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July 2, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING** 

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
350 Metro Square Building
121 Seventh Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Joint Request of Owatonna Public Utilities and Steele-

Waseca Cooperative Electric to Update Electric Service Territory Records

MPUC Docket: \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Our File No.: 12614-0034

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

I represent Owatonna Public Utilities, a Minnesota municipal utility (the "Municipal"), which is authorized, on behalf of the Municipal and Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (the "Cooperative") (collectively, the "Parties") to make this filing.

### Summary of the Joint Request

This filing constitutes the Parties' joint petition that the MPUC update the official service territory map to reflect an agreed-upon change in the Parties' electric service territory boundaries. This joint request concerns the permanent transfer of three areas located within the electric service territory assigned to the Cooperative (identified as the "Transfer Areas") to the Municipal, as further described below.

#### Legal Authorities

Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.44(a), a municipal utility expands its assigned electric service territory, upon reaching agreement with the neighboring utility as to compensation: "Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 216B.38 to 216B.42, whenever a municipality which owns and operates an electric utility (1) extends its corporate boundaries through annexation or consolidation, or (2) determines to extend its service territory within its existing corporate boundaries, the municipality shall thereafter furnish electric service to these areas unless the area is already receiving electric service

from an electric utility, in which event, the municipality may purchase the facilities of the electric utility serving the area." Minn. Stat. § 216B.44(a). In addition, "no electric utility shall render or extend electric service at retail within the assigned service area of another electric utility unless the electric utility consents thereto in writing . . ." Minn. Stat. § 216B.40 (2018).

In the present case, the transfer occurred pursuant to Section 216B.44: the Transfer Areas lie within the city limits; the Parties have agreed upon appropriate compensation; and the Parties have agreed to the Municipal providing service upon a mutually agreed-upon schedule.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.39, subd. 3 addresses changes to the assigned service territory map after 1975: "the commission may on its own or at the request of an electric utility make changes in the boundaries of the assigned service areas, but only after notice and hearing . . ." By its terms, Section 216B.44(a) excludes Section 216B.39. Minn. Stat. § 216B.44(a) ("notwithstanding the provisions of sections 216B.38 to 216B.42,"). Nonetheless, the Parties acknowledge the public policy in having an accurate and updated official service territory boundary map. Accordingly, the Parties request that the Commission update its official records as to electric service territory boundaries to reflect the Parties' permanent change in the Transfer Areas.

### Underlying Information

Attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> is a map and legal description that depicts the boundaries of the Transfer Areas. The Transfer Areas involve approximately 200.65 acres, one existing commercial customer, and one future industrial customer that is under construction and being served by the Cooperative.

The Parties engaged in technical discussions to minimize any disruption to customers, to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, and to ensure a smooth transition of electric service. In light of these discussions, and at the request of the customer, the Parties agreed to transfer electric service to the one existing commercial customer in the Wildung North Addition on June 6, 2020. The Parties are pleased to report that the transfer occurred safely, efficiently, and without technical difficulties.

### **Customer Notice**

The Parties acknowledge that the Commission wishes to direct separate notice to customers as to the pending proceeding before the Commission. Attached as <a href="Exhibit B">Exhibit B</a> is a proposed notice to be sent to all customers in the Transfer Areas.

#### Contact Information

If there are any questions concerning this filing, you may contact the following representatives:

Owatonna Public Utilities:

Roger Warehime General Manager 208 Walnut Avenue P.O. Box 800

Owatonna, MN 55060 Phone: (507) 451-2480

Roger. Warehime@owatonnautilities.com

Ronnie Johnson Director, Engineering Services Owatonna Public Utilities 208 S Walnut Ave P.O. Box 800 Owatonna, MN 55060 Phone: (507) 451-2480

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Kaela Brennan McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb, Chtd. 800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402

Phone: 612-338-2525 kmb@mcgrannshea.com Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric:

Syd Briggs General Manager

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2411 West Bridge Street, PO Box 485

Owatonna, MN 55060-0485 Phone: (507) 451-7340

sbriggs@swce.coop

Sara McGrane Felhaber Larson 220 South 6th Street

Suite 2200 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4504

Phone: 612-339-6321 Fax: 612-338-0535 smcgrane@felhaber.com

#### Request

The Parties therefore petition the Commission to accept and file these documents and provide due acknowledgment thereof. The Parties further request that the Commission provide evidence of its acknowledgment of these changes of service territory boundaries, and the updating of the official service territory records.

### **Proposed Service List**

A copy of this letter and the accompanying documents has been mailed or emailed to the persons on the enclosed proposed service list.

Please contact the representatives above if you have any questions.

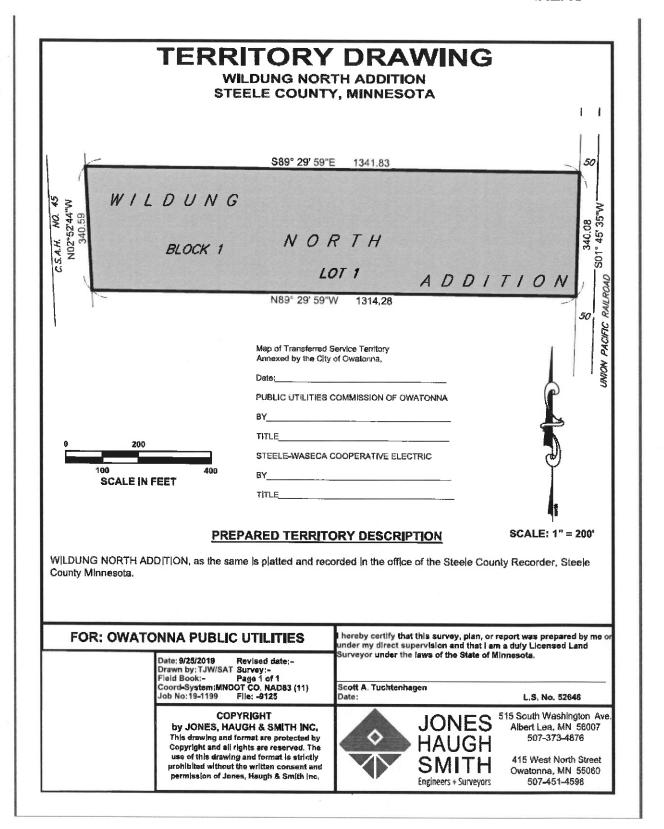
Sincerely,

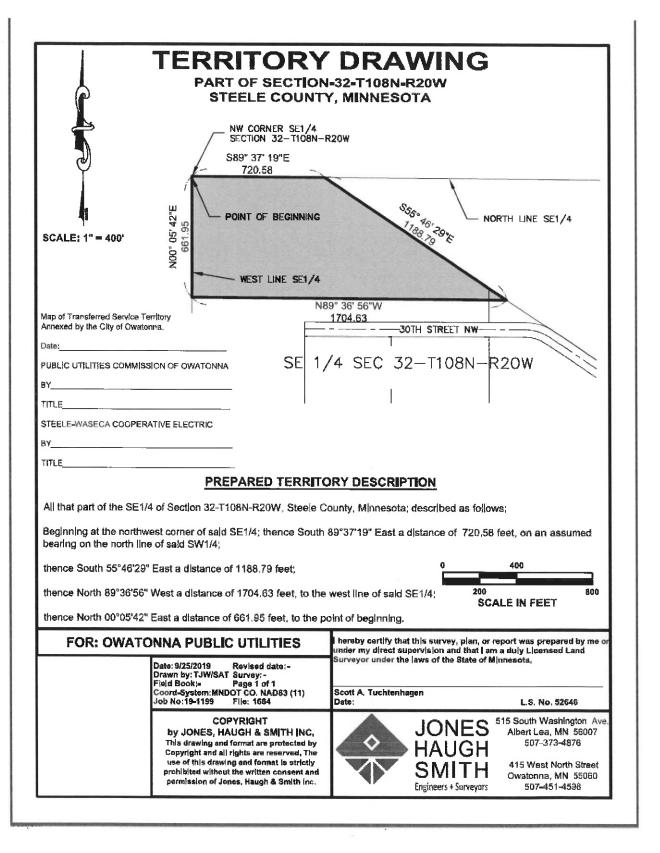
Kathleen M. Brennan

**Enclosures** 

cc (w/encl.): Proposed Service List

# **EXHIBIT A: MAPS & LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS OF TRANSFER AREAS**





## TERRITORY DRAWING

PART OF SECTION 18-T107N-R20W STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Owatanna, MN 55050 507-451-4535

Engineers + Supresors

#### PREPARED TERRITORY DESCRIPTION Perceis 8, 9, and 10 of STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT 75.00 NORTH LINE NET/4 NO,14: 75.IA \$89° 30' 30"E N#1/4 NE1/4 P20W \$89\* 39' 26"E And The South 50,00 feet of the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 18-T107N-R20W, Steele County, East of Parcel 9 of STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO, 14: 7007 SEC HON The North 33,00 feet of the West 75,00 feet of the NW1/4 NE1/4 Section ř NORTH LINE SOUTH 50 FEET OF NWI/4 NEI/4 And SECTION The North 33.00 feet of the East 75.00 feet of the NW1/4 Section 18-T107N-R20W And The SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 18-T107N-R20W, Steele County, East of 389" 31' 52"E 50.00 Parcel 8 of STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 14; 1254.96 5/02E/ 5/ And MES/4 The SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 16-T107N-R20W, Steele County, Minnesota; 50,00 NORTH LINE 50,00 SW1/4 NE1/4 NO0" 02' 05"W Ànd SE1/4 | the W1/2 of the SE1/4 of Section 18-T107N-R20W, East of Parcel No. 10 of STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 14, less and except Parcel No. 32A of Microsota Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat No. 1368.07 0\* 03\* 52\*W 볼 74-33; And PEST PEST All that part of the Parcel No. 32A of Minnesota Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat No. 74-33 in the W1/2 of the SE1/4 Section 18-T107N-R20W. Spor Sleele County, Minnesotal, And The East 75,00 feet of Parcel No. 32A of Minnesola Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat No. 74-33, is the SW1/4 of Section 18-T107N-R2W, Steeler County, Minnesota. EAST LINE PARCEL 10 Map of Translatted Service Tentiory Annualed by the City of Owstonna, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OWATCHNA 2877 EAST LINE WI/2 SE1/4 SECTION 18-TOO?N-ROOW 60 5005 STEELE-WASECA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC W/2 SET/4 SECTION 18-1707N-920N \$89° 20' 22°E 1323.87 SECTION 18-TIDING-RESON LIME MIN'S SEL/4 30.00 SET/4 SECTION 18-1707N-920N EAST LINE PARCEL, 10 337.84 17 13 W EST SW7/4 SECTION 18-TYO'M-R20W SCALE: 1" = 500 N89°16'53"W 75.01 PARCEL 32A MINNESOTA GEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHT OF WAY PLAT NO. 74.33 N89" 11" 05"W 1000 SCALE IN FEET hereby sertify that this survey, plan, or report was prepared by me o under my direct separaision and that I am a duly Licensed Lend Surveyor under the laws of the State of Minnessta. FOR: OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES LOCATION MAP atei 10/01/2018 rawn byi SAT Revised date: wn by SAT Survey SAT d Book;- Page 1 of 1 rd-System: MNDOT CO, NADES (11) No. 18-1382 Film EdR Scott A. Tuchtenhagen Date: NEW4 COPYRIGHT by JUNES, HAUGH & SMITH INC. 515 South Washington Ave Albert Lea, MN 56007 **JONES** The disastes and formal are producted by Copyright and all rights are reserved. The sale of this drawing and terrest is stirlely pathalized eithman the welfare conserved and pairwission of Josess, Heigh & Smith Inc. 0 507-373-4876 HAUGH SMITH

### PROPOSED SERVICE LIST

In the Matter of the Joint Request of Owatonna Public Utilities and Steele-Re: Waseca Cooperative Electric to Update Electric Service Territory Records

| MPUC Docket: |  |
|--------------|--|
|              |  |

Via Electronic Filing

Will Seuffert

**Executive Secretary** 

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Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Sharon Ferguson

MN Department of Commerce 857th Place East. Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Via Electronic Filing

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Via Electronic Filing

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Office of the Attorney General-RUD

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**Courtesy Copies** 

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