MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The Commission met on **Thursday, May 28, 2026,** with Acting Chair Ham and Commissioners Sullivan and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**E-002/M-25-142**
**In the Matter of Northern States Power Co. d/b/a Xcel Energy's Petition for Certification of a Mobile Battery System**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission:

1. Certify Xcel's mobile battery project and require the following to be submitted with a petition for cost recovery:

    a. A cost range of the project;
    b. The expected timing for project implementation; and
    c. Evidence of customer willingness to pay pro rata payments.

2. Require Xcel to include the following information in future requests for certification under Minn. Stat. 216B.2425 Subds. 2(e) and 3(b).

    a. A description of why the project is necessary for grid modernization and qualifies for the Transmission Cost Recovery rider under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 7b (5);
    b. A description of the project's objectives and potential benefits to customers;
    c. A cost range for the project; and
    d. The expected timing for project implementation.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-002/TL-24-427**
**In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the Northwest Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Project in the City of Maple Grove, Hennepin County**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Authorize the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting staff to prepare an EA Addendum to include the following proposed routes or route widths, and delegate authority to the Executive Secretary to approve the scope of the EA Addendum: Tuma 610 Alternative (as shown in the attached Tuma 610 Alternative Map).

2. Issue the proposed draft route permit for review, which incorporates the modifications proposed by the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting staff.

3. Request that an Administrative Law Judge from the Court of Administrative Hearings conduct the public hearing for the project and prepare Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations on the merits of the proposed route permit application and any necessary route permit conditions.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-999/M-25-99**
**In the Matter of the 2025 Biennial Transmission Projects Report**

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2025 Biennial Transmission Projects Report.

2. Allow the MTO to publicize future Biennial Transmission Project Reports by posting a link to the report on the MTO website (www.minnelectrans.com) and directions for finding the Commission's website via eDockets, in lieu of mailing compact discs or jump drives with electronic copies.

3. Extend the variance to the public participation requirements of Minnesota Rules, parts 7848.0900 and 7848.1000, and forego any requirements to convene a webinar presentation on the 2027 report.

4. Require the MTO to file a 2027 Report that meets the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425, subd. 2, and contains content similar to the 2025 Report.

5. When the MTO or its member submits a project for the Expedited Project Review Process through MISO, it must file the same information with the Commission within three business days, utilizing docket E-999/M-25-99.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-999/M-25-99**
**In the Matter of the 2025 Biennial Transmission Projects Report**

Commissioner Ham moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the 2025 grid enhancing technology implementation plan and accepts the 2025 Report as complete, conditional on the following.

2. Require transmission owners to provide updates every two months in this docket regarding their evaluation of constraints with identified solutions, but for which a payback period was not calculated as of the 2025 Report. Payback period results, and if applicable, implementation plans for these projects, must be filed when the analysis is complete.

3. Require transmission owners to publish a grid-enhancing technology report on a biennial basis aligned with the biennial transmission projects report.

4. Require transmission owners to work to improve transparency and enable public review of future grid-enhancing technology reports to reduce the volume of trade secret designations and/or to publicly publish summary information on the analysis and implementation plan.

5. Require transmission owners, in future grid-enhancing technology reports, to include:

    a. work papers, including derivations of all calculations, as a separate appendix attached to the report.
    b. more data in their work papers, including at least the following data points for each constraint studied, regardless of whether the payback threshold was achieved:

        i. Underlying congestion and GETs modeling assumptions,
        ii. Unadjusted congestion charges,
        iii. The type of GET(s) that was studied,
        iv. Solution(s) costs, and
        v. Calculated project benefits.

    c. a summary table of the solutions that meet the appropriate payback period threshold. The table shall contain at minimum each identified solution's name (or that of the congestion point), the solution's cost, the three-year average congestion charge, and the calculated payback period.
    d. a discussion of each implemented project from the previous GETs Report, observations of the congestion impact or other results after implementation, and lessons learned.
    e. a table or attachment listing for each implemented project from the previous report:

        i. Name of project
        ii. Approval year
        iii. Transmission owners
        iv. High-level summary of technology being deployed
        v. Project status and estimated or actual in-service date
        vi. Original cost or estimated cost at time of approval
        vii. Actual cost
        viii. Explanation of variance between original/estimated and actual costs
        ix. Calculated three-year average congestion charge at time of approval

x. For projects in service for 12 months or more: Congestion charge based on the year after implementation.

f. a discussion of trends and general developments in GETs technologies as they relate to system planning and operations.
g. a summary of grid enhancing technologies available and in development.
h. a summary of each technologies' commercial readiness and how it is being deployed.
i. a summary of each transmission owners' grid enhancing technologies' deployment efforts and results to date.
j. a discussion of whether each transmission owner has studied or is considering any advanced transmission technologies.
k. a discussion of the possibility of developing grid enhancing technogology pilot projects with vendors.
l. a discussion of research collaboratives transmission owners may participate in.
m. what transmission owners see as being the best use cases and/or nearest-term opportunities for grid enhancing technologies and advanced transmission technologies on their systems.
n. continued use of net auction revenue rights (ARR)/FTR profits from the congestion charge for purposes of the payback period calculation.
o. the congestion charge and payback period for each applicable constraint without ARR/FTR adjustment for informational purposes.
p. work papers showing both ARR/FTR charges and revenues, not just net revenues.
q. continued use of a five-year payback period threshold.

