

April 10, 2024

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

RE: **Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce**
Docket No. E208, E115-SA-24-134

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached are the comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Austin Utilities and Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries.

Austin Utilities and Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative filed the petition on March 22, 2024.

The filing constitutes a joint request on behalf of Austin Utilities and Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (collectively the Parties) to enter into a Transfer of Service Territory Rights Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement allows Austin Utilities to provide electrical service to the proposed two residential homes and six commercial residents in Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative service territory.

The Department concludes that the Joint Request meets the Commission's requirements regarding service area transfers as indicated on the attached checklist and appears to be in order. Therefore, the Department requests MNGEO update the service territory map, to reflect the changes on the map as provided.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sydnie Lieb
Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Analysis

SL/ad
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce

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CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING AGREED UPON SERVICE AREA TRANSFERS AND EXCEPTIONS

- ☒ A cover letter with the submitter's full contact information, including where to provide electronic service.
- ☒ A joint letter explaining the change.
 - ☒ Contact information for both utilities: Name, title, phone number, work address, email. Utility Petition Pg. 2.
 - ☒ Contact information, of the individual who will update the electronic service territory map. Utility Petition Pg. 2.
 - ☒ Legal description of the property. Utility Petition Exhibit A pg. 2.
 - ☒ Short explanation of why the agreement is consistent with Minn. Stat. § 216B.39. Utility Petition pg. 1-2.

Filing is related to:

- ☒ Several permanent boundary changes, or
- ☐ Service by exception. The parties agree the limited right to serve by exception does not convey permanent rights to serve the exception area.
- ☒ Settlement Agreement, if applicable. Utility Exhibit B Pg. B-3.
 - ☒ If yes, signed by authorized representatives of both utilities. Exhibit B Pg. B-4.
- ☒ A digital (PDF) map with the proposed transfer or exception clearly outlined. Utility Exhibit A Pg. A-1.
- ☐ Transfer or exception takes place on one of the Federally Recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota. Not applicable for this filing.
 - ☐ If yes, utility documented consultation with the affected Tribal Nation at page ____.
- ☒ Affected customers received written notice, including utility and Commission contact information. Table with type and number of customers affected and notice date(s). Utility Exhibit B pg. B-2 and Exhibit C.