

The Commission met on **Thursday, January 31, 2002**, with Chairperson Scott and Commissioners Garvey, Johnson, Koppendrayer and Reha present.

Comment [COMMENT1]: Minutes by Peter Brown. 3 motions were made.

ENERGY AGENDA

E-002/M-01-1479

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Rate Implementation Plan

E-001/M-01-1502

In the Matter of Interstate Power Company's Energy Renewable Energy Rate Implementation Plan

E-111/M-01-1506

In the Matter of Dakota Electric Association's Renewable Energy Rate Implementation Plan

E-017/M-01-1576

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Renewable Energy Rate Implementation Plan

E-015/M-01-1650

In the Matter of Minnesota Power Company's Renewable Energy Rate Implementation Plan

Commissioner Johnson moved that the Commission

Xcel Energy

1. find that Xcel's renewable energy rate implementation plan, filed on October 1, 2001, in Docket No. E-002/M-01-1479, satisfies the requirement in 216B.169, subd. 2(b), to file an implementation plan for a renewable high-efficiency energy rate;
2. make no finding on whether the renewable energy rider, as filed by Xcel on December 31, 2001, in Docket No. E-002/M-01-1479, meets the requirements of 216B.169, subd. 2(a), (c) and (d);
3. require Xcel to advertise its renewable rate offer at least annually as required by Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a), once the rider has been approved by the Commission;
4. require Xcel to file updates to its renewable and high-efficiency energy rate implementation plan, and recommendations for improvement, as part of its biennial resource plan filings under Minn. Stat. 216B.2422;

Interstate Power Company

5. find that Interstate Power's renewable energy rate implementation plan, filed on

October 8, 2001, in Docket No. E-001/M-01-1502, satisfies the requirement in 216B.169, subd. 2(b), to file an implementation plan for a renewable high-efficiency energy rate;

6. make no finding on whether the renewable energy rider, as filed by Interstate on December 24, 2001, in Docket No. E-001/M-01-1954, meets the requirements of 216B.169, subd 2(a), (c) and (d);
7. require Interstate Power to advertise its renewable rate offer at least annually as required by Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a), once the rider has been approved by the Commission;
8. require Interstate Power to file updates to its renewable and high-efficiency energy rate implementation plan, and recommendations for improvement, as part of its biennial resource plan filings under Minn. Stat. 216B.2422.;

Dakota Electric Association

9. find that Dakota Electric's renewable energy rate implementation plan, filed on October 11, 2001, in Docket No. E-111/M-01-1506, satisfies the requirement in 216B.169, subd. 2(b), to file an implementation plan for a renewable high-efficiency energy rate;
10. find that Dakota Electric's Optional Renewable Energy Rider (Wellspring Renewable Energy Program) meets the requirements for a renewable energy rate as contained in Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a),(c) and (d);
11. as proposed by the Department, require Dakota Electric to add the following sentence at the end of the section in the rider on Monthly Rate to better describe how the rates are calculated: "This charge per 100 kWhs is in addition to the applicable rate schedule currently serving the customer";
12. require Dakota Electric to advertise its renewable rate offer at least annually as required by Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a);
13. require Great River Energy (GRE) to file updates to Dakota Electric's renewable and high-efficiency energy rate implementation plan, and recommendations for improvement, as part of its biennial resource plan filings under Minn. Stat. 216B.2422;

Otter Tail Power Company

14. find that Otter Tail Power's renewable energy rate implementation plan, filed on October 22, 2001, in Docket No. E-017/M-01-1576, satisfies the requirement in 216B.169, subd. 2(b), to file an implementation plan for a renewable high-efficiency energy rate;

15. find that Otter Tail's Voluntary Renewable Energy Rider (Tailwinds Program) meets the requirements for a renewable energy rate contained in Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2 (a),(c), and (d);
16. require Otter Tail, once it is aware of the availability of the wind turbine for this program, to submit a compliance filing with its rider stating the beginning and ending dates for service under the rider and any adjustments to price;
17. require Otter Tail to advertise its renewable rate offer at least annually as required by Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a);
18. require Otter Tail Power to file updates to its renewable and high-efficiency energy rate implementation plan, and recommendations for improvement, as part of its biennial resource plan filings under Minn. Stat. 216B.2422.;

Minnesota Power

19. find that Minnesota Power's renewable energy rate implementation plan, filed on November 1, 2001, in Docket No. E-015/M-01-1650, satisfies the requirement in 216B.169, subd. 2(b), to file an implementation plan for a renewable high-efficiency energy rate;
20. find that Minnesota Power's Voluntary Renewable Energy Rider (WindSense Program) meets the requirements for a renewable energy rates contained in Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a), (c) and (d);
21. require Minnesota Power to advertise its renewable rate offer at least annually as required by Minn. Stat. 216B.169, subd. 2(a);
22. require Minnesota Power to file updates to its renewable and high-efficiency energy rate implementation plan, and recommendations for improvement, as part of its biennial resource plan filings under Minn. Stat. 216B.2422;
23. take no action on Minnesota Power's renewable auction program at this time; require Minnesota Power to file the completed program with the Commission for approval once the details have been worked out with the Department;
24. take no action on the request for variance to Minn. Stat. § 216B.48 at this time; and
25. encourage the Department to work with interested parties, including potential suppliers and utilities to develop the detail necessary to certify renewable energy or energy generated by high-efficiency, low emissions, distributed generation acceptable for use in utility plans in response to Minn. Stat. § 216B.169.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/CI-01-1024

In the Matter of an Investigation into Using Rate Design to Achieve the Demand-Side Management Goals of Xcel Energy

Commissioner Garvey moved as follows:

1. working with the Department, Xcel shall file a formal tariff or set of tariffs with the Commission by November 1, 2002, with the expectation that the tariff (s) will be implemented by April 1, 2003;
2. during this time, Xcel could do
 - the items listed in Option 2 on page 3 of the Commission's January 31, 2002 Briefing Papers (Xcel's recommendations);
 - a mini-rate case and/or
 - other rate design, television, and marketing efforts;
3. Xcel will provide, starting July 1, 2002, customer access via website to the customers' hourly time of use data (individual electricity use); and
4. the Executive Secretary will schedule Commission meetings at the end of March, late May, and early September to bring the Commission up to date on the progress of the tariff preparation, website design, and customer information efforts.

The motion passed 5-0.

E-002/M-01-1480

In the Matter of a Petition of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Review of it's Prairie Island Contingent Request for Proposals

E-002/RP-00-787

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company's Application for Approval of its 2000-2014 Resource Plan

Commissioner Reha moved that the Commission

1. order Xcel to perform and submit a detailed analysis (report) converting Prairie Island Unit 1 to natural gas-fired generation;
2. direct the Company to meet with the parties to discuss the scope of its conversion analysis (report);
3. require that the Company file its report (conversion analysis) at the time it files its next resource plan, which should be December 1, 2002.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

Approval Date:

February 7, 2002

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary