

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: March 30, 2018

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Parameters for Competition Among Natural Gas Utilities Involving Duplication of Facilities and Use of Promotional Incentives and Other Payments

PUC Docket Number(s): G-999/CI-17-499

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes April 13, 2018 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes April 20, 2018 at 4:30pm

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

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Should Minnesota's gas utilities be required to stop offering unspecified competitive incentives or show cause why such offers should not be prohibited?

Background: On April 19, 2017, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) filed a complaint against Xcel Energy (Xcel). MERC alleged that Xcel's plans to extend natural gas service to a new Minnesota Vikings complex in Eagan—which MERC claimed was within its "natural (although not exclusive) service territory" — were inconsistent with state policy disfavoring the unnecessary duplication of facilities. Subsequent to review of initial and reply comments in Docket 17-305 the Commission dismissed the Complaint. In its order dismissing the Complaint (July 12, 2017) the Commission opened the present generic docket "to review and investigate (1) the parameters of inter-gas-utility competition that involves the duplication of existing facilities and (2) the use of promotional incentives and other non-tariffed payments provided by utilities to their existing customers and potential future customers." In response to a Commission request of September 26, 2017, the Commission received a number of comments from interested parties.

In a subsequent Complaint, filed on November 9, 2017 (Docket 17-802), MERC asked the Commission to "immediately suspend Xcel's unlawful use of its Competitive Agreement pending completion of the generic docket, where the Commission will consider the

propriety of promotional incentives.” At its hearing on February 22, 2018, the Commission suspended Xcel’s Natural Gas Competitive Agreement until the promotional incentive issue is resolved in the present docket. Further, the Commission decided to solicit comments on whether to bar utilities from adopting or using promotional tariffs similar to Xcel’s.

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 (17) and the docket number (499), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe* and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Kevin O’Grady, at 651-201-2218; Jason Bonnett at jason.bonnet@mn.state.us or 651-201-2235; or Bob Brill at bob.brill@state.mn.us or 651-201-2242.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Jamie Eschbach at 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.