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March 15, 2017

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

**Re: Dakota Electric Association Petition to
Implement an Optional Communication Fee for Schedules 46 and 54
Docket No. E-111/M-17-___**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Dakota Electric Association (Dakota Electric or Cooperative) submits the attached Petition requesting Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or MPUC) approval to implement an Optional Communication Fee for Schedules 46 and 54. The proposed Optional Communication Fee is associated with special metering that is necessary for the member to participate in available optional riders.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this petition, please contact me at (651) 463-6258.

Sincerely,

/s/ Douglas R. Larson

Douglas R. Larson
Vice President of Regulatory Services
Dakota Electric Association
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-6258
dlarson@dakotaelectric.com

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A
DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
PETITION TO IMPLEMENT AN OPTIONAL
COMMUNICATION FEE FOR SCHEDULES 46 & 54

DOCKET No. E-111/M-17-_____

SUMMARY

On March 15, 2017, Dakota Electric Association (Dakota Electric or Cooperative) submitted a petition requesting Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or MPUC) approval to implement an Optional Communication Fee for Schedules 46 and 54. The proposed Optional Communication Fee is associated with special metering that is necessary for the member to participate in available optional riders.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Nancy Lange	Chair
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Matthew Schuenger	Commissioner
Katie Sieben	Commissioner
John Tuma	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF A
DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
PETITION TO IMPLEMENT AN OPTIONAL
COMMUNICATION FEE FOR SCHEDULES 46 & 54

DOCKET NO. E-111/M-17-____
MARCH 15, 2017

PETITION OF DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

I. Introduction

Dakota Electric Association (Dakota Electric or Cooperative) submits the following Petition requesting Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or MPUC) approval to implement an Optional Communication Fee for Schedules 46 and 54. The proposed Optional Communication Fee is associated with special metering that is necessary for the member to participate in available optional riders.

II. Filing Requirements

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 1 and Minn. Rule 7829.1300, Dakota Electric provides the following required general filing information.

1. Summary of Filing (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp.1)

A one paragraph summary accompanies this Petition.

2. Service on Other Parties (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 2)

Pursuant to Minn. Rules 7829.1300, subp. 2, Dakota Electric eFiles this Petition on the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources and the Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division.

3. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Utility (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(A))

Dakota Electric Association
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
(651) 463-6212

4. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Utility Attorney (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(B))

Eric F. Swanson
Winthrop & Weinstine
225 South Sixth Street, Suite 3500
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-4629

5. Date of Filing and Date Proposed Rate Takes Effect (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(C))

This Petition is being filed on March 15, 2017. Minn. Rule 7825.3200 requires that utilities serve notice to the Commission at least 90 days prior to the proposed effective date of modified rates. The proposed Optional Communication Fee will take effect upon Commission approval, but no sooner than June 13, 2017.

6. Statute Controlling Schedule for Processing the Filing (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp.4(D))

This Petition is made pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16. Dakota Electric's proposed Optional Communication Fee falls within the definition of a "Miscellaneous Tariff Filing" under Minn. Rules 7829.0100, subp. 11. Minn. Rules 7829.1400, subp. 1 and 4 specify that comments in response to a miscellaneous filing be filed within 30 days, and reply comments be filed no later than 10 days from the expiration of the original comment period.

7. Utility Employee Responsible for Filing (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(E))

Douglas R. Larson
Vice President of Regulatory Services
Dakota Electric Association
4300 220th Street West
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dlarson@dakotaelectric.com

8. Impact on Rates and Services (Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(F))

The proposed Optional Communication Fee is a new offering and will not affect tariffed rates for other existing services. The Optional Communication Fee proposed in this

petition would only apply to circumstances where the Dakota Electric retail member participates in an optional rider.

The additional information required under Minn. Rule 7829.1300, subp. 4(F) is included throughout this Petition.

III. Petition

Background

Dakota Electric uses several types of meters to measure consumption for service to our members. The capabilities of the meters vary by the information requirements for the service being provided. For example, most residential services have a meter that measures energy (kWh) consumption and is read manually each month. For larger firm service commercial accounts, the meters measure both energy (kWh) and demand (kW) and are read manually each month. For Dakota Electric's C&I Interruptible service (Schedules 70 and 71), the meters must measure energy, demand, and be capable of storing all demand readings to identify the member demand during the time of our wholesale power provider's monthly coincident peak. Not only do the meters for Schedules 70 and 71 need to store all of this information, but they must have capabilities to transfer the information to Dakota Electric through remote automated means. This means that each such meter must have digital cellular modem communication capabilities, for which Dakota Electric charges a monthly communication fee.

