



AN ALLETE COMPANY

Jennifer J. Peterson
Policy Manager
218-355-3202
jjpeterson@mnpower.com

June 20, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hanna Terwilliger
Rates Analyst
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Annual Report
On Progress in Achieving the Solar Energy Standard
Docket No. E999/M-17-283

Dear Ms. Terwilliger:

Enclosed please find Minnesota Power's Response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") information request number **1** in the above-referenced docket.

Please contact me at the phone number or email address above if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer J. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer J. Peterson

JJP:sr
Attach.

This question is: Trade Secret
 Public

**State of Minnesota
Public Utilities Commission**

Utility Information Request

Docket Number: E999/M-17-283 Date of Request: June 5, 2017

Requested From: Minnesota Power Response Due: June 19, 2017

Analyst Requesting Information: Hanna Terwilliger

Type of Inquiry:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rate of Return	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rate Design
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forecasting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cost of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annual Report Supplement

If you believe your responses are proprietary, please indicate.

Request Number	
PUC #1	Legislation passed in 2017 made changes to the Solar Energy Standard (SES) and other solar related statutes. Please file a brief supplement on how the legislation has impacted the Company's future compliance with the SES, in particular the small scale carve out.

MP Response:

Minnesota Power has been consistent in its approach to holistically meet its requirements under the Solar Energy Standard (“SES”) with activities and offerings in each pillar of its solar strategy: Utility, Community and Customer. Regarding the Small Scale Carveout specifically, while the 2017 legislative changes to the SES now make Community Solar Garden subscriptions eligible for compliance, Minnesota Power does not intend to make changes to its approved SolarSense program, which provides programs and rebates to incentivize customer-sited solar systems and will still be the primary driver to future compliance with the SES and the associated small scale carve out.

Minnesota Power has consistently communicated that offering a diverse set of solar program offerings for different customer and utility interests is the best way to both meet customer needs and also comply with the SES. Pilot programs, like the Company's Community Solar Garden Pilot Program, are important tools to test customer demand in different programs and are instrumental in refining the development of new products and services. Recent legislative changes do not change Minnesota Power's overall solar strategy and have no negative implications on its previously approved SolarSense program.

Preparer: Jennifer J. Peterson
Title: Policy Manager
Department: Regulatory Affairs
Telephone: 218-355-3202
Date: June 15, 2017