6. Require transmission owners, in the 2027 grid-enhancing technology report, to do the following:

a. continue to evaluate grid enhancing technologies and traditional solutions for constraints that have experienced 168 hours or more of congestion in any of the past three years, including for construction or planned outages.
b. discuss how its company is working to integrate grid-enhancing technologies into planning, project development, standards, and operations.
c. discuss whether and how they could include evaluations of grid enhancing technologies to alleviate FTR binding constraints in future grid enhancing technology reports. Transmission owners shall address the relationship between FTR binding constraints and high-congestion constraints (those with at least 168 hours of congestion per year), explain in general the potential for grid enhancing technologies and advanced transmission technologies to mitigate FTR binding constraints, and discuss how it could use, and prioritize within, binding constraint lists to identify high-value locations for evaluation of potential grid enhancing technology deployments.
d. continue to utilize the cost-benefit framework developed in Docket No. E-999/M-25-99 when evaluating grid enhancing technology proposals brought forward by individual utilities.
e. develop a generic cost estimating guide for grid enhancing technologies and file it as an attachment to the 2027 report.

7. Require transmission owners to consider, where feasible and where costs would not significantly increase, adding grid-enhancing technologies to any proposed traditional upgrades. This analysis shall occur in relevant certificate of need proceedings.

8. Require MTO to perform, where ambient adjusted ratings is identified as a solution in future grid enhancing technology reports, an alternatives analysis that evaluates at least one additional solution featuring dynamic line ratings, topology optimization, advanced power flow control, advanced reconductoring, or battery storage.

The motion passed 3-0.

**IP-7013/TL-25-389**
**In the Matter of the Application of Big Bend Wind, LLC and Great River Energy for a Route Permit for a 161-kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Martin County**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Adopt the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff's Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to the extent they are consistent with the Commission's decision.

2. Expand the route width 200 feet to the north of 220th St. for approximately 1700 feet west starting at a point 500 feet east of 30th Avenue, consistent with the following:

    a. Any potential route in this expanded width shall not encroach upon the Cedar Lutheran Cemetery property and may only be used for the final route if a modified screening plan pursuant to paragraph 6.3 of the permit is agreed to by Cedar Lutheran Cemetery.
    b. A route in this expanded area may only be used if preferred by the Cedar Lutheran Cemetery over the permitted alignment and agreed to by the two affected landowners north of 220th St. Adopted the above ordering paragraph to accommodate a potential route that more closely aligns to the routing criteria of paralleling existing road right of way, smaller right of way footprint, shorter, less expensive, further from existing wind turbine structures and uses less intrusive structures. Support for the above ordering paragraph may be found at the following record cites:

        - Big Bend Wind, LLC & Great River Energy (GRE) - Route Permit Application and Environmental Assessment for A 161-Kv Transmission Line in Martin County, Minnesota § 4.1, Doc. ID 202512-225711-02
        - Filed Date 12/10/2025

- Big Bend Wind, LLC & GRE - Appendix B Detailed Route Maps, Big Bend Wind LLC & Great River Energy, p. 4, Doc. ID 202512-225711-04
- Filed Date: 12/10/2025

- Big Bend Wind, LLC & GRE - Appendix B Detailed Route Maps, Big Bend Wind LLC & Great River Energy, p. 4, Doc. ID 202512-225711-04
- Filed Date: 03/04/2026

- Big Bend Wind, LLC & GRE - Direct Testimony of Brie Anderson, pp. 3:1428, 9:21-10:17, Doc. ID 20264-229908-02
- Filed Date: 04/01/2026

- Shaddix & Associates - 4-7-26 Windom Public Hearing, p. 12:7-12, Doc. ID 20264-230599-01
- Filed Date: 04/27/2026

- Court of Administrative Hearings - Summary of Public Testimony, Doc. ID 20264-231226-01
- Filed Date: 04/30/2026

- Public Utilities Commission - May 28, 2026 Agenda, EIP Route Permit with Attachments-Redlines from Draft § 6.3, Doc. ID 20265-232098-01
- Filed Date: 05/21/2026

3. Issued a single route permit to Big Bend Wind, LLC and Great River Energy for the 161 kV high voltage transmission line project and associated facilities (Extension Project) with the route and conditions in the proposed route permit (Attachment C) and the changes to Cover Page, Section 5, and Section 12 as identified above.

The motion passed 3-0.

**E-999/R-26-172**
**In the Matter of a Possible Rulemaking to Amend Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7849 and 7850**

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Commission deny the petition for rulemaking.

The motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 21, 2026**

**Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary**