

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 17, 2002**, with Chair Scott and Commissioners Johnson, Koppendraye, and Reha present.

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

The following matters were taken up by the Commission.

EN BLOC ACTION

Chair Scott moved that the Commission take the actions listed below:

G-004/M-01-1695

In the Matter of a Request by Great Plains Natural Gas Company for a Reallocation of Demand Units

- grant the request;
- permit the recovery of associated costs through the monthly purchased gas adjustment, beginning November 1, 2001;

In the Matter of a Petition by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for Approval of Variances to Allow Recovery of the Costs of Financial Instruments Through the Purchased Gas Adjustment

- approve the petition according to the Department's final recommendation, including the recommended information filing requirements;
- set an effective date of November 1, 2001;
- vary the rules using the language recommended by staff.

The motion passed 4-0.

OTHER ACTION

G-007, 011/M-01-1358

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern Minnesota Utilities and Peoples Natural Gas Company for a Variance to Recover the Costs Associated with Financial Call Options Through the Purchased Gas Adjustment

Commissioner Reha moved to grant the variance for a fifteen-month period commencing with the date of the order and to use the variance language proposed by staff.

The motion passed 4-0.

E-999/CI-01-1128

In the Matter of an Investigation into Allowing Submetering by Building Owners in Multi-Unit Residential Buildings Already Individually Metered by an Electric Utility

Commissioner Koppendrayer moved to accept the Department of Commerce's report and its conclusion that there is insufficient foundation to develop a set of criteria for evaluating further petitions for submetering at this time.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-252/CN-01-1826

In the Matter of an Application by Hutchinson Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need to Construct a Large Natural Gas Pipeline

Chair Scott moved that the Commission

- accept the application as substantially complete as of the date that the applicant files an economic feasibility study and cost comparison data on the Northern Natural expansion alternative;
- refer the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings;
- direct staff to work with the Administrative Law Judge to schedule a prehearing conference as soon as reasonably possible;
- ask the Department of Commerce to examine the application and other information and to develop testimony on the reasonableness of granting a certificate of need to the applicant
- require the applicant to facilitate the Department's participation in this case in every reasonable way;
- direct staff to work with the Administrative Law Judge and the parties in selecting suitable times and locations for public and evidentiary hearings;
- require the applicant to provide notice of the public and evidentiary hearings in newspapers of general circulation at least ten days prior to the start of the hearings, that such notice be in form of visible display ads, that the applicant obtain proofs of publication of such ads from the newspapers selected, and that the applicant consult with Commission staff on the timing, text, and distribution of such ads prior to publication.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-008/AI-01-1378

In the Matter of the Petition of Reliant Energy Minnegasco (REM) for Approval of Affiliated Interest Agreements Between REM and Entex Gas Resources Corp, a Reliant Energy Company

Chair Scott moved to hold the matter over and to direct the parties to attempt to resolve the issues of what process Reliant should use in obtaining fixed-price gas supplies and appropriate pricing for the Company's fixed bill program, delegating rescheduling authority to the Executive Secretary.

The motion passed 4-0.

G-008/AI-01-1647

In the Matter of the Petition for Approval of an Affiliated Interest Agreement Between Reliant Energy Minnegasco and Reliant Energy Services, Inc.

Chair Scott moved that the Commission

- approve the contract at issue; and
- review the competitiveness and reasonableness of Minnegasco's regular bidding process as part of an investigation (or review) in Docket No. G-008/AI-01-1378.

The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

Approval Date:

January 31, 2002

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary