



AN ALLETE COMPANY

May 12, 2026

**VIA E-FILING**

Sasha Bergman  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re:** In the Matter of Minnesota Power's  
Reconnect Pilot Program  
**Docket No. E015/M-19-766**  
**REPLY COMMENTS**

Dear Ms. Bergman:

Minnesota Power submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission these Reply Comments in response to the April 22, 2026 Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce ("Department") in the above referenced Docket.

Minnesota Power appreciates the Department's review of Minnesota Power's petition to terminate the Remote Reconnect Pilot Program, and the opportunity to provide the additional information requested by the Department. Please contact me at (218) 428-5901 or [dmencel@mnpower.com](mailto:dmencel@mnpower.com) with any questions related to this matter.

Respectfully,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Mencil".

Debbie Mencil  
Regulatory Compliance Specialist  
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Attach.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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In the Matter of Minnesota Power’s  
Reconnect Pilot Program.

Docket No. E015/M-19-766  
**REPLY COMMENTS**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

On April 1, 2026, Minnesota Power (or the “Company”) submitted a petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (or the “Commission”) to conclude the Remote Reconnect Pilot Program and transition to standard remote reconnection operations.<sup>1</sup> The Company submits these Reply Comments in response to Initial Comments filed on April 28, 2026 by the Department of Commerce (or the “Department”).

**II. RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT COMMENTS**

A. Program transition

*A.1. The department recommends the commission terminate Minnesota power’s reconnect pilot program and transition it to standard operations.*

*A.2. The department recommends the commission authorize Minnesota power to file necessary tariff updates reflecting the remote reconnection fee policy within 30 days of the commission’s order.*

Minnesota Power appreciates the Department’s support in the Company’s effort to terminate the Reconnect Pilot Program and transition it to standard operations.

B. SRSQ reporting

*B.1. The department withholds its final recommendation on the requirement to include reconnect pilot program-specific reporting requirements in its SRSQ. The department will submit a formal recommendation on this topic in reply comments.*

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<sup>1</sup> *1 In the Matter of Minnesota Power’s Reconnect Pilot Program, Minnesota Power, Petition, April 1, 2026, Docket No. E015/M-19-766, (eDockets) 20264-229911-01 (hereinafter “Petition”)*

In its initial comments, the Department supports elimination of Reconnect Pilot Program-specific reporting requirements or requirements that are replicated in the annual SRSQ filing. However, outside of the Reconnect Pilot Program reporting requirements, the annual SRSQ does not require MP to report data related to Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) customers. The Department believes that LIHEAP-related data remains important to assess outcomes for low-income customers within the annual SRSQ.

The Company appreciates the Department's focus on outcomes for low-income customers. Importantly, information regarding LIHEAP customers is included in the monthly Residential Customer Status Report under Docket No. E, G-999/PR-XX-2, as is information regarding the number of remote disconnections and remote reconnections. Similarly, information regarding LIHEAP customers is included in the annual Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity ("CARE") filing under Docket No. E015/M-11-409. The unique data reported in the SRSQ is the number of LIHEAP and self-declared customers with remote-capable meters and the average reconnection time based on customer status. The Company is agreeable to continue including this unique information within the SRSQ framework, as it is important for understanding trends over time and for informing affordability communications and programming.

### C. Reconnection fee

*C.1. The Department requests that Minnesota Power include, in reply comments, an update on its compliance with Order Point 4 of the Reconnect Pilot Program Order.*

*C.2. The Department recommends that the Commission approve Minnesota Power's request to continue its current policy of waiving the reconnection fee for remote-capable residential customers.*

*C.3. The Department recommends that the Commission require Minnesota Power to provide, in its next general rate case, testimony that delineates the cost of remote reconnections and the cost of on-site reconnections.*

The Company appreciates the Department's support of the Company's proposal to continue its current policy of waving the reconnection fee for remote-capable residential customers.

The Company respectfully notes that it did provide net cost changes associated with the Reconnect Pilot Program in Docket No. E015/GR-23-155<sup>2</sup>, as required by Order Point 4 of the Commission's December 9, 2020 Order approving Pilot Program<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, the Company reports the representative net cost changes specifically related to the Remote Reconnect Pilot in its annual SRSQ filings. Accordingly, Minnesota Power believes it complied with the reporting requirement established in Order Point 4 of the Commission's order. The Company is agreeable to providing information that delineates the cost of remote reconnections and the cost of on-site reconnections.

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<sup>2</sup> See *In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power For Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Utility Service in Minnesota*, Docket No. E015/GR-23-155, Volume 2 – Testimony – Gunderson – Transmission and Distribution, at 106

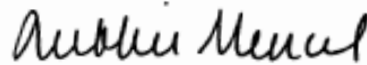
<sup>3</sup> Order Point 4, Pilot Program Order states: *Minnesota Power must provide testimony accounting for net cost changes due to remote reconnections in a future rate case to ensure that parties and the Commission are aware of the impacts on the representative test year costs.*

### III. CONCLUSION

The Company thanks the Department for its recommendation to terminate Minnesota Power's Reconnect Pilot Program and transition it to standard operations and appreciates the opportunity to address the Department's other requests in this matter. The Company remains committed to prudently leveraging technology as part of its efforts in providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to its unique customer base in northeastern and central Minnesota.

Dated: May 12, 2026

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Mencil". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA    )  
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COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS    )

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE VIA  
ELECTRONIC FILING

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I, Tiana C. Heger of the City of Duluth, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, hereby certify that on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, I electronically filed a true and correct copy of Minnesota Power’s Reply Comments in **Docket No. E015/M-19-766** on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Resources Division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce via electronic filing. The persons on eDocket’s Official Service List for this Docket were served as requested.



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Tiana C. Heger