

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

David C. Boyd	Chair
J. Dennis O'Brien	Commissioner
Thomas Pugh	Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s
Failure to File an Affordability Program Under
Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, Subd. 15

ISSUE DATE: October 7, 2008

DOCKET NO. G-022/CI-08-1175

ORDER FINDING GROUNDS FOR ORDER
TO SHOW CAUSE AND CONDITIONALLY
AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING
ISSUANCE

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In 2007, the Minnesota Legislature amended Minn. Stat. § 216B.16 to require natural gas utilities serving low-income residential customers who use natural gas for heating to file individual "affordability programs" with this Commission by September 1, 2007.¹ Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc., a natural gas utility subject to this requirement, did not file an affordability program on or before the statutory deadline. The Commission, by its staff, contacted the Company several times regarding the required filing.

On October 2, 2008, after proper notice, the Commission took up the issue of how to address the Company's failure to file the statutorily required affordability program.

The Company appeared by counsel and asserted that it would file the required affordability program on or before October 9. The Company also stated that its failure to make the filing had been due to its small size, turnover in personnel, and a shortage of regulatory resources.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission is charged with enforcing the Minnesota Public Utilities Act, including the requirement of Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15 that natural gas utilities file affordability programs

¹ Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15.

if they serve low-income residential customers who use natural gas for heating. Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. appears to be in violation of this requirement. The Company has, however, assured the Commission that it will comply with the requirement by October 9, 2008.

To avoid further delay in enforcement if non-compliance continues, the Commission will conditionally authorize and require the issuance of an order (1) requiring the Company to show cause why it should not be found to be in violation of Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15, and (2) requiring the Company to file an affordability program within 30 days. This order will issue on October 16, 2008, unless the Company has filed the promised affordability program by that date.

The Commission will so order.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby authorizes and requires the issuance of an order to show cause why Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. should not be found to be in violation of Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15 and an order requiring the Company to file an affordability program under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15 within 30 days. The order(s) shall issue on October 16, 2008, unless the Company has filed an affordability program under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 15 by that date.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mark E. Oberlander for

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(SEAL)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Margie DeLaHunt, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the 7th day of October, 2008 she served the attached

ORDER FINDING GROUNDS FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND
CONDITIONALLY AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING ISSUANCE.

MNPUC Docket Number: G-022/CI-08-1175

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

Commissioners
Carol Casebolt
Peter Brown
Eric Witte
Marcia Johnson
Kate Kahlert
Michelle Rebholz
Tracy Smetana
Bob Harding
Janet Gonzalez
Mary Swoboda
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AG - PUC
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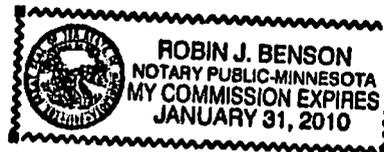
Margie DeLaHunt

Subscribed and sworn to before me,

a notary public, this 7 day of

October, 2008

Robin J. Benson
Notary Public



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