

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: February 28, 2018

### In the Matter of a Request for the Approval of the Asset Purchase and Sale Agreement Between Interstate Power and Light Company and Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative

**PUC Docket Number(s):** E-001, 115, 140, 105, 139, 124, 126, 145, 132, 114, 6521, 142, 135/PA-14-322

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes April 26, 2018 at 4:30pm  
Reply comment period closes May 7, 2018 at 4:30pm

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

**Issue:** Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative's (SMEC) December 11, 2017 compliance filing and subsequent revisions

#### Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Does Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative's (SMEC) December 11, 2017 compliance filing and its subsequent revisions<sup>1</sup> comply with the Commission's Order?
- Do the Member Cooperatives' Class Cost of Service Studies support the proposed rate changes?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter that the Commission should consider or be aware of?

#### Background:

In its June 8, 2015 Order Approving Agreement Subject to Conditions (Order), the Commission approved, subject to conditions, the sale of Interstate Power and Light Company's (IPL) Minnesota electric distribution system and assets and the transfer of IPL's Minnesota service rights and obligations to the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) - an electric cooperative association comprised of 12 rural electric cooperatives (Member Cooperatives).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SMEC submitted amended compliance filings on January 9 and 10, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, of Jordan; Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, of Owatonna; People's Energy Cooperative, of Oronoco; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, of Rushford; Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, of Albert Lea; BENCO Electric Cooperative, of Mankato; Brown County Rural Electrical Association, of Sleepy Eye; South Central Electric Association, of St. James; Redwood Electric Cooperative,

In its Order, the Commission retained jurisdiction to enforce the terms and conditions of a transitional 5-year rate plan (Rate Plan). The Rate Plan required SMEC and its Member Cooperatives to adopt IPL's retail rates for the first three years of the Rate Plan. For the subsequent two years, former IPL customers' rates would begin a transition period in which their rates will be merged with those of their Member Cooperative.

SMEC's compliance filing was made ahead of the two-year transition period that will begin August 1, 2018.

**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 (14) and the docket number (322), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Jorge Alonso, at [jorge.alonso@state.mn.us](mailto:jorge.alonso@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2258.

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of Clements; Federated Rural Electric Association, of Jackson; Nobles Cooperative Electric, of Worthington; and Sioux Valley Energy, of Colman, South Dakota.