

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Minutes and Informal Instructions of the Open Meeting of  
Thursday, March 7, 2024

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) met as noticed. Present were Chairperson Strand and Commissioner Nieto.

**Minutes**

The Commission approved the minutes of the open meeting of Thursday, February 29, 2024.

**5-AF-110 - Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company And Wisconsin Gas LLC for Approval of Certain Accounting Treatments Relating to Liquefied Natural Gas Storage and Related Facilities**

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**3270-TE-118 - Application of Madison Gas and Electric Company for Approval of Proposed Annual Changes to its Electric Embedded Cost Allowances for Electric Distribution Extensions**

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**4340-TE-106 - Application of City of Oconomowoc, as an Electric Public Utility, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, for Approval of an Rg-3 Optional Three Tier Residential Time-of-Day Rate Tariff**

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**6650-TG-129 - Application for Approval of a Successor Special Contract between Wisconsin Gas LLC and American Milk Producers, Inc.**

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**5050-TE-105 - Application of City of Rice Lake, as an Electric Public Utility, Barron County, Wisconsin, for Approval of Revisions to its Pgs-1 and Pgs-2 Parallel Generation Tariff**

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**5520-WR-101 - Application of the Village of Soldiers Grove, Crawford County, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Authority to Adjust Water Rates**

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**9820-CE-100 - Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of Vista Sands Solar LLC to Construct a Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility, a Battery Energy Storage System, Collector and Project Substations, a 345 kV generator tie line, and 138 kV collector transmission lines (Vista Sands Solar Farm) in the Village of Plover and Towns of Plover, Buena Vista, and Grant, Portage County, Wisconsin**

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**1-AC-259 - Proposed Revision of Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PSC 114 as Wisconsin State Electrical Code, Volume I for NESC 2023**

**Notice of Preliminary Public Hearing and Comment Period**

The Commission approved the Notice of Hearing and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

**6680-CE-185 - Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for a Certificate of Authority to Construct Combustion Turbine and Associated Equipment Upgrades at the Neenah Generating Station Units 1 and 2, in the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin**

Commissioner Nieto is recused from participating in this docket.

Chairperson Strand approved the application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company (applicant) for a Certificate of Authority to construct a combustion turbine and associated equipment upgrades at the Neenah Generating Station Units 1 and 2, in the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin with the following conditions:

1. The applicant is authorized to construct and operate the proposed project, as described in the application and data requests responses.
2. Beginning with the quarter ending on a date to be determined by the Commission in the Final Decision, the applicant shall file with the Commission quarterly progress reports relating to the proposed project that include the following:

- a. The date that construction commences;
  - b. Major construction and environmental milestones, including permits obtained, by agency, subject, and date;
  - c. Summaries of the status of construction, the anticipated in-service date, and the overall percent of physical completion;
  - d. The actual project costs to-date; and
  - e. The date that the facilities are placed in service.
3. Beginning with the year ending on a date to be determined by the Commission in the Final Decision, the applicant shall annually file with the Commission a revised total cost estimate for the proposed project.
4. The Commission, consistent with its past practice, shall review in a future rate proceeding the recoverability of costs associated with the project. If it is discovered or identified that the project cost, including force majeure costs, may exceed the estimated cost of \$128.6 million, including AFUDC, the applicant shall, within 30 days of when it becomes aware of the possible change or cost increase, notify the Commission of the accounts or categories where cost deviate from those authorized and shall itemize and segregate those costs by major accounts and provide sufficient documentation to support and explain the reasons for such deviations.
5. The applicant shall submit to the Commission the final actual costs, segregated by major account, within one year after the in-service date. For those accounts or categories where actual costs deviate significantly from those authorized, it shall itemize and explain the reasons for such deviations in the final cost report.
6. The applicant shall obtain all necessary federal, state and local permits prior to commencement of construction.
7. Should the scope, design, or location of the proposed project change significantly, the applicant shall notify the Commission within 30 days of becoming aware of possible changes. The applicant shall obtain approval from the Commission before proceeding with any substantial changes in scope, design, size, or location of the approved project.
8. All commitments made by the applicant in its application, subsequent filings, and the provisions of the Final Decision shall apply to the applicant, any agents, contractors, successors, assigns, corporate affiliates, and any future owners or operators of the proposed project.
9. If the applicant cancels the project or enters into any arrangement with another party regarding ownership or operation of the proposed project or part thereof, it shall provide prior notice to the Commission.

10. If the applicant does not begin on-site physical construction of the proposed project within one year of the effective date of this Final Decision, the Certificate authorizing the approved project for which construction has not commenced shall become void unless the applicant:
  - a. Files a written request for an extension of time with the Commission before the effective date on which the Certificate becomes void; and
  - b. Are granted an extension by the Commission.
11. If the applicant has not begun on-site physical construction of the authorized project and has not filed a written request for an extension before the date that this CA becomes void, the applicant shall inform the Commission of those facts within 20 days after the date on which the CA becomes void.
12. The applicant shall perform post-construction noise studies as described in the most current version of the PSC Noise Measurement Protocol. The applicant shall work with Commission staff to determine appropriate locations and conditions for the noise measurements. In the event of a substantial change to the proposed project, the applicant shall confer with Commission staff to determine if a new pre-construction noise study must be completed. The applicant shall file a copy of the post-construction noise study report with the Commission.
13. The applicant shall report to the Commission the Final results of MISO's review of the requested interconnection service increase for Neenah within 30 days of receipt of the results by the applicant. This report shall include information regarding any interconnection costs that would be borne directly by the applicant due to the increase in interconnection capacity.
14. The Final Decision takes effect one day after the date of service.
15. Jurisdiction is retained.

Commissioner Strand denied the applicant's request to defer the retail share of the revenue requirement impacts (return on investment and depreciation expense) in Account 182.3 Other Regulatory Assets.

The Commission directed the Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

**6680-CE-186 - Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for a Certificate of Authority to Construct Combustion Turbine and Associated Equipment Upgrades at the Sheboygan Falls Generating Station Units 1 and 2, in the Town of Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin**

Commissioner Nieto is recused from participating in this docket.

Chairperson Strand approved the application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company (applicant) for a Certificate of Authority to construct combustion turbine and associated equipment upgrades at the Sheboygan Falls Generating Station Units 1 and 2, in the Town of Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, with the following conditions:

1. The applicant is authorized to construct and operate the proposed project, as described in the application and data requests responses.
2. Beginning with the quarter ending on a date to be determined by the Commission in the Final Decision, the applicant shall file with the Commission quarterly progress reports relating to the proposed project that include the following:
  - a. The date that construction commences;
  - b. Major construction and environmental milestones, including permits obtained, by agency, subject, and date;
  - c. Summaries of the status of construction, the anticipated in-service date, and the overall percent of physical completion;
  - d. The actual project costs to-date; and
  - e. The date that the facilities are placed in service.
3. Beginning with the year ending on a date to be determined by the Commission in the Final Decision, the applicant shall annually file with the Commission a revised total cost estimate for the proposed project.
4. The Commission, consistent with its past practice, shall review in a future rate proceeding the recoverability of costs associated with the project. If it is discovered or identified that the project cost, including *force majeure costs*, may exceed the estimated cost of \$131.5 million, including AFUDC, the applicant shall, within 30 days of when it becomes aware of the possible change or cost increase, notify the Commission of the accounts or categories where cost deviate from those authorized and shall itemize and segregate those costs by major accounts and provide sufficient documentation to support and explain the reasons for such deviations.
5. The applicant shall submit to the Commission the final actual costs, segregated by major account, within one year after the in-service date. For those accounts or categories where

actual costs deviate significantly from those authorized, it shall itemize and explain the reasons for such deviations in the final cost report.

6. The applicant shall obtain all necessary federal, state and local permits prior to commencement of construction.
7. Should the scope, design, or location of the proposed project change significantly, the applicant shall notify the Commission within 30 days of becoming aware of possible changes. The applicant shall obtain approval from the Commission before proceeding with any substantial changes in scope, design, size, or location of the approved project.
8. All commitments made by the applicant in its application, subsequent filings, and the provisions of the Final Decision shall apply to the applicant, any agents, contractors, successors, assigns, corporate affiliates, and any future owners or operators of the proposed project.
9. If the applicant cancels the project or enters into any arrangement with another party regarding ownership or operation of the proposed project or part thereof, it shall provide prior notice to the Commission.
10. If the applicant does not begin on-site physical construction of the proposed project within one year of the effective date of this Final Decision, the Certificate authorizing the approved project for which construction has not commenced shall become void unless the applicant:
  - a. Files a written request for an extension of time with the Commission before the effective date on which the Certificate becomes void; and
  - b. Are granted an extension by the Commission.
11. If the applicant has not begun on-site physical construction of the authorized project and has not filed a written request for an extension before the date that this CA becomes void, the applicant shall inform the Commission of those facts within 20 days after the date on which the CA becomes void.
12. The applicant shall perform post-construction noise studies as described in the most current version of the PSC Noise Measurement Protocol. The applicant shall work with Commission staff to determine appropriate locations and conditions for the noise measurements. In the event of a substantial change to the proposed project, the applicant shall confer with Commission staff to determine if a new pre-construction noise study must be completed. The applicant shall file a copy of the post-construction noise study report with the Commission.
13. The applicant shall report to the Commission the final results of MISO's review of the requested interconnection service increase for Sheboygan Falls within 30 days of the

receipt of the results by the applicant. This report shall include information regarding any interconnection costs that would be borne directly by the applicant due to the increase in interconnection capacity.

14. The Final Decision takes effect one day after the date of service; and,

15. Jurisdiction is retained.

Commissioner Strand approved the applicant's request to defer the incremental lease costs to Account 182.3 Regulatory assets with carrying costs at the applicant's most-recently authorized short-term debt rate with the following conditions:

1. The deferral is authorized with the express condition that the authorization is for accounting purposes only and does not bind the Commission to any specific treatment in any future proceeding;
2. The deferral shall be addressed in the applicant's next rate proceedings.

The Commission directed the Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

## **5-CPF-2023 - Capital Projects Fund Infrastructure**

### **Capital Projects Fund Infrastructure Grant Awards**

The Commission reviewed the grant applications for the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Infrastructure grants awards and denied the request to consider applications filed after the deadline. Additionally, the Commission found the applications of the City of Superior, Ntec, Mondovi, Lightspeed, Excelsior, Starwire, #2 Roosevelt, and Starwire #1 Luck, McKinley are ineligible for CPF grant awards.

The Commission reviewed the eligible applications for CPF broadband grant awards and awarded grants to the following entities in the amounts listed below.

<b>Entity DBA</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
24-7 Telcom, Inc.	Town of Lucas, Phase 2	\$535,000
24-7 Telcom, Inc.	Town of Colfax - Northwest	\$335,000
24-7 Telcom, Inc.	Village of Knapp	\$580,000
AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin	Town of Egg Harbor	\$960,000
AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin	Town of Sevastopol	\$816,693
AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin	Town of Sturgeon Bay	\$552,299
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Town of Prairie Lake	\$1,327,352

Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Towns of Barron and Maple Grove	\$3,062,628
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Town of Grant	\$816,954
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Towns of Doyle and Rice Lake	\$3,498,216
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Towns of Birchwood, Crystal, and Stone Lake	\$3,111,414
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies	Towns of Edgewater and Sand Lake	\$782,809
Citizens Telephone Cooperative, Inc. DBA Citizens Connected	Town of Chetek - East	\$541,732
Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company	Town of Buffalo	\$1,410,000
Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company	Rural Fountain City	\$220,000
Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company	Town of Waumandee	\$500,000
Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company	Town of Montana	\$575,000
East Central Energy DBA ECE Fiber	Douglas County - North	\$3,028,044
East Central Energy DBA ECE Fiber	Douglas County - South	\$4,210,761
Frontier North Inc DBA Frontier Communications	Town of Caledonia, City of Portage	\$280,999
Hilbert Communications, LLC DBA Bug Tussel 1, LLC	Young Prairie	\$500,000
Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado	Washburn Area, Phase 2	\$1,566,662
Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado	Marengo Area - North	\$376,556
Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado	Eileen Area, Phase 2	\$1,395,696
Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect	Pepin County	\$3,499,126
Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect	Town of Martell	\$3,492,226
Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect	River Falls - East	\$973,646
Spectrum Mid-America, LLC DBA Charter Communications, Inc.	Columbia County	\$2,903,552
Union Telephone Company DBA Union Telephone Company	Pleasant Lake and Wood Lake	\$407,706
Wittenberg Telephone Company DBA Cirrinity	Langlade County - Town of Neva	\$900,000

The Commission directed staff to review awarded projects and make adjustments to project scopes to require inclusion of straggler locations at the discretion of the delegated Commissioner.



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The Commission directed the Division of Digital Access, Environmental, and Consumer Affairs to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cru Stublely', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cru Stublely  
Secretary to the Commission

DL:02002914