



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR FILINGS FROM ELECTRIC UTILITIES ON CUSTOMERS EXCLUDED FROM THE SOLAR ENERGY STANDARD AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON FILINGS

Issued: July 25, 2013

In the Matter of the Implementation of Solar Energy Standards Pursuant to 2013 Amendments to Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.1691

PUC Docket Number: E-999/CI-13-542

Filings from Utilities Due: August 15, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Comment Period on Utility Filings: August 29, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power and Interstate Power and Light should file the following information by August 15, 2013:

1. Minnesota retail electric sales in kWh by major customer classes and in total for 2012. (If the total sales differ from those reported in E-999/PR-13-186, explain the difference.)
2. Calculation of 1.5% of retail electric sales, and 10% of the 1.5% goal, based on 2012 sales.
3. A list of current customers the utility believes will be excluded from their Solar Energy Standard (SES) obligations under 216B.1691, subd. 2f (d) (1) and (2). For each customer, identify the statutory category (i.e. paper mill, saw mill), the customer class, total kWh consumed in 2012, and maximum kW demand; also provide total customer and kWh numbers by class and overall.
4. Description of how the customers to be excluded were identified.
5. Calculation of 1.5% of retail electric sales, and 10% of the 1.5% goal, based on 2012 sales after customer exclusions.
6. An estimate of 1.5% retail sales, and 10% of the 1.5% goal, for 2020, without and with customer exclusions.

Topics Open for Comment on the Utility Filings:

- Have the utilities provided reasonable estimates of their SES obligations?
- Should the Commission establish criteria to be used by utilities in determining customer exclusions, such as kW demand, kWh usage, NAICS codes?
- Should the Commission establish procedures and/or require utilities to file tariffs relating to customer exclusions which address verification procedures, reporting requirements, customer petitions, or other related issues?

Background: Minn. Laws 2013, Article 10, Section, 3 amends Minn. Stat. §216B.1691 to add a solar energy standard (SES) for electric public utilities. These utilities must generate or procure sufficient electricity from solar energy such that 1.5% of total retail electric sales are so generated. However, for the purpose of calculating total retail electric sales, sales to the following customers are to be excluded: an iron mining extraction and processing facility including a scam mining facility, a paper mill, wood products manufacturer, sawmill, and oriented strand board manufacturer. Also, the costs of satisfying the SES may not be included in their rates.

The purpose of the information requested by this notice is to estimate the utilities' SES obligations and to determine the methodology for identifying exempted customers. The Commission intends to issue additional notice(s) in the future relating to implementation of the SES, including, but not limited to: measurement of the costs of satisfying the SES and mechanisms for excluding those costs from rates of exempted customers; content requirements for annual SES reports; and issues relating to Renewable Energy Credit (REC) ownership, shelf-life, and tracking.

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.

Submit Public Comments: E-mail to PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us.

Persons without e-mail access may send by U.S. mail to Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101-2147. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (13) and the docket number (542), select "Search."

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Questions about Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Janet Gonzalez, at [651-201-2231](tel:651-201-2231) or Susan Mackenzie at [651-201-2241](tel:651-201-2241).

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