

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD- INFORMATION FROM UTILITIES

Issued: March 18, 2019

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Impact of Severe Weather in January and February 2019 on Utility Operations and Service

PUC Docket Number: E,G-999/CI-19-160

Comment Period: Utility filings due by **April 12, 2019 at 4:30pm**

After the utility filings are received, the Commission may issue a subsequent notice for comments on the filings.

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

Issues: What impact did the cold weather in January and February 2019 have on utility operations and service? Were there lessons learned from this severe weather event that can be used to keep utility systems operating reliably and safely under extreme, challenging circumstances in the future?

Information Requested from Utilities:

Natural Gas Utilities:

1. Xcel Energy shall provide a written account of the natural gas reinforcement projects it has planned for this summer in areas that experienced low pressure and/or service outages.
2. CenterPoint Energy shall provide a written account of the natural gas reinforcement projects it has planned in the two areas where it deployed CNG trailers.
3. Each natural gas utility shall report on curtailment activity during this period: What percentage of customers curtailed as requested? What percentage of customers failed to curtail as requested? Were these customers charged failure to curtail or other penalties, and, if so, how much penalty revenue was collected in this time period? What percentage of its curtailable customers is each utility able to effectively monitor remotely in as close to real time as possible?
4. Natural gas utilities shall report on the root causes for customers failing to curtail for those customers who failed to curtail as requested.

Electric Utilities:

5. Electric utilities shall provide status of all their generation units, Demand Resources and purchased power agreements from January 28, 2019 to January 31, 2019. The status includes hourly MISO offer price, Economic Maximum MW, Emergency Maximum MW, offered MW, deployed MW, commitment status (FRAC, IRAC, Day Ahead or Real Time), and dispatch status. Also, the status includes unit level fuel availability of primary and secondary source, fuel contract status (firm, non-firm, or on site) of primary and secondary source, and Generating Availability Data System report data.
6. Electric utilities shall provide hourly day ahead Wind and Solar energy production forecast and forecast parameters used to produce the forecast.
7. Electric utilities shall provide wind and solar temperature cutoff thresholds for each MISO EP Node.

All Utilities:

8. The utilities shall provide details of how the Commission could help convey messages to the public during such an event.
9. Utilities shall provide an account of lessons learned and steps to be taken to help prepare for the next severe weather event. Example: Was there anything learned about the functioning of Excess Flow Valves and Regulators that can be used to prevent natural gas outages in the future?
10. Please provide any other information that would be helpful to the Commission's understanding of these issues.

Background: The Commission opened this inquiry to gather information and gain a better understanding of the impact of severe weather in January and February 2019 on utility operations and service.

At the Commission's Planning Meeting of February 28, 2019 each of the gas utility Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), each of the Investor Owned electric utilities, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) provided a presentation and responded to questions regarding their operations during the severe cold weather event that occurred between January 28 and February 1, 2019.

The Commission indicated during its Planning Meeting that it would seek follow-up information from the utilities regarding lessons learned from this severe weather event and next steps.

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, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments: Visit 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.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (160), select *Search*.

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

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Bob Harding, at robert.harding@state.mn.us or 651-201-2237, or Sundra Bender, at sundra.bender@state.mn.us or 651-201-2247.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

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