

Hello MN Public Utilities Commission,

I am a lease holder of MN Power on Island Lake Reservoir just north of Duluth. I wanted to forward my letter asking for consideration for long term lease holding status as it pertains to the discussed lot buy out in the near future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please find my letter attached.

Best Regards,  
Mark

**Mark R. Ekeroth, ARM**  
Sr. Loss Control Representative  
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September 21, 2021

Ms. Katie Sieben, Chair MN Public Utilities Commission

Dear Ms. Sieben:

My name is Mark Ekeroth and I am primary lease holder on my family's cabin on Island Lake Reservoir. I believe my father, Harvey Ekeroth purchased our lease in approximately 1963 or 1964 from the origin lease owner. My father was a very stoic person and not one for telling us how much he loved all of us, but his endless work on the cabin spoke volumes. The cabin was for his family to love and cherish.

My folks were originally from Duluth but due to moves for my father's career with the Telephone Company, Northwestern Bell, we always lived in Roseville, MN and commuted to the cabin nearly every weekend in the summer. This was well before the 35 Freeway was built and my father built the cabin wall section by wall section during the week and then hauled a trailer full up nearly every weekend.

Needless to say, the cabin is thick with our family's history. My folks retired to the cabin after Dad retired in the late 1980's and it was there he would die trying to start a road grader to help grade the Otter River Road which our cabin is located on.

My only sibling, my brother Jon Ekeroth had me buy him out of the cabin about 10 years ago. I had not planned on pulling a mortgage since the cabin was paid for, but Jon was moving out of state and wanted out so I did what I had to do to get a mortgage to buy out his interest in the cabin. Now not 10 years later we are looking at the option to buy the land, another unplanned financial windfall expense as I near retirement, only seeing retirement creeping away from me with this possibly huge expense to buy our lot.

We have improved the land so much over the years from the driftwood choked shores my parents faced when they first got into the lease. They told me stories of there being over 50 feet of driftwood between shore and open water. They had to pull driftwood out to dry out and then

burn the driftwood when they could to get rid of it since it was such a project to get to open water.

Since the cabin has been in our family for over 50 years we believe the property sale value should be reduced to account for all the years we have paid on our lease and for all the improvements we have made to not only improve the lot, but continued upkeep to our break water to help save the lot from washing away due to erosion.

I propose MN Power to deduct 2.5% for every year we have leased with a cap of 30 or more years. We are from original leaseholder families who have not lead privileged lives but who have worked for what we have accomplished. My father was in the Navy and then worked to put himself though college with night classes while working and supporting his family. I have had a privileged life with being able to enjoy the cabin, but not that much on the financial side since I had to work to put myself through college at The University of Minnesota. Dad and mom helped me out with being able to stay at home for my first few years but I paid fully for my own education.

I am proud to own the cabin and keep it original to my father's original design and cabin feel. I love sharing our cabin with my family and they have plans to share the cabin with their families once they have children. I ask that a more equitable solution be developed which consider our years of leasing and family traditions. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Mark R. Ekeroth

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Warm regards,

Your Name

Title

Email

