

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON EITE CUSTOMER RATE

Issued: April 5, 2017

In the Matter of the Petition by Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) for Approval of an Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed (EITE) Customer Rate

PUC Docket Number: E-017/M-17-257

Comment Period: *Initial comment period closes Friday, May 5, 2017 at 4:30 pm*
Reply comment period closes Monday, May 15, 2017 at 4:30 pm

Comments must be received by 4:30 pm on the close date
Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

This matter is subject to a statutory deadline. Therefore, the Commission does not anticipate granting requests for extension of the above comment periods.

Topics Open for Comment at this Time:

- Does OTP's proposed rate for EITE customers comply with Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, including the types of customers eligible for the rate, the criteria for qualification for the rate, the individual design elements of the rate, and the specific rate option proposed?
- What criteria should the Commission use in determining whether electric rates are competitive?
- What criteria should the Commission use to evaluate whether OTP's proposed EITE rate schedule provides a net benefit to the utility or to the state as required by Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 2(b)? Has OTP demonstrated that its proposed EITE rate schedule provides such net benefit?
- Are there additional or alternative rate options for EITE customers that would better meet the policy goals of the statute?
- Does OTP's action on the deposit of \$10,000 for low-income funding comply with Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 3, and is it reasonable?
- Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 2(d), the Commission shall allow recovery of costs in the next general rate case or through an EITE cost recovery rate rider between general rate cases. Should the Commission allow OTP to implement an EITE surcharge factor and EITE tracker account prior to its next general rate case?
- Please provide comments regarding any other issues relevant to the Commission's review of OTP's petition.

Docket Background: On April 3, 2017, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, Competitive Rate for Energy-Intensive, Trade-Exposed Electric Utility Customer, OTP filed a petition with the Commission for approval of an Energy-Intensive, Trade-Exposed (EITE) customer rate. Three OTP customers, Potlatch Corporation, Norbord Corporation, and Cass Forest Products, have requested that OTP seek Commission approval for this EITE rate under the EITE statute. All three customers are wood products manufacturers and claim eligibility under the EITE statute.

Minn. Stat. § 216B.1696, subd. 2(b) directs the Commission to approve an EITE rate schedule and rate upon a finding of net benefit to the utility or the state. Subd. 2(c) requires the Commission to make a final determination within 90 days of a miscellaneous rate filing by the utility.

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!*, 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 7th 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, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (17) and the docket number (257), select *Search*.

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

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Jason Bonnett at 651-201-2235 or jason.bonnett@state.mn.us, or Clark Kaml at 651-201-2246 or clark.kaml@state.mn.us.

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