terms and Conditions of the Settlement Agreement in Docket No. E-286, 112/SA-94-70

Commissioner Reha moved to do the following:

1. Approve the August 6, 2007 Amended Joint Stipulation and Standstill Agreement Pending Settlement Discussions.
2. Encourage the parties to conduct settlement discussions and report to the Commission by September 13, 2007, with a recommendation (or individual recommendations, if agreement cannot be reached) as to how to proceed to resolve this matter at that time.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary