

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Beverly Jones Heydinger  
Nancy Lange  
Dan Lipschultz  
John A. Tuma  
Betsy Wergin

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Minnesota Power's 2014  
Annual Safety, Reliability, and Service-Quality  
Report and Proposed Annual Reliability  
Standards for 2015

ISSUE DATE: December 22, 2015

DOCKET NO. E-015/M-15-323

ORDER ACCEPTING REPORT AND  
SETTING 2015 RELIABILITY  
STANDARDS

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On April 1, 2015, Minnesota Power (Minnesota Power or the Company) filed its *Safety, Reliability and Service Quality Standards Report* under Minnesota Rules chapter 7826. The report contained safety, reliability, and service-quality data for 2014 and proposed reliability standards for 2015.

On July 30, 2015, the Company filed a supplement regarding its plans to consolidate service centers.

From July 31 to November 4, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department) and Minnesota Power exchanged comments on the following topics:

- the Company's reporting of instances where voltages exceeded national standards;
- a two-year decline in the percentage of involuntarily disconnected customers restored to service within 24 hours;
- the Company's refunding of all customer deposits in 2014;
- potential changes to the Company's method of calculating estimated bills to reduce the instance of large "catch-up" billings; and
- the Company's plans for its former service centers in Nisswa, Aurora, and Chisholm.

The Department ultimately concluded that Minnesota Power had reasonably responded to its concerns. On November 16, it recommended that the Commission accept Minnesota Power's safety, reliability, and service-quality report and set the Company's reliability standards for 2015 at the levels it proposed.

On December 10, 2015, the Commission met to consider the matter.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

On or before April 1 of each year, a utility must file a report on its safety, reliability, and service-quality performance during the last calendar year.<sup>1</sup> Utilities must also propose reliability performance standards for the current year.<sup>2</sup> The Commission sets reliability performance standards for each utility annually.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission has examined the record, including Minnesota Power’s report, the Department’s comments, and the Company’s responses to those comments. The Commission concurs with the Department that the Company’s report complies with Minnesota Rules chapter 7826 and relevant Commission orders and that the proposed 2015 reliability standards are reasonable. Accordingly, the Commission will accept the report and proposed reliability standards.

## ORDER

1. The Commission accepts Minnesota Power’s April 1, 2015 safety, reliability, and service quality report as complying with Minnesota Rules chapter 7826 and relevant Commission orders.
2. The Commission sets Minnesota Power’s 2015 proposed reliability standards at the levels indicated below:

<b>2015 Standards</b>		
<b>SAIDI</b>	<b>SAIFI</b>	<b>CAIDI</b>
97.13	1.01	96.17

3. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary



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<sup>1</sup> Minn. R. 7826.0400, .0500, subp. 1, and .1300.

<sup>2</sup> Minn. R. 7826.0600, subp. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Minn. R. 7826.0600, subp. 2.