

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 2, 2019

In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of a Natural Gas Extension Project (NGEP) Cost Rider Surcharge for the Recovery of 2019 Rochester Project Costs.

In the Matter of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's Request for Approval of a Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost Rider.

In the Matter of the Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Request for Approval of a 2020 Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost (GUIC) Rider.

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service in Minnesota.

PUC Docket Number(s): **G-011/M-18-182**
 G-011/M-18-281
 G-011/M-19-282
 G-011/GR-17-563

Comment Period: Comments are requested by July 11, 2019 at 4:30pm
 Reply comments may be provided by July 18, 2019 at 4:30pm

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

Issue: Should the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) grant Minnesota Energy Resource Corporation's (MERC or the Company) request to suspend its NGEP rider surcharge and its GUIC rider surcharge from the Company's direct connect customers?

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- What action, if any, should the Commission take on MERC’s request to suspend its NGEP rider surcharge and its GUIC rider surcharge from the Company’s direct connect customers?
- Are there any other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background

On February 5, 2019, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING GAS UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE COST RIDER WITH MODIFICATIONS AND REQUIRING COMPLIANCE FILING, in Docket No. G-011/M-18-281. In this order, MERC’s GUIC rider surcharge was required to be uniform across all customer classes based on 12 months of sales. MERC’s compliance filing was disputed by parties. On April 25, 2019, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING COMPLIANCE FILING, as filed by the Company, which authorized a volumetric GUIC surcharge of \$0.00413 per therm.

On June 18, 2019, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING NGEP RIDER SURCHARGE WITH MODIFICATIONS, in Docket No. G-011/M-18-182. The NGEP rider surcharge is a volumetric charge and was initially estimated to be \$0.00050 per therm applicable to all customer classes. On June 28, 2019, MERC submitted a compliance filing recalculating the volumetric charge to be \$0.00052 per therm.

On June 28, 2019, MERC submitted a letter in Dockets 18-182 and 18-281 requesting that the Commission allow the Company to suspend its GUIC and NGEP rider surcharge for MERC’s direct connect customers to address a bypass concern initially raised by the Super Large Gas Intervenors in a letter submitted May 15, 2019.

MERC has requested Commission action by August 1, 2019.

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 these dockets, 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 these dockets via the Commission’s website at mn.gov/puc. For example, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (182), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in these dockets at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

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.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.