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1/31/2018

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Comments of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association DOCKET NO.: 17-141

Date: 1/31/2018

Dear Mr. Wolf:

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) respectfully submits the attached comments in response to the request for comments from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued by the Commission in the above-referenced docket.

MREA represents the interests of the state's 45 electric distribution cooperatives and the six generation and transmission cooperatives that supply them with power. Our member cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utility businesses that are locally owned and governed by the member-consumers they serve.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in this matter on behalf of the member-owned electric cooperatives across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Horan

Jim Horan
Director of Government Affairs and Counsel
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

State of Minnesota
before the
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Nancy Lange
Dan Lipschultz
Matthew Schuerger
Katie Sieben
John Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

Comments of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association

DOCKET NO.: 17-141

Date: 1/31/18

Madam Chair and Commissioners,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) supports the comments filed by North Star Electric Cooperative in the above referenced docket. As locally regulated utilities both North Star Electric Cooperative and the City of Warroad set their own rates, fees, and policies. To the extent that a concern over those rates, fees or charges arises between a consumer-owned utility and a member-owner of that utility, the concern should be resolved locally. Minnesota Statute 216B.39 provides no authority for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to set rates, fees or charges for consumer-owned utilities. The sections of Minnesota Statute pertaining to service territory ask only that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approve exchanges by updating territory maps in the cases where the utilities agree to the transfer. Since both North Star Electric Cooperative and the City of Warroad agree to the territory transfer MREA respectfully requests the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission update the electric service territory maps to reflect the 2013 agreement between the two consumer-owned utilities and take no further action.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Horan

Jim Horan
Director of Government Affairs and Counsel
Minnesota Rural Electric Association