



Energy Transition Advisory Council Public Utilities Commission Overview

April 23, 2024

Joe Sullivan, Commissioner

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
 - Xcel IRP and related dockets
- Energy Facilities Permitting
 - Process, how to participate
 - How workforce and community issues are addressed

Jurisdiction/scope of work

- **Investor-Owned Electric & Gas Utilities:**
 - **Rates** – Just & reasonable. Can't be unjustly discriminatory
 - **Services** – Sufficiently reliable
 - **Infrastructure** (Electric Utilities)
 - **Selection** – **Size, type, timing of resources** (IRP and CNs) - Least cost; renewable preference; environmental & socioeconomic impacts considered
 - **Construction & Location** Large Gen or Trans – (route/site permits)
- **Non-Utility Large Energy Infrastructure (CNs & Site/Route Permits):**
 - Petroleum pipelines, Natural Gas Plants, Large Transmission Lines
 - Large wind & solar
- **Landline Telecom Companies (Complaint-based/no rate reg)**

PUC structure

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's mission is to improve the lives of Minnesotans by ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable utility services at just and reasonable rates.

- Five Member quasi-judicial decision-making board
 - no ex-parte communications, subject to Open Meeting Law, decisions issued in written orders, “Commission speaks through its orders”
- Not a Cabinet-level agency (Independent from Administration)
- 65 Staff, 5 Commissioners (regulatory analysts, economists, attorneys, consumer affairs mediators, public advisor, business services, and administrative support)

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- Disputed formal petitions from the time a petition is filed until it is withdrawn or resolved by a written order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

Who does Ex Parte apply to?

Parties

- Someone who has commenced a proceeding
- Someone who has a proceeding commenced against them
- Someone who is permitted to intervene

Participants

- A person who files comments or appears in a proceeding
Except for a public hearing in a contested case, or similar hearings

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 usually file every two years

- Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power
- Other utilities are optional

What's in a resource plan?

Forecast



Resources



Cost



Electric IRP Status

Utility	Docket	Status
Xcel Energy	24-67	Filed Feb 1, 2024, collecting comments
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	22-311	O-IRP. Next filing July 1, 2024
Dairyland Power Cooperative	22-313	O-IRP. Next filing July 1, 2024
Great River Energy	22-75	Agenda Meeting Date March 7, 2024. Order forthcoming as of April 2024.
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	21-33	Completed, Order Issued January 9, 2023. Next filing March 1, 2025
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	Filed, agenda meeting being scheduled
Southern MN Municipal Power Agency	21-782	Completed, Order Issued Nov 2, 2022. Next filing December 2, 2024

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



Xcel Energy's Resource Plan 2024-2040

Includes things like

- Wind and solar
- Battery storage
- New gas plants
- Nuclear plant extensions
- And more...

To read the whole plan, visit eDockets and next to Docket Number Lookup, search “24” for the year and “67” for the number. We recommend starting with the “Nontechnical Summary” in Appendix Z.

