



**NOTICE REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM INVESTOR-OWNED,  
COOPERATIVE, AND MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

*Issued: October 13, 2015*

**In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into Fees Charged on Qualifying Facilities**

**PUC Docket Number/s:** E999/CI-15-755

**Responses due:** December 11, 2015 at 4:30pm.

**Information Requested from all investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utilities:**

The Commission has opened a docket to collect information about fees applied to customers with distributed generation that are not charged to other customers. Please answer the questions below.

**The Commission requests that all utilities respond, even if their answer to each question is “No.”**

MMUA, MREA, cooperative G&Ts, or municipal power agencies may file on some or all of their members’ behalf. Groups of municipal, cooperative, or investor-owned distribution utilities may also make joint filings.

1. Do you currently apply a charge—established prior to July 1, 2015—to distributed generation customers that is not applied to other customers? **If yes, please answer the questions below.** If the fee is different for different types or classes of customers, please include that information in your answers below. **If no, state “No” and proceed to Question 2.**
  - A. When was the current fee implemented?
  - B. How many customers are currently being charged the fee?
  - C. What amount is the fee and how often is it applied?
  - D. How was the amount of the fee determined?
  - E. Has the amount of the fee changed in the last five years? If so, please indicate when the fee was first implemented and when changes were made.
  - F. Is the fee charged to net metered facilities, non-net metered distributed generation facilities, or both?
  - G. Did you report the fee pursuant to Minn. Rules 7835.0300 and .0400?
  - H. In what Docket, if any, was the fee approved by the Commission?

2. If you currently do not apply charges as outlined in Question 1, have you applied a charge within the last five years to distributed generation customers that was not applied to other customers? **If yes, please answer the questions below.** If the fee was different for different types or classes of customers, please include that information in your answer below. **If no, state “No” and proceed to Question 3.**
  - A. When was the fee implemented?
  - B. When was the fee terminated and why?
  - C. How many customers were charged the fee in the last five years?
  - D. What amount was the fee and how often was it applied?
  - E. How was the amount of the fee determined?
  - F. Did the amount of the fee change over time?
  - G. Was the fee charged to net metered facilities, non-net metered distributed generation facilities, or both?
  - H. Did you report the fee pursuant to Minn. Rule 7835.0300 and .0400?
  - I. In what Docket, if any, was the fee approved by the Commission?
  
3. For cooperative and municipal utilities, have you instituted, or do you plan to institute within the next year, a charge under the 2015 amendments to Minn. Stat. §216B.164, subd. 3 on net metered or distributed generation customers that will not be applied to other customers? **If yes, please answer the questions below.**
  - A. When did you or do you plan to implement the fee?
  - B. What amount will the fee be and how often will it be applied?
  - C. How was the amount of the fee determined?
  - D. When was your utility’s most recent cost study completed?
  - E. Will the amount of the fee change over time?

**Project Background:** In Docket 15-255, a member of People’s Energy Cooperative filed a request for dispute resolution under Minnesota’s cogeneration and small power-production statute, Minn. Stat. §216B.164. The member, who owned a net-metered 10 kW wind facility, took issue with the Cooperative’s imposition of a monthly “facility fee” in addition to the fixed monthly customer charge applied to all residential customers. Comments filed in the course of that docket indicated that some other utilities may impose fees on distributed generation customers.

On page 7 of its September 21, 2015 Order in that docket, the Commission directed Commission staff to “ask each investor-owned utility, cooperative, and municipal utility to indicate whether it applies a charge to net-metered or distributed-generation customers that is not applied to other customers, and if so, when it began assessing that charge and in which docket(s), if any, the charge was approved by the Commission.” The Commission also authorized staff to request additional information as staff deems appropriate.

**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.

**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 (15) and the docket number (755), select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe to a Docket*, and follow the prompts.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Andrew Twite, at [Andrew.Twite@state.mn.us](mailto:Andrew.Twite@state.mn.us) or (651) 201-2245.

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