

NOTICE: REOPENING COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: June 23, 2017

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Fees Charged to Qualifying Facilities by Cooperative Electric Associations under the 2015 Amendments to Minn. Stat. § 216B.164, Subd. 3

PUC Docket Number/s: E999/CI-16-512

OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-34454

Cooperative Utilities: The Commission requests that all cooperative utilities currently charging or considering a fee under 216B.164, subd. 3, submit the methodology used to calculate 2017 fees by **July 7, 2017 at 4:30 pm**.

Petition to Intervene: Commenters wishing to intervene shall file a petition by **July 7, 2017**.

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes **August 25, 2017 at 4:30pm**
Reply comment period closes **September 22, 2017 at 4:30pm**

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Deadline: Due to a statute imposed deadline of December 31, 2017, it is unlikely that comment period extensions will be granted. Any extension request must be received at least 5 days in advance and must contain a strong justification. Extension requests will be granted at the discretion of the Executive Secretary.

Project Background: On June 27, 2016, the Commission issued its *Order Opening Investigation, Delegating Authority and Finding that Tariffs Must be Approved Before Becoming Effective* in Dockets E999/PR-16-09, E121/CG-16-240, E123/CG-16-241 and E999/CI-16-512. The Order delegated to the Executive Secretary the authority to issue notices and establish procedures for the investigation.

On February 9, 2017, the Department of Commerce asked that the comment period be suspended until the outcome of the legislative session was clear with respect to proposals to amend Commission authority under Minn. Stat. §216B.164 involving cooperative and municipal utilities, and to reissue a notice if needed once the outcome of the pending legislation was known. Fresh Energy and the MREA jointly made a similar request.

On February 10, 2017, the Commission issued its Notice of Suspended Comment Period.

On May 30, 2017, Governor Dayton signed SF 1456, the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Growth appropriations bill, which modified Minn. Stat. §216B.164. Included in that bill was a provision authorizing

the Commission to complete the investigation in Docket E-999/CI-16-512 to determine whether the methodology used by distribution electric cooperative associations to set fees under section 216B.164, subd. 3, paragraph (a) complies with state law.

On June 15, 2017, the Commission met to consider whether to complete the investigation in the aforementioned docket.

On June 21, the Commission issued its Order to complete the investigation in to the methodology as provided in state law and establish the process for doing so under the expedited time frame required by statute.

In comments, the Commission requests that parties include a thorough explanation that identifies:

- whether the methodologies used do or do not comply with state law;
- what the party believes to be the scope of the Commission's inquiry into the methodology; and
- the basis upon which the Commission should determine whether the methodology complies with state law.

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.

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.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (16) and the docket number (512), and 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, Hanna Terwilliger, at Hanna.Terwilliger@state.mn.us or 651-201-2243 or Andrew Bahn, at Andrew.Bahn@state.mn.us or 651-201-2249.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204

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