

**NOTICE OF NEW DOCKET NUMBER, COMMENT PERIOD,  
AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

*Issued: June 21, 2016*

**In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of  
Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611**

**PUC Docket Number: E-999/CI-16-521**

[In the Matter of Establishing Generic Standards for Utility Tariffs for Interconnection and  
Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities under Minnesota Laws 2001, Chapter 212

PUC Docket Number: E-999/CI-01-1023]

**New Docket Number:** The Commission intends to re-examine and update the Minnesota Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation that were established under its September, 28, 2004 Order in Docket E-999/CI-01-1023. This matter has been assigned Docket E-999/CI-16-521. (Please submit comments in Docket 16-521, rather than in Docket 01-1023.)

**Comment Period:** Comment period closes **August 19, 2016 at 4:30pm**

*Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

**General Topic Open for Comment:**

- How should the Commission proceed in re-examining and updating the Minnesota Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation established in its September 28, 2004 Order in Docket No. E-999/CI-01-1023, including scope, priorities, schedule, and process?
- **In your comments, please address the more detailed questions and issues in the Attachment to this Notice.**

**Technical Conference:** The Commission plans to hold a Technical Conference on the Minnesota Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation, tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 30, 2016, to discuss scope, priorities, schedule, and process. The agenda for the Technical Conference will be informed by the comments received in response to this Notice.

**Background:** In 2001, Minn. Stat. §216B.1611, Interconnection of On-site Distributed Generation, was enacted. This statute required the Commission to initiate a proceeding to establish, by order, generic interconnection standards. The Commission issued its Order Adopting Standards in Docket E-999/CI-01-1023 on September 28, 2004, following extensive stakeholder participation.

Over the last decade, much has changed, including continued maturation of distributed generation technologies, increasing numbers of interconnection requests, as well as new and evolving national

standards. Additionally, there has been much more experience in Minnesota and nation-wide with interconnection standards.

On May 12, 2016, the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), Fresh Energy (FE), and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) filed a Motion to Reopen and Amend the State Interconnection Standards under Minnesota Laws 2001, Chapter 212, and a Memorandum in Support of the Motion in Docket 01-1023. (The filing has since been made part of Docket 16-521.)

On May 19, 2016, Dakota Electric Association (DEA) filed, in consultation with a group from other Minnesota utilities, proposed revisions to the Minnesota Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation in addition to revisions to its Standby Tariffs in docket 11-115. (The filing has since been made part of Dockets 01-1023 and 16-521. The proposed interconnection standards revisions are on pages 11 through 21 and Attachments 1, 2, and Agreements).

**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!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- *If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.*

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (16) and the docket number (521), 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, Janet Gonzalez, at [janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us](mailto:janet.gonzalez@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2231.

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**ATTACHMENT****Topics Open for Comment:**

- How should the Commission proceed in re-examining and updating the Minnesota Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation established in its September 28, 2004 Order in Docket No. E-999/CI-01-1023, including scope, priorities, schedule, and process?

Before responding please carefully review:

- The May 12, 2016 Motion to Reopen and Amend the State Interconnection Standards and Memorandum in Support of Motion by the Energy Law and Policy Center (ELPC), Fresh Energy (FE), and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). This filing includes recommendations to adopt procedures based on the FERC's Small Generation Interconnection Procedures with modifications to incorporate some additional best practices, including a public queue, technical screens, fast track screens, simplified process for small inverter-based systems, streamlined application process, and dispute resolution process. It also proposes a revised Minnesota Interconnection Agreement.
- The May 19, 2016 Proposed Modifications to Distributed Generation Interconnection Procedure and Technical Requirements by Dakota Electric Association (DEA), pages 11 through 21 and Attachments 1, 2, and Agreements<sup>1</sup>. This filing includes proposed changes to interconnection requirements and processes, including an expedited process, updated engineering screens, adding a queue to the process, adding a pre-application data request, clarifying pre-certified, and modified generation system design. It also includes updated required interconnection documentation, updated process steps, additional new short form application for small inverter based systems, the addition of a Minnesota Uniform Contract, updated Interconnection Agreement Template, and updated Technical Standards Document.

And address the following:

1. Should the Commission consider modifying and updating each of the areas recommended by ELPC/FE/IREC and by DEA? Are there additional subject areas that should be considered by the Commission?
2. In the subject areas for which you are recommending updates, identify which you think are likely to be susceptible to agreement among stakeholders, which are likely to be moderately controversial, and which are likely to involve a high degree of controversy.
3. In the subject areas for which you are recommending updates, identify which ones are the higher priorities, and suggest a process, sequence and general timeline for Commission action, taking into account whether any of the decisions depend upon one another and the degree of controversy likely.

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<sup>1</sup> DEA's proposed revisions to its stand-by tariffs will be addressed along with those of Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Power, and Minnesota Power in Docket 15-115, not here.