

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: June 8, 2018

### In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a Pilot Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity

**PUC Docket Number(s): E-015/M-11-409**

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes July 9, 2018 at 4:30pm  
Reply comment period closes July 23, 2018 at 4:30pm

*All comment periods in this notice may be varied by the Commission upon request for good cause, pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7829.*

*The Commission may determine that it will not consider comments received after the close of the comment period.*

**Issues:** Should the Commission accept Minnesota Power's (MP's) sixth annual report on its Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) Program, approve MP's request to make modifications to its CARE Program and approve MP's proposal to expand the scope of the CARE annual reporting process so that the annual report serves as a comprehensive repository docket of all overlapping low-income matters?

#### Topics Open for Comment:

- MP's proposed modifications to the CARE Program to include the following:
  - Approve the reclassification from a Pilot Rider for CARE to a standard rider,
  - Approve the removal of CARE Rider Service Condition 8 on missed payments and the adjustment of Arrearage Forgiveness Condition 6 on arrears so that customers can be retained in the CARE
  - Program as long as they are LIHEAP-qualified,
  - Allow Minnesota Power to maintain CARE Program participation for customers requesting the Cold Weather Rule protection as long as these customers are LIHEAP-qualified,
  - Approve Option A requesting the Affordability Surcharge increase, and
  - Approve the automatic enrollment in the CARE Program of all LIHEAP-qualified customers until they are no longer qualified as LIHEAP.

- MP's proposed expansion of the CARE Program annual report to serve as an Affordability Program Filing which would provide a comprehensive view of MP's affordability programs and services and be a comprehensive repository docket for all overlapping low-income matters. MP programs or reports that have low-income customer information and services that may be complementary or include similar reporting elements to the CARE Program include:
  - Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) Competitive Rates;
  - Safety, Reliability and Service Quality (SRQS) Standards Annual Report;
  - Conservation Improvement Plan (CIP);
  - Solar Sense Customer Solar Program; and
  - Community Solar Gardens (CSG).
- Should MP be required to file its annual CARE Program report on the same date each year, for example, March 1?

**Background:** Minnesota Power has offered its discount rate program called the Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE) Program to its residential customers since November 1, 2011. Those who qualify under the federally funded LIHEAP Program are eligible for CARE. The CARE Program provides a discount to the Company's standard residential tiered rates and includes an Arrearage Forgiveness component. This is Minnesota Power's sixth annual report.

**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 this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (11) and the docket number (409), select *Search*.

**Subscribe** to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Ann Schwieger, at [ann.schwieger@state.mn.us](mailto:ann.schwieger@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2238.

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