



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE FOR COMMENT ON CUSTOMER EXCLUSIONS FROM THE
SOLAR ENERGY STANDARD – PHASE 2**

Issued: December 3, 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
Comments Due: December 23, 2013 at 4:30 pm
Reply Comments: January 15, 2014 at 4:30 pm

Topics Open for Comment:

- What specific NAICS codes should be used to screen customers who are potentially eligible for exclusion from the Solar Energy Standard (SES), and why?
 - The list included in the Department of Commerce's August 29, 2013 comments?
 - The list included in Minnesota Power's August 15, 2013 filing?
 - Some other set of NAICS codes?
- What criteria other than NAICS codes, if any, should be used to make a final determination of customer eligibility?
 - Size or rate schedule criteria, such as having a minimum kW demand or being on a demand-metered or large C&I rate?
 - A certain percentage of customer activity being in a qualified NAICS code?
 - The specific statutory activity tied to a facility, account, and/or meter? For example, if a customer who qualifies by NAICS code has its manufacturing facility on one meter and its headquarters office on a different meter, does the latter qualify? Does it matter if the headquarters office is at a different site than the manufacturing facility?
 - Some other criteria?
- What information should customers who apply for exclusion be required to provide?

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.

On November 20, 2013, the Commission issued its ORDER ESTABLISHING NAICS CODES AS INITIAL SCREEN TO DETERMINE EXCLUSION FROM SOLAR ENERGY STANDARD AND SETTING FURTHER REQUIREMENTS in this docket. The Commission found that the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) should be the initial screen for determining whether customers are excluded from the SES, and indicated that it would ask parties to provide additional comment on the specific NAICS categories that should qualify for exclusion. The Commission delegated to the Executive Secretary the authority to issue notices and establish timelines and procedures.

Further notices and/or orders will be issued which will address the specific timing for utilities to file the customer notice proposals and customer application forms for exclusions required by the November 20, 2013 Order. Staff encourages utilities to begin work internally and with interested stakeholders on these matters.

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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