

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING CUSTOMER CONSENT FORM

*Issued: January 25, 2017*

### **In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Privacy Policies of Rate-Regulated Energy Utilities**

**PUC Docket Number: E,G-999/CI-12-1344**

**Comment Period:** *Initial comment period closes Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 4:30 pm*  
*Reply comment period closes Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 4:30 pm*

**Docket Background:** In the beginning of 2013, the Commission initiated a multi-part inquiry into various aspects of privacy and the confidentiality of customer information held by energy utilities. On January 19, 2017, having previously addressed issues of identity theft and the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII), the Commission issued an order addressing the dissemination of Customer Energy Use Data (CEUD) collected by utilities. That order expressed the Commission's desire to develop a model form to facilitate customers' consent to release of their CEUD by utilities to designated third parties.

**Topics Open for Comment at this Time:** The Commission seeks comments regarding the content and format of a consent form. Commenters should address:

- (1) clarity in presentation such that a customer may specify, in detail, the type of information to be released and the time period for which the consent applies,
- (2) cautions regarding the customers' inability to control dissemination of their CEUD once it has been released by the utility,
- (3) the degree to which a utility is or is not liable for misuse of CEUD once it has been released,
- (4) the language(s) in which the form is made available (e.g. English, Spanish, Somali),
- (5) the need for a web-based form, and the manner in which consent may be granted via the web, and
- (6) any other relevant issues.

**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!*, 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 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

**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 (12) and the docket number (1344), select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Kevin O'Grady at 651-201-2218 or [kevin.ograd@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.ograd@state.mn.us).

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