

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 9, 2019

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into the Impact of Severe Weather in January and February 2019 on Utility Operations and Service

PUC Docket Number(s): E,G-999/CI-19-160

Comment Period: Response comments are requested by August 9, 2019 at 4:30pm
Reply comments may be provided by August 19, 2019 at 4:30pm

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

Issues: What impact did the cold weather in January and February 2019 have on utility operations and service? Were there lessons learned from this severe weather event that can be used to keep utility systems operating reliably and safely under extreme, challenging circumstances in the future?

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Potential tariff changes related to curtailment and failure to curtail issues.
- Potential tariff changes related to interruptible natural gas service.
- Electric utility curtailment and MISO penalties, if any.
- Xcel Energy's planning for severe weather by its Electric and Gas Utilities.
- Utility communication with interruptible customers regarding curtailments.
- Utility communication with the general public during severe weather events.
- Generation forecasting for wind resources in extreme temperatures.
- Any other issue addressed by the utilities in response to the Department's May 20, 2019 comments and request for additional information in reply comments.
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background: On February 21, 2019, the Commission issued its Notice of Commission Planning Meeting and opened this inquiry to gather information and gain a better understanding of the impact of severe weather in January and February 2019 on utility operations and service.

At the Commission's Planning Meeting of February 28, 2019 each of the gas utility Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), each of the Investor Owned

electric utilities, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) provided a presentation and responded to questions regarding their operations during the severe cold weather event that occurred between January 28 and February 1, 2019.

On March 18, 2019, the Commission issued its Notice of Comment Period—Information From Utilities which requested follow-up information on several topics related to the impact of the cold weather in January and February 2019 on each utility’s operations and service, lessons learned from this severe weather event and next steps.

Between March 25 and May 3, 2019, the utilities submitted information in response to the Commission’s March 18 notice.

On April 18, 2019, the Commission issued its Notice of Comment Period, which requested comments and reply comments on the information provided by the utilities.

On May 20, 2019, the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) and the Office of the Attorney General – Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division (OAG) submitted comments. The Department and OAG sought additional information from the utilities in their reply comments.

The utilities filed reply comments from June 12 through July 3, 2019.

The Commission now seeks comments on additional information received.

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 (19) and the docket number (160), 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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