

July 16, 2021

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, Division of Energy Resources
Docket No. E143/SA-21-420

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached are the *Comments* of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) in the following matter:

The Joint Request of the City of Wadena and Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative for approval to Update Electric Service Territory Records.

The petition was filed June 22, 2021 by:

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

The Department recommends that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve the requested permanent service territory transfer from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative to the City of Wadena and is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ JOHN KUNDERT
Financial Analyst

JPK/ja
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Docket No. E143/SA-21-420

I. BACKGROUND

The City of Wadena (“Wadena” or “the Municipal”) is an electric municipal utility organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (“TWEC” or “the Cooperative”) is an electric distribution cooperative organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

II. SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

On June 22, 2021, the Municipal and Cooperative, collectively the Parties, jointly filed a petition under Minn. Stat. § 216B.44, asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to modify the Parties’ service territory boundