



Energy Transition Advisory Council Public Utilities Commission Overview 2025 Annual Update

March 27, 2025
Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary

Agenda

- PUC at-a-Glance: Who/How we regulate
 - Ex Parte rules
- Integrated Resource Planning
 - Process, how to participate
 - IRP status update
- Energy Facilities Permitting
 - Process, how to participate
 - How workforce and community issues are addressed
 - 2024 Energy Infrastructure Permitting Law

Independent Regulatory Agency

A decision-making board of five commissioners:

- Appointed by the Governor
- Confirmed by the Senate
- Staggered six-year terms
- Removable only for cause
- Not a member of the Governor's Cabinet

Elements of all three branches of government:

- ***Quasi-judicial*** when resolving disputes between parties
- ***Quasi-legislative*** when setting forward-looking rates or setting industry-wide policies as directed by the Legislature
- ***Administrative*** when enforcing statutes, rules or orders

What We Regulate

- **Set Rates** for Investor-Owned Utilities and Dakota Electric
- **Enforce Service Quality**
 - Electric and Natural Gas
 - Landline Telephone Service
- **Oversee Comprehensive Energy System Planning**
 - Generation planning and resource selection
 - Transmission planning and investment
 - Distribution planning and investment
 - Natural Gas Resource Planning
- **Determine Need and Issue Permits** for Large Energy Infrastructure
- Implementation of **State Energy Policy**

Decision-Making Process, and Code of Conduct

Strict restrictions on decision-making:

- Every decision based solely on the record
- Every decision subject to Open Meeting Law
- No ex parte communications
- Decisions communicated only through written orders



Working with the Commission: Ex Parte

“Ex Parte communication” means:

- An oral or written communication
- Off-the-record
- Made TO or BY a Commissioner or Commission staff
- Without Notice to Parties and Participants
- That is directed to the merits OR outcomes of an “on-the-record proceeding”:

If there is an open docket or an unresolved comment period, the Ex Parte Rules probably apply!

Ex Parte rules apply during:

- A pending Contested Case until the end of the reconsideration process
- A rulemaking after the Commission posts notice of its deliberation on the calendar until the order adopting the rules is issued
- Disputed formal petitions from the time a petition is filed until it is withdrawn or resolved by a written order
 - Most Dockets where comments are ordered or an agenda meeting is scheduled

Dashboard

Key indicators

Reliability



MN electric IOUs: 95.43 Minutes

■ Average MN IOU residential ■ National average

Minnesotans served by IOUs have reliable power. When power does go out, the lights come back on quicker than the national average.

Consumer costs

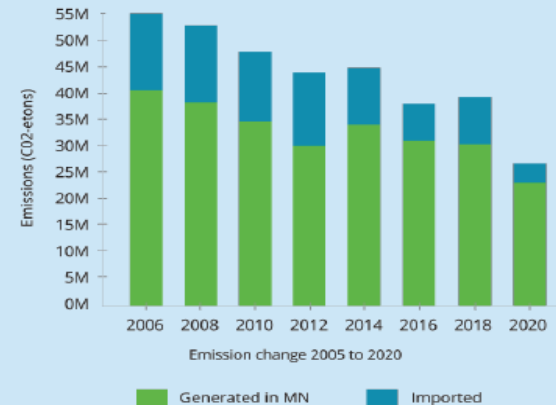


MN IOU residential bill average v. national average

■ Average MN IOU residential ■ National average

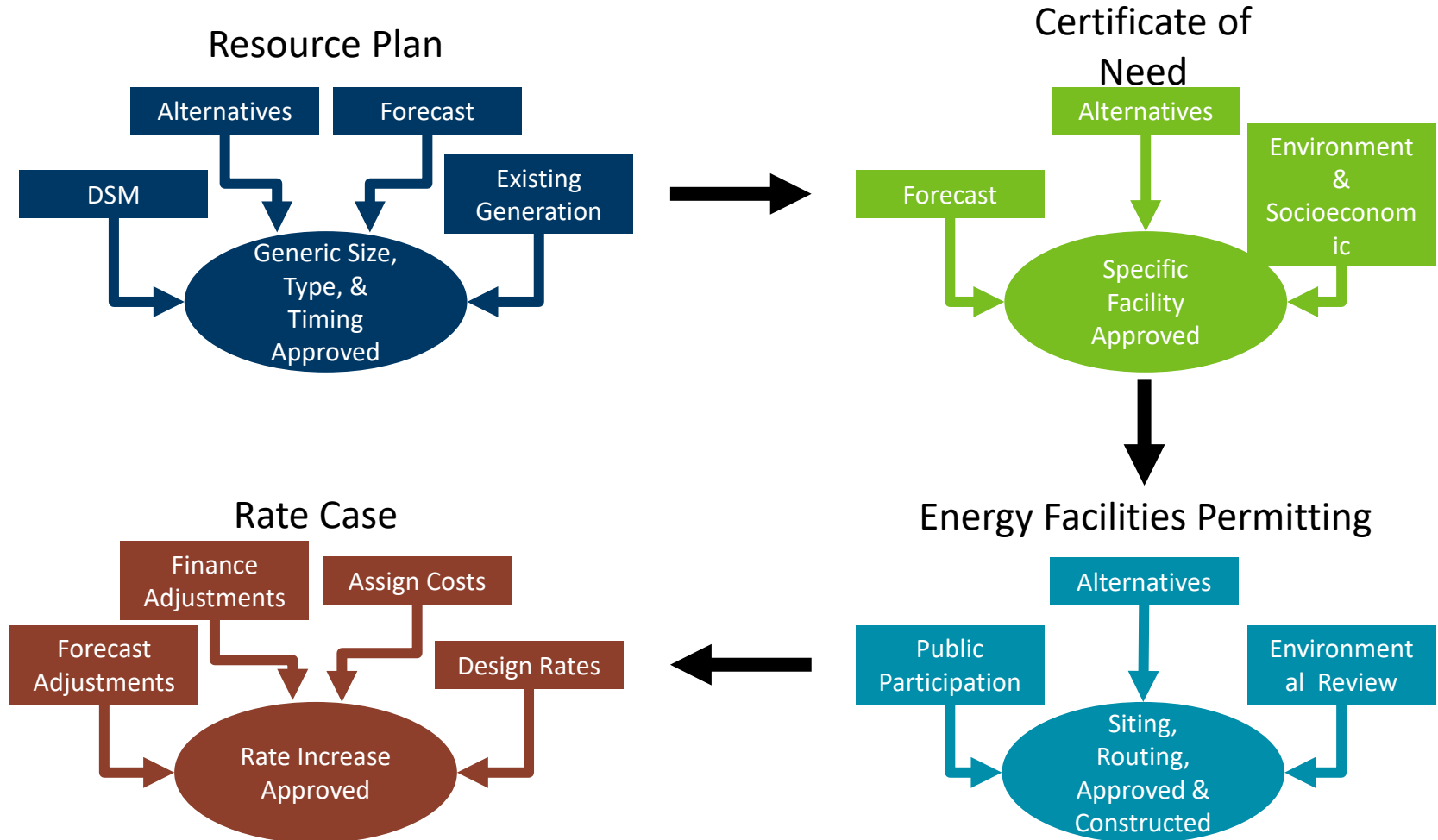
Minnesotans served by IOUs generally pay less than customers in other states. Our state's average residential bill is almost \$60 cheaper than the national average.

Emissions



Emissions from electricity generation are falling. Since 2005, CO2 emissions have dropped by about 10 million tons.

Planning Process



What's an Integrated Resource Plan?

Roadmap for electricity generation

Includes things like:

- Adding solar
- Retiring coal
- Building gas plants
- And more...



Who files a resource plan

Investor-owned electric utilities file a resource plan approximately every two years.

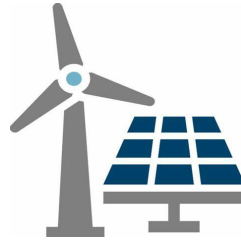
- Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power
- The Commission reviews and approves, denies, or modifies these plans.
- Other utilities (cooperatives, municipal utilities) file optional resource plans. The Commission's role in reviewing these plans is advisory.

What's in a resource plan?

Forecast



Resources



Cost



How to participate?

Attend a Public Meeting

Subscribe for notices in eDockets

Submit a Comment

- Email, online or US mail
- Learn more at mn.gov/puc/get-involved



Electric IRP Status

Utility	Docket	Status
Xcel Energy	24-67	Decision made February 20, 2025, Order coming soon.
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	22-311	O-IRP filed June 28, 2024. May meet threshold for IRP in future.
Dairyland Power Cooperative	23-233	O-IRP. filed August 13, 2024.
Great River Energy	22-75	Completed. Order issued June 11, 2024. Interim update within 1 year of Order. Next IRP due April 1, 2026.
Interstate Power & Light Company	17-374	Completed, Order Issued April 2, 2019. No next filing.
Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	18-524	Completed, Order Issued May 28, 2019. Next filing August 1, 2025.
Minnesota Power	25-127	Pending: Filed on March 3, 2025. Procedural hearing to be held April 3, 2025. Prior IRP Order Issued January 9, 2023.
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. Northern Municipal Power Agency	22-312	Completed, Order Issued August 30, 2023. Next filing December 1, 2025
Missouri River Energy Services	21-414	Completed, Order Issued Feb 15, 2022. Next filing July 1, 2026.
Otter Tail Power Company	21-339	Completed. Order issued July 22, 2024. Next filing May 15, 2026.
Southern MN Municipal Power Agency	24-356	Pending: Filed October 25, 2024.

Xcel Energy's Resource Plan 2024-2040

Commission approved a modified plan on February 20.

Order is forthcoming. Verbal decision includes:

- Wind: Add 3200 MW by 2030
- Solar: Add 400 MW by 2030
- Battery Storage: Add approx. 1,250 MW by 2030
- Gas: One 400 MW peaking plant (Lyon County). Xcel must receive a CN
- Nuclear: Both plants extended for planning purposes, to early 2050s
- RDF: Three refuse derived fuel plants extended for 10 years
- And more...

To see all documents related to Xcel's 2024 IRP, visit eDockets and enter 24-67 in the Docket # field. [Staff Briefing Papers](#), filed February 5, 2025, provide summary of the proceeding.

Xcel IRP: Transparency and community engagement

- Eight public meetings, over 220 public comments received.
 - Including from 10 local governments, agencies, and joint powers boards
- Continuation of remediation plans for Sherco and King coal plant sites. (Dockets 22-263, 22-264)
 - Xcel must hold regular stakeholder meetings
 - Xcel must file public status updates on plans and outreach
 - Xcel must file public annual report on remediation work
- Continuation of workforce transition plan for retiring facilities
 - Xcel files annual reports on its comprehensive workforce transition plan, developed with DEED and ETO. (Docket 22-265)
- New reporting required on utility resources compared to forecasts; workforce diversity.

Data Center Issues

- Several MN utilities expecting faster load growth in coming years, largely due to data centers and electrification of transportation and buildings
- Data Centers and other large new loads (e.g., manufacturing) are a hot topic in the energy space
 - Presents challenges related to scale of demand, predictability, longevity, and lack of demand flexibility
- In recent Xcel IRP, Commission required:
 - Xcel will propose creating a new rate class for super-large customers, which would ensure costs to serve are paid by that class
 - More discussion of data center impacts in next IRP

Minnesota Power Resource Plan 2025-39

- [Minnesota Power filed a new IRP](#) March 3, 2025
- **Proposed Plan includes:**
 - Continue with planned “cease coal” dates: Boswell Unit 3 by 2030, Unit 4 by 2035 (consistent with 2021 IRP Order).
 - Add 1,000 MW of natural gas, including:
 - Refuel Boswell Unit 3, and partially refuel Unit 4 by 2030
 - 750 MW new natural gas resources by 2035
 - New wind, storage, demand response by 2035
 - A "Growth Plan" with additional gas, wind, solar, and storage resources, in case of large load growth before its next IRP

To see all documents related to MP's 2025 IRP, visit eDockets and enter 25-127 in the Docket # field. The summary in Section II of the [Resource Plan](#) narrative is a good place to start.

Timeline

Item	Timing	Notes
Minnesota Power filed 2025 IRP	March 3, 2025	
PUC Agenda Meeting on Procedures and Public Notice	April 3, 2025	
Possible Public Meetings	TBD	If the Commission orders public meetings at its April 3 hearing
Initial Comments	TBD, likely fall 2025	Notice forthcoming.
Reply Comments	TBD, likely fall 2025	Notice forthcoming.

We will be updating our website with this information soon. Stay tuned!

Type	Certificate of Need	Site/route authority
Generation – non-wind	Greater than 50 MW	Greater than 50 MW
Generation – wind	Multiple exemptions in law (over 5MW if by utility)	Greater than 5 MW, Counties can assume authority up to 25 MW
High Voltage Transmission Lines	300 kV & > one mile 100 kV & > 10-miles	100 kV and > 1,500 feet
Pipelines (large)	-Crude or oil pipelines that are 6-inches in diameter and 50-miles -Natural gas pipelines > 200 psi and 50-miles	Hazardous liquids if greater than 6-inches in diameter or natural gas pipelines greater than 275 psi
Pipelines (small)	NA	Information Book Process for pipelines greater than 90 psi *PUC does not regulate pipelines covered under the Federal Natural Gas Act
Solar	Multiple exemptions in law (over 50 MW if by utility)	> 50 MW
Energy Storage	Exempt	> 10 MW, local government can assume authority

Certificate of Need

- 7849.0120 CRITERIA. A certificate of need must be granted to the applicant on determining that (paraphrased):
 - A. the result of denial would be an adverse effect upon the adequacy, reliability, or efficiency of energy supply to the applicant to utility customers, Minnesota and neighboring states...
 - B. An alternative to the proposed facility has not been demonstrated, considering [paraphrased]...the size, type, timing, cost, **socioeconomic impacts**, reliability needs.
 - C. the proposed facility will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and **socioeconomic environments**, including human health, considering: (1) state energy needs, (2) the natural and **socioeconomic environments compared to the effects of not building the facility; ... (4) the socially beneficial uses of facility**, including its uses to protect or enhance environmental quality; and
 - D. the record does not demonstrate that the facility will fail to comply with relevant policies, rules, and regulations of other state and federal agencies and local governments.

Energy Facilities Permitting – labor data

Reporting Data from Facilities Dockets

Line 3 #15-13

Permit Section 6.12. The Permittee shall report annually on the number of workers employed by the Project. The report shall identify the number of workers that are Minnesota residents and the number of workers that are recognized members of a Minnesota Tribe.

Recent Wind Permit Language

Section 10.5 Labor Statistic Reporting. The Permittee shall file quarterly reports with the Commission within 45 days of the end of the quarter regarding construction workers that participated in the construction of the project. The reports shall (a) detail the Permittee's efforts and the site contractor's efforts to hire Minnesota workers, and (b) provide an account of: (i) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are Minnesota residents, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 290.01, subd. 7; (ii) the gross number of hours worked by or full-time equivalent workers who are residents of other states, but maintain a permanent residence within 150 miles of the project; and (iii) the total gross hours worked or total full-time equivalent workers. Permittee shall work with its contractor to determine the suitable reporting metric. The report may not include personally identifiable data.

Energy Facilities Permitting – Decommissioning Plans

- Decommissioning plans are required permit condition in PUC issued site permits for Wind and Solar electricity generation systems.
- Applicants for Wind and Solar permits submit decommissioning plans with their permit application materials and are available for public review and comment throughout the permitting process.
- Funding for decommissioning is a responsibility of the permittee, not the general public. It is usually estimated to be a combination of salvage value and a financial surety provided by the permittee.
- Decommissioning plans evolve over the life of a project.

Project	Docket number	Decommissioning Plan Link
Summit Solar and Energy Storage System	GS-25-89, ES-25-88	https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents/%7B908E2A95-0000-CB19-8761-2AFE14D2CDF%7D/download?contentSequence=0&rowIndex=10
Sherco Solar	GS-21-191	https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents/%7BD07FF078-0000-C119-A1F4-44A3E051BE0D%7D/download?contentSequence=0&rowIndex=311
Dodge County Wind	WS-20-866	https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents/%7B60BDE97B-0000-C623-BEDB-D0E0500F611F%7D/download?contentSequence=0&rowIndex=44 (appendix K, pdf p. 50)
Walleye Wind	WS-20-384	https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents/%7B3088947F-0000-C917-B43A-B19D4D6631DD%7D/download?contentSequence=0&rowIndex=98
Big Blue Wind	WS-10-1238	https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents/%7BC0495E73-0000-C31D-8EFC-4D1CDAED382E%7D/download?contentSequence=0&rowIndex=92

2024 Legislation: Permitting Reform (Effective 7/1/2025)

- Transferred Environmental Review staff to PUC (staff exempt from Ex Parte)
- Established formal pre-application process (30-day notice to local governments and tribes)
- Created two review processes created: Standard and Major
- Allows Environmental Assessments to be prepared by applicant under Standard Review, subject to review
- Eliminate CN requirement in some circumstances (gen-tie lines if associated with renewable projects)

Stay Informed: Resources Available

- Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter
- Attend a public meeting (virtual or in-person):
 - [Mn.gov/puc/about-us/calendar](https://mn.gov/puc/about-us/calendar)
- Follow us on X and LinkedIn:
 - @MN_PUC
- Constituents need help with their utilities?
 - (651) 296-0406,
consumer.puc@state.mn.us
- Participate in PUC proceedings. The following is available online:
 - Instructional videos
 - Online comment submission
 - Open comment periods
 - eDockets

- How can communities be most impactful?
- What makes a good comment?
- What role can ETAC play?

Thank You!

Questions?

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