

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2016-0001
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**ORDER DOCKETING CASE AND
SCHEDULING TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

(Issued April 22, 2016)

On April 14, 2016, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for ratemaking principles that would apply to up to 2000 MW of wind generation. MidAmerican calls the project Wind XI.

MidAmerican asked for expedited review, including a request that the Board issue a final order no later than September 21, 2016. MidAmerican said that if Wind XI is approved by that date, MidAmerican will be able to take full advantage of the federal production tax credit, which MidAmerican said is a prerequisite for the economics of Wind XI. (MidAmerican “Request for Approval of Ratemaking Principles,” pp. 4-5).

Iowa Code § 476.53 provides that when defined new electric generation is to be constructed by a public utility, the Board shall specify in advance, by order issued after a contested case proceeding, the ratemaking principles that will apply when the costs are included in electric rates.

The Board has reviewed the application and will docket it for investigation and set an intervention deadline. As noted earlier, MidAmerican requested that the Board conduct an expedited review of the application. The Board will schedule a telephone conference with the parties to discuss a proposed procedural schedule intended to meet MidAmerican's request for a final order by September 21, 2016. The proposed procedural schedule is as follows:

1. Interventions shall be due within ten days from the date the procedural order is issued by Board Order pursuant to 199 IAC 7.13(1).
2. The parties shall notify the Board by July 11, 2016, if a pre-hearing conference is necessary.
3. Direct testimony shall be filed by the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, and any intervenors on or before June 17, 2016;
4. MidAmerican shall file any rebuttal testimony on or before June 24, 2016;
5. A joint statement of issues shall be filed on or before July 11, 2016;
6. A hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony and other exhibits and the cross-examination of all testimony shall be held beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2016;
7. Post-hearing briefs shall be filed on or before August 25, 2016.

In addition to the proposed schedule, the Board will also discuss with the parties the possible need for an accelerated intervention deadline and a shortened time for responding to discovery requests. The telephone conference will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 2 p.m. The parties are directed to call 1-866-685-1580, using conference code number 5152814769, to participate in the telephone conference.

Because the intervention deadline has not yet been established, the Board will not limit participation in the prehearing conference to formal parties. Other interested persons may participate as well if they are contemplating filing a petition to intervene. In order to make sure potentially-interested persons have a reasonable opportunity to be aware of the prehearing conference call, the Board will direct its staff to upload this order to the other MidAmerican wind dockets in the Board's electronic filing system so that this order will be served on the parties to these cases as well. For the same reason the Board will also upload the order to Docket No. RPU-2013-0004, MidAmerican's most recent electric service rate-review proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. An investigation is initiated with respect to the application for determination of advance ratemaking principles filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on April 15, 2016, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.53. This matter is identified as Docket No. RPU-2016-0001, a formal contested case proceeding. The

expenses reasonably attributable to this investigation will be assessed to MidAmerican in accordance with Iowa Code § 476.10 (2013).

2. A telephone conference is scheduled for 2 p.m., on April 28, 2016. The parties are directed to call 1-866-685-1580, using conference code number 5152814769, to participate in the telephone conference.

3. Board staff is directed to upload this order to the other MidAmerican Energy Company proceedings in the Board's electronic filing system that involve a request for ratemaking principles that apply to wind generation, and to Docket No. RPU-2013-0004, as described in this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Nick Wagner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 22nd day of April 2016.