

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON COMPLETENESS AND PROCEDURES

Issued: October 1, 2019

In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Natural Gas Co. for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number(s): G-004/GR-19-511

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes October 7, 2019¹ at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes October 14, 2019 at 4:30pm

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

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Whether Great Plains' application complies with the filing requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, Minn. Rules, parts 7825.3100 to 7825.4400, and relevant Commission Orders, and
- Whether this matter should be sent to the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for a contested case hearing and if so, what should be the scope of the hearing?

Background: On September 27, 2019, Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (GP), filed a request to increase rates for natural gas service in Minnesota with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). In its filing, GP seeks authority to increase rates, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 1, for a total increase of approximately \$2.86 million, or 12 percent, effective January 1, 2020 without suspension.² If the Commission suspends the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 2, GP requests, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 3, an interim rate increase of approximately \$2.6 million, or 11 percent, effective January 1, 2020. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 3, the Commission sets interim rates on an "ex-parte" basis.

¹ Pursuant to Minn. Rules, part 7829.2400, subpart 4.

² According to GP "the test year for Great Plains' general natural gas rate increase filing is the calendar year ending December 31, 2020. Great Plains has requested to suspend rates currently authorized in its Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost (GUIC) Adjustment established in Docket No. M-18-282 at the time interim rates are implemented as requested on January 1, 2020. The suspension of the GUIC rates will produce a revenue deficiency of \$3,639,839 over test year gross revenues which will be offset by the reduction in GUIC revenue resulting in a net revenue increase of \$2,860,839 or 12.0 percent over present rates authorized by the Commission in its final order in Docket No. E,G-999/CI-17-895."

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 (511), 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.

Intervention: Pursuant to Minn. Rules, part 7829.2400, subpart 6, “the Commission shall entertain a petition to intervene until the matter is referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding ...” Interventions in proceedings before the Commission are covered by the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, Minn. Rules, part 7829.0800. Under subpart 5 of this rule, (“if there is no objection to intervention and a petition to intervene is not denied or suspended within 15 days of filing, the petition to intervene must be considered granted, unless the matter is referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for contested case proceedings before the expiration of the 15-day period.”) After the case is referred to the OAH, intervention requests are covered by the OAH procedures, pursuant to Minn. Rules, part 1400.6200.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Eric Bartusch, at eric.bartusch@state.mn.us or 651-201-2259.

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

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