

March 30, 2020

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jessica Burdette
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: RESPONSIVE MEASURES TO COVID-19 DOCKET NO. E,G999/CI-20-375

Dear Mr. Seuffert and Ms. Burdette:

We are responding to your March 25 request relating to Responsive Measures to the Outbreak of COVID-19. On behalf of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency's eighteen member municipal utilities (listed below), all are committed to work with affected customers and communities by undertaking -- at minimum -- the following voluntary actions for the duration of the national security or peacetime emergency:

- I. Extend the protections of Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule provided under Minnesota Statutes sections 216B.096 (public utilities), 216B.097 (electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) and 216B.16, subdivisions 12 and 12a (small gas utility and small electric utility, respectively) by restricting disconnection of residential customers for non-payment of utility bills and reconnecting customers who have been disconnected for the duration of the national security or state peacetime emergency. This request shall not affect the utility's ability to disconnect a customer's service for public safety concerns unrelated to non-payment of services;
- II. Waive late fees that any residential or small business customer incurs because of the economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- III. Arrange payment plans for customers requesting help during this time that is based on the financial resources and circumstances of the customer.

SMMPA Member Utilities

Austin Public Utilities
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities
Fairmont Public Utilities
Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission*

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Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
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SMMPA Member Utilities (continued)

Lake City Utilities
Litchfield Public Utilities*
Mora Municipal Utilities
New Prague Municipal Utilities
North Branch Municipal Water and Light
Owatonna Public Utilities
Preston Public Utilities
Princeton Public Utilities
Redwood Falls Public Utilities
Rochester Public Utilities
Spring Valley Utilities
St. Peter Public Utilities
Waseca Utilities
Wells Public Utilities

* Awaiting approval from their governing body

A number of our members are taking steps beyond the minimums described above and several of them have responded individually to this request. As noted, two of our member utilities have indicated they intend to adopt these steps but are working through the formal approval process with their local governing body.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 507-292-6440 or email me at cp.schoenherr@smmpa.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher P. Schoenherr
Director of Agency and Governmental Relations &
Chief External Affairs Officer