

Exhibit A

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
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August 7, 2009

E-MAIL WITH HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Ms. Julia Anderson, Attorney
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Bremer Tower, Suite 1400
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2131

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 2009 regarding Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) compliance with Minnesota's energy forecasting and integrated resource planning requirements.

As you may know, Basin Electric is a three-tier generation and transmission cooperative (G&T). Basin Electric serves 125 cooperatives in nine states. In Minnesota, Basin Electric serves four cooperatives as essentially their sole energy supplier. Eight other cooperatives operating in Minnesota are also members of Basin Electric's Class A members, East River Electric Cooperative and L & O Power Cooperative.

Basin Electric has made a concerted effort to comply with requirements related to its members located in the State of Minnesota. Basin Electric first met with Minnesota regulators in February 2008. At this meeting we provided an overview of the organization and sought advice on the new compliance activities facing Basin Electric since triggering the IRP definition of a "utility" with 10,000 "direct or indirect" customers in Minnesota. (See. Minn. Stat. 216B.2422, subd.1(b)). Following this meeting, after much work, Basin Electric filed its first IRP on July 18, 2008. This IRP was based off forecasting information in our 2007 Load Forecast.

At the repeated request of the Office of Energy Security (OES), even an initial response to the 2008 IRP has been delayed over a year. (The initial response is now due August 3, 2009.) Since filing the IRP over a year ago, the nation has experienced one of the most significant economic downturns in history. Like other electric generating entities, the economic recession has significantly affected the assumptions used to prepare Basin's 2008 IRP. The severe nature of the intervening economy has cast doubt on the relevancy and efficacy on some of the key assumptions contained in Basin Electric's 2008 filing. The next Basin IRP is due in less than a year.

Nonetheless, in connection with the 2008 IRP, the OES in July of 2009 has informally requested an incredible volume of forecasting information on each of Basin Electric's 125 cooperative members across a nine state region. Once in receipt of this acknowledged huge volume of information, the OES intends to review Basin Electric's data "over time."

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When and if the IRP process finally concludes, state law notes any MPUC order on the IRP is only "advisory." (See, 216B.2422 subd. 2).

Basin Electric agrees with the observation that discovery matters are generally to be interpreted liberally to elicit information required by law. As applied to Basin Electric, we would suggest the above facts applied to governing law exceed the very limits of even a "liberal" construction.

The very broad powers of discovery cited in Minn. Stat Section 216A.05, subd 3. are limited to a "regulated business." The extent and nature of Basin Electric's "regulated business" in Minnesota is quite limited. This raises the issue of whether an "advisory" Order of the MPUC constitutes a sufficiently "regulated" business to fall within the scope anticipated by the cited statute. In addition, Minn. Stat. 216B.13 contains a further relevant limitation permitting MPUC examination of records of a "public utility" relating to its business or affairs "within the state..." Finally, Basin Electric is not a "public utility," and therefore not subject to the provisions of Minn. Stat. 216B.13 or 216B.17.

To the extent that the information request is tailored as a requirement of compliance with Minn. Stat. 216C.17, and Minn. Rule 7610, Basin Electric has provided the information required relating to its Minnesota members. The more extensive requirements of system wide compliance do not apply to Basin Electric. (See, Minn. R. 7610.0300)

Finally, at the most basic level of objection, the OES's request is not "reasonable" failing the requirements of Minn. Rule 7843.0300 subp. 8.

Basin Electric is committed to assist the OES and the MPUC in timely, relevant compliance with reasonable information requests. Basin Electric is not seeking a discovery dispute over burdensome, marginally relevant information that has very limited regulatory value.

Basin Electric would welcome an early opportunity to informally meet with representatives of the OES and MPUC to explore alternate responses to the OES's requests.

Sincerely,



Casey J. Jacobson
Attorney

cjj/ds