Proposed Communication Fee

Dakota Electric recently implemented two riders that will require the installation of recording demand meters with digital cellular modem communication capabilities like those required for Schedules 70 and 71. The Member Specific Discount (MSD) Rider and the Large Load High Load Factor (LLHLF) Rider each require Dakota Electric to record, store, and provide detailed consumption data to Great River Energy. Customers who qualify for these riders and choose to participate will receive their firm electric service under either the General Service (Schedule 46) or General Service Time-of-Day (Schedule 54) rate schedules. Since detailed metering and communication is necessary to participate

in the riders, Dakota Electric requests the addition of a clause to each of these rate schedules. The proposed “Optional Communication Fee” clause states:

A monthly Communication Fee of \$8.70 will be applied to accounts that participate in riders that require the collection and storage of energy and demand consumption data that is transmitted to the Association by means of digital cellular modem communication.

The Optional Communication Fee amount of \$8.70 per month included in the proposed clause for Schedule 46 and Schedule 54 (attached) is the same monthly fee applied to Schedules 70 and 71 that has been approved by the Commission.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the information provided in this filing, Dakota Electric requests Commission approval of the Optional Communication Fee proposed for Schedules 46 and 54.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this petition, please contact me at (651) 463-6258.

Dated: March 15, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Douglas R. Larson

Douglas R. Larson
Vice President of Regulatory Services
Dakota Electric Association
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-6258

Certificate of Service

I, Cherry Jordan, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the attached document to those on the following service list by e-filing, personal service, or by causing to be placed in the U.S. mail at Farmington, Minnesota.

Docket No. E-111/M-17-___

Dated this 15th day of March, 2017

/s/ Cherry Jordan

Cherry Jordan

SCHEDULE 46
GENERAL SERVICE
(Continued)

Optional Communication Fee

A monthly Communication Fee of \$8.70 will be applied to accounts that participate in riders that require the collection and storage of energy and demand consumption data that is transmitted to the Association by means of digital cellular modem communication.

Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA)

The Energy Charge shall be adjusted for incremental changes in purchased power costs, incremental changes in Dakota Electric's conservation tracker account balance, and incremental changes in real and personal property taxes above or below the appropriate base costs. The conservation tracker account factor shall be calculated as described in the Resource Adjustment Rider (Sheet 51). The real and personal property tax factor shall be calculated as described in the Property Tax Adjustment Rider (Sheet 53). The purchased power cost factor shall be adjusted by \$0.0001 per kilowatt-hour or major fraction thereof, of which the Association's total projected power cost per kilowatt-hour annually exceeds, or is less than \$0.0903 per kilowatt-hour sold. The year used for the annualized RTA will be January 1 through December 31. The projection shall be reviewed after six months (July) and adjusted if necessary. The RTA shall be filed with the Public Utilities Commission each year before implementation.

Taxes

The rates set forth are based on taxes as of January 1, 2014. The amount of any increase in existing or new taxes on the transmission, distribution, or sales of electricity allocable to sales hereunder, excluding real and personal property taxes already recovered through the RTA, shall be added to the above rate as appropriate.

Terms of Payment

The above charges are net. Balances over \$10.00 not received by the Association by the next scheduled billing date will have an interest charge of 1.5 percent or \$1.00, whichever is greater, added to the balance.

SCHEDULE 54
GENERAL SERVICE
OPTIONAL TIME-OF-DAY RATE
(Continued)

Power Factor Adjustment

The member agrees to maintain as near unity (100 percent) power factor as practicable. The Association reserves the right to measure such power factor at any time. Should such measurements indicate that the average power factor is less than 90 percent, the demand for billing purposes shall be the demand as recorded by the demand meter multiplied by 90 percent and divided by the percent power factor.

Primary Voltage Service

A discount of \$0.15/kW will be applied to the Maximum Billing Demand when the service is taken by the member at the available primary voltage. If primary metering is used, an additional discount of 2.0 percent shall be applied to the bill. The 2.0 percent discount shall be applied after the \$0.15/kW discount.

Optional Communication Fee

A monthly Communication Fee of \$8.70 will be applied to accounts that participate in riders that require the collection and storage of energy and demand consumption data that is transmitted to the Association by means of digital cellular modem communication.

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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Corey	Hintz	chintz@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th Street Farmington, MN 550249583	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Douglas	Larson	dlarson@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
John	Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Pam	Marshall	pam@energycents.org	Energy CENTS Coalition	823 7th St E St. Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Ron	Spangler, Jr.	rlspangler@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company	215 So. Cascade St. PO Box 496 Fergus Falls, MN 565380496	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	GEN_SL_Dakota Electric Association_General Service List