

From: [Anita GRACE](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: jose.hispanicsinenergy.com
Subject: GRACE Multicultural Letter in support of Minnesota Power"s - E015/M-20-828
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 9:35:38 PM
Attachments: [GRACE_Support MN Power Solar.pdf](#)

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Good evening,

Please upload this letter in E015/M-20-828

Thank you,
Anita



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Board of Directors, [Latino Chamber of Commerce MN](#)





March 15th, 2021

Mr. Will Seuffert

121 7th Place E, Suite 350

St Paul, MN 55101

RE: Comments on E015/M-20-828

Dear Commissioners,

GRACE Multicultural, a local woman and minority-owned multicultural communications firm, writes this letter supporting Minnesota Power's solar recovery projects.

These projects will utilize local labor and locally made solar panels while bringing jobs to communities recently hurt by coal plant closures. Their efforts to keep business spending within the communities they serve are commendable.

Additionally, Minnesota Power has been a critical participant in the Energy Utility Diversity Group, which was established over the past two years to address diversity among the industry. As a participant in all meetings and discussions, Minnesota Power showed a significant commitment to diversity in its procurement processes. They have also made it a priority to focus on working with diverse suppliers in their community. They have presented a plan that takes into consideration recommendations proposed by the EUDG to diversify procurement processes. The plan outlines intent to separate and bid out individual major equipment and labor contracts in place of one major contract. They have also created an updated RFP process that documents and flags diverse suppliers and diverse spending. This will be a great example to other utilities on how to adapt, add to, and change current procurement processes to be more inclusive, thus expanding the pool of potential suppliers to do business with, which results in a win-win all the way around. For these reasons, we ask you to approve their request.

Sincerely,

Anita Grace

Anita Grace, MBA

CEO, GRACE Multicultural