

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: June 22, 2018

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of a 10 MW Blanchard Solar Power Purchase Agreement

PUC Docket Number: E-015/M-18-401

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes July 20, 2018 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes July 31, 2018 at 4:30pm

The Commission may determine that it will not consider comments received after the close of the comment period.

Commission staff intends to bring this matter to the Commission prior to the decision in Docket 17-568 and therefore asks parties to attempt to file their comments within the comment periods indicated in this notice. Please contact staff as much in advance as possible if you believe an extension is necessary.

Topics Open for Comment:

- Should the Commission approve Minnesota Power's (MP) Petition for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Cypress Creek Renewables to purchase 10 MW of solar-generated energy and capacity from the Blanchard solar generation facility?
- Should the Commission confirm the Blanchard Solar Project to be a reasonable and prudent way for the Company to continue to meet its obligations under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691?
- Does the Commission need to take any action on MP's intention to assign energy costs through its Rider for Fuel and Purchased Energy ("FPE Rider")?
- Is the Blanchard Solar Project consistent with the Commission's July 18, 2016 Order approving MP's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (Docket No. 15-690)?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background: On July 18, 2016, in Docket No. 15-690, the Commission issued its [Order](#) approving Minnesota Power's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan with modifications. In its Order, the Commission approved MP's proposal to acquire 11 MW of solar generation by 2016, 12 MW by 2020, and 10 MW by 2025 to meet its solar energy standard (SES) obligations. However, the Commission also determined that "additional solar generation is likely a cost-effective resource for Minnesota Power's system." Specifically, the Commission found that "up to 100 MW of solar by 2022 is likely an economic resource for Minnesota Power's system" and required that "the Company account for this finding in any competitive acquisition process."

MP issued a request for proposals (RFP) on August 4, 2016, seeking power supply proposals for up to 300 MW of utility-scale solar generation that qualifies under Minnesota's SES. As a result of its evaluation, MP stated that pursuing the 10 MW Blanchard Solar Project would best serve customer needs.

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 (18) and the docket number (401), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket 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, Sean Stalpes, at sean.stalpes@state.mn.us or 651-201-2252.

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

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.