

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 9, 2019

**In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., for Approval of Changes in Contract Demand Entitlements**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of a Change in Contract Demand Entitlement for its Northern Natural Gas Company System**

**PUC Docket Number(s):**     **G-002/M-18-528**

**G-004/M-18-454**

**G-011/M-18-526**

**Comment Period:**     Response comments are requested by August 1, 2019 at 4:30pm  
                                  Reply comments are requested August 12, 2019 at 4:30pm

*Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.*

**Issue:** Should the Commission accept Xcel Energy's and Great Plains' proposed demand entitlement levels and cost changes?

Should the Commission accept MERC's calculation of the error that occurred and grant MERC's request for a variance to the Commission's Purchased Gas Adjustment rules?

**Topic(s) Open for Comment:**

- Does the information provided by Xcel Energy in its November 1, 2018 Supplemental Filing address the Department's concern about the final pipeline and supply entitlements for the 2018-2019 heating season?
- Does the information provided by Great Plains in its October 31, 2018 updated information filing address the Department's concern about the final pipeline and supply entitlements for the 2018-2019 heating season?
- Should the Commission accept MERC's calculation of the error that occurred and grant MERC's request for a variance to the Commission's Purchased Gas Adjustment rules?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

## Background

- Northern States Power Company – Docket No. G-002/M-18-528

On August 1, 2018, Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) submitted its petition for approval of changes in contract demand entitlement levels and costs.

On October 1, 2018, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) submitted comments indicating that Xcel Energy's request appeared reasonable but that the Department would provide its final recommendations to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) after Xcel Energy files its Update or Supplement on November 1, 2018.

On November 1, 2018, Xcel Energy submitted supplemental comments regarding its proposal to change its contract demand entitlements.

- Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. – Docket No. G-004/M-18-454

On June 29, 2018, Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Great Plains), submitted its petition for approval to change its contract demand entitlement levels and costs.

On August 29, 2018, the Department submitted comments in which it stated that Great Plains proposal appears to be acceptable but the Department would file its final recommendations after Great Plains submits its November 1, 2018 update on its demand entitlement proposal.

On October 31, 2018, Great Plains submitted updated information regarding its proposal to change its contract demand entitlements.

- Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation – Docket No. G-011/M-18-526

On August 1, 2018, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) submitted its petition for approval of changes in contract demand entitlement levels and costs for the parts of its system served by the Northern Natural Gas Company (NNG) interstate pipeline.

On November 1, 2018, MERC submitted updated information and schedules regarding its proposal to change its contract demand entitlements.

On December 31, 2018, the Department submitted comments recommending the Commission accept MERC's proposed level of contract demand entitlement and its proposal for recovery of the costs associated with these entitlements through its monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) mechanism effective November 1, 2018. The Department also asked MERC to provide additional information about the number of electric generators it serves and how it conducts planning at the

town border station (TBS) level to maintain reliability. The Department indicated it would provide additional comments and recommendations in subsequent response comments.

On January 10, 2019, MERC submitted reply comments with the information requested by the Department.

On May 21, 2019, the Department submitted response comments that indicated it believes electric generators do not have a significant impact on MERC's system reliability at this time.

On July 3, 2019, MERC submitted a letter requesting a variance to the Commission's Purchased Gas Adjustment mechanism rules to correct an error in the way MERC treated Rochester capacity costs in its 2018-2019 demand entitlement schedules and monthly PGA as implemented November 1, 2018.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!* to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in these dockets via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc). For example, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (528), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Sundra Bender, at [sundra.bender@state.mn.us](mailto:sundra.bender@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2247, or Godwin Ubani, at [godwin.ubani@state.mn.us](mailto:godwin.ubani@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2191.

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