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June 8, 2017

**VIA E-Filing**  
Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place E, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Re: Petition  
Request for Variance – IRP Filing  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) respectfully submits the attached Petition requesting approval of a variance to Minn. R. 7843.0300, Subp.2.

We have served a copy on the Minnesota Attorney General's Office – Residential Utilities Division and on all parties on the attached service list.

Please contact me at (612) 349-6868 if you require any additional information.

Very truly yours,

**Avant Energy, Inc.**  
Agent for MMPA

/s/ Oncu Er  
Oncu Er

Enclosures  
cc: Service List



First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Julia	Anderson	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Ian	Dobson	Residential.Utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Ed	Ehlinger	Ed.Ehlinger@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Health	P.O. Box 64975  St. Paul, MN 55164-0975	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Oncu	Er	oncu.er@avantenergy.com	Avant Energy, Agent for MMPA	220 S. Sixth St. Ste. 1300  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Dave	Frederickson	Dave.Frederickson@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 North Robert Street  St. Paul, MN 551552538	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Thomas	Landwehr	tom.landwehr@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	Box 37, 500 Lafayette Rd  St. Paul, Minnesota 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
James D.	Larson	james.larson@avantenergy.com	Avant Energy Services	220 S 6th St Ste 1300  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Brian	Napstad	bnapstad@yahoo.com	Board of Water and Soil Resources	51227 Long Point Place  McGregor, MN 55780	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Charles	Zelle	charlie.zelle@state.mn.us	Department of Transportation	MN Dept of Transportation 395 John Ireland Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-1165_Special list

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Nancy Lange	Chair
Dan Lipschultz	Vice-chair
Matt Schuerger	Commissioner
John Tuma	Commissioner
Katie Sieben	Commissioner

In the Matter of Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Request for Variance to Commission Rules Governing IRP Filings ) Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
)

**PETITION**

Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (“MMPA”) respectfully petitions the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for approval of a variance to the Commission’s Utility Resource Planning Rules.

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.3200, MMPA requests a variance to Minn.R. 7843.0300, Subp. 2 (“Filing Requirements and Procedures”) to allow MMPA a one-year delay to August 1, 2018, to file its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). MMPA requests additional time to submit its Integrated Resource Plan because several additional months are necessary to identify and plan MMPA’s next energy resource in sufficient detail to include in its Integrated Resource Plan. That next resource will be a Large Energy Resource and is likely to be in service before MMPA files its subsequent IRP. When MMPA files its IRP on August 1, 2018, if the variance is granted, MMPA intends to combine the Certificate of Need for the planned Large Energy Resource with its IRP filing pursuant to M.S. 216B.2422, Subd. 6.

**I. SUMMARY OF FILING**

A one-paragraph summary of the filing accompanies this Petition.

**II. SERVICE ON OTHER PARTIES**

MMPA has electronically filed this document with the Commission. A summary of the filing has been served on all parties on MMPA's miscellaneous electric service list.

**III. GENERAL FILING INFORMATION**

**A. Name, Address & Telephone Number of Utility**

Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
220 South 6th Street, Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 349-6868

**B. Name, Address & Telephone Number of Utility Attorney**

Laurance R. Waldoch, Esq.  
2597 Parkview Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55110  
(612) 850-6869

**C. Date of Filing**

The date of filing is June 8, 2017.

**D. Person Responsible for Filing**

Oncu Er  
VP Planning  
Minnesota Municipal Power Agency  
220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 349-6868

#### **IV. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF FILING**

##### **A. Background**

Minnesota Municipal Power Agency is required to file with the Commission an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) every two years pursuant to Minn. R. 7843.0300. MMPA filed its third IRP on December 20, 2013, which covered the period 2014-2028 and was accepted by the Commission on February 10, 2015 in Docket No. ET-6133/RP-13-1165.

##### **B. Applicable Law**

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7843.300, MMPA's next IRP is due on August 1, 2017 (2017 IRP).

##### **C. Requested Action**

MMPA respectfully requests a variance of twelve months, until August 1, 2018, to file its next IRP. As discussed below, MMPA believes its request satisfies the requirements for granting a variance established under Minn. R. 7829.3200.

###### *1. Enforcement of the Rule Would Impose Excessive Burden*

MMPA has undertaken the planning of its next major Large Energy Resource. At this juncture, MMPA is still in the process of evaluating possible resource options. Once the potential resource is identified, numerous and detailed planning activities will be undertaken. MMPA reasonably believes that these evaluation and planning processes will take several months. Stopping those critical evaluation and planning processes to prepare an IRP by August 1, 2017, would be an excessive burden on MMPA's limited planning resources, possibly delaying MMPA's next resource. Given MMPA's staffing limitations, MMPA believes that the most prudent approach to both the IRP process and the planning of MMPA's next major resource would be granting a variance to MMPA until August 1, 2018, so MMPA can complete the planning of its next major resource and prepare a combined IRP and Certificate of Need application for filing on August 1, 2018.

2. *Granting a Variance Will Not Adversely Affect the Public Interest*

The public interest will not be adversely affected by granting MMPA a twelve-month variance to file its IRP. An IRP is only beneficial when its planning is accurate. MMPA's long range planning is changing significantly at the present time with the planning for the addition of a Large Energy Resource. MMPA is concerned that if required to submit its IRP by August 1, 2017, it could not provide the most thorough and accurate resource plan. MMPA believes its resource planning process and the public interest would be better served by allowing MMPA a twelve-month extension to allow sufficient time to plan the next resource and prepare a combined IRP and Certificate of Need application for filing on August 1, 2018.

3. *Granting a Variance Will Not Conflict with Standards Imposed by Law*

Granting the variance will not conflict with standards imposed by law. The two-year requirement is imposed by Commission Rule, Minn. R. 7843.0300. The Commission's rules permitting variances contemplate variances under circumstances such as those presented here. The Commission granted a one-year variance in 2010 stating that granting the variance would not conflict with the standards imposed by law. See Docket No. ET-6133/RP08-927, Order Accepting Resource Plan, Granting Variance, and Setting Further Requirements, at p.3 (June 28, 2013). MMPA submits that its changing resource mix warrants a twelve-month variance here.

**V. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated herein, MMPA respectfully requests that the Commission grant a twelve-month variance until August 1, 2018, to MMPA for the filing of its fourth IRP in a combined CON/IRP application.



Dated: June 8, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

**Avant Energy, Inc.**  
Agent for MMPA

*/s/ Oncu Er* \_\_\_\_\_

Oncu Er  
VP Planning