

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: December 6, 2018

In the Matter of the Petition by Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Great Plains), for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number(s): G-004/GR-15-879

Comment Period: Great Plains shall provide initial comments by December 18, 2018 at 4:30pm
Reply comment are requested by December 28, 2018 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:

- Which statutes govern how the Commission should proceed in this matter?
- Should the Commission reopen its September 6, 2016 *Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order* to investigate the Department's December 3, 2018 *Request for an Order that Great Plains Show Cause*?
- Does the Commission have the authority to grant the relief requested by the Department?
- What other remedies are available that would address the Department's concerns?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background: On September 30, 2015, Great Plains filed a General Rate Case with a forecasted 2016 test year, in this docket.

On September 6, 2016, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued its *Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order*, in which the Commission set rates and, among other things, approved a pilot Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Rider.

On December 1, 2017, Great Plains filed its Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Rates and Decoupling Evaluation Report for Year 1 (Decoupling Evaluation Report). In that report, in section E-6, part b on page 34, Great Plains stated:

One new customer did require a proxy revenue determination in order to account for the customer now taking service that was not active and was not included in the Company's last rate case. When

volumes were forecasted for that case, the Company did not have any customers taking service under the Large IT Transport Service – Rate N82 tariff. However, one new customer did begin taking service under Rate N82 prior to the beginning of the initial decoupling evaluation period. In the RDM model, a comparison of actual revenue is made to authorized revenue; however, with no Rate N82 customers projected in the 2015 rate case there is no stated authorized revenue. As a proxy revenue determination for this evaluation period, the Company set the monthly actual sales to be the authorized sales for this new customer so that there would be no impact as a result of the new customer.

On April 6, 2018, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) filed comments recommending the Commission reject Great Plains Decoupling Evaluation Report, and on May 1, 2018, Great Plains replied to the Department’s Comments. Additional comments have been submitted and a decision on Great Plains Decoupling Evaluation Report, in this docket, is pending as of the date of this notice.

On December 3, 2018, the Department filed its request asking the Commission to require Great Plains to show cause why it should not be required to fully disclose information regarding a large new customer that began taking service in October 2015, under the Company’s Large Interruptible General Gas Transportation N82 (Large Class N82) rate schedule.

The Department also asked the Commission to determine that Great Plain’s present tariffs are suspended and that its rates are interim rates, subject to true up against any new Commission-approved rates arising out of a further Commission investigation, immediately suspend all tariffs that may be affected by revenue associated with the Large Class N82 customer, and, following an investigation, adjust rates to account for sales associated with the Large Class N82 customer.

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 (15) and the docket number (879), select *Search*.

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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.

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