Timeline

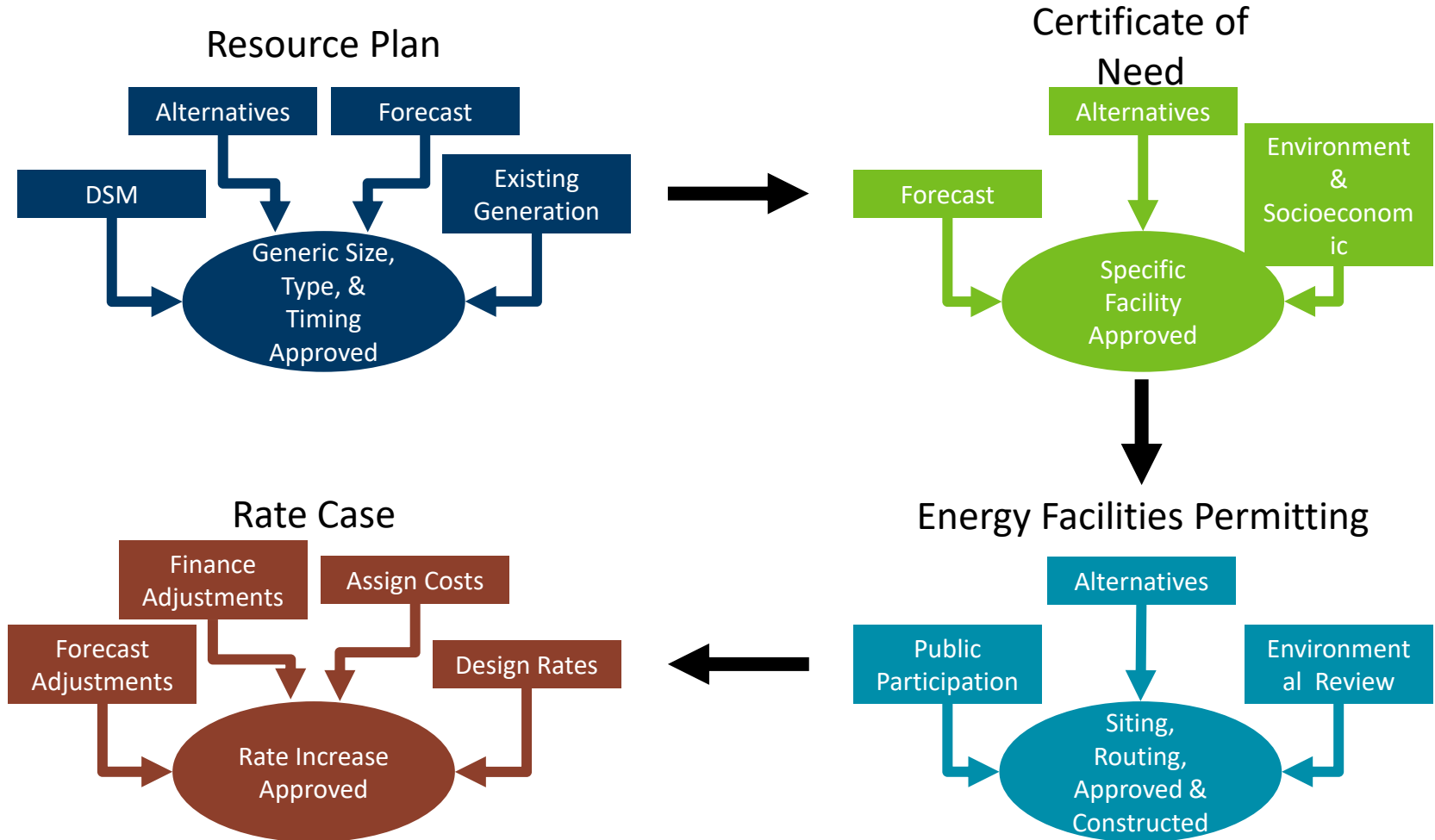
Event	Date
Petition Filed	Feb 1, 2024
Public Meetings	June 10-20, 2024
Initial Comments Due	June 28, 2024
Reply Comments Due	August 28, 2024
Supplemental Comments Due	September 30, 2024
Commission's Final Decision	By Feb 1, 2025

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

Previous Xcel IRP: Transparency and community engagement

- Remediation Plan for Sherco site
 - Xcel conduct stakeholder meetings
 - Xcel publicly file status update on plans and outreach
 - Xcel publicly file annual remediation plan updates to PUC and City of Becker
- Remediation plan for King site
 - Same requirements and schedule as Sherco
- Workforce transition for retiring generation facilities
 - Xcel (working with DEED and ETO) shall develop a comprehensive plan supporting transitioning workers, publicly file 12/31/2022
- Workforce diversity, inclusive participation, and equitable access to utility services: Xcel engage communities/stakeholders, report 1/1/23

Planning Process



Energy Facilities scope of authority

Type	Certificate of Need	Site/route authority
Generation – non-wind	Greater than 50 MW	Greater than 50 MW
Generation – wind	Greater than 50 MW	Greater than 5 MW, Counties can assume authority up to 25 MW
High Voltage Transmission Lines	200 kV & > 1500-ft 100 kV & > 10-miles	100 kV or more
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

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.

Discussion

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

Thank You!

Questions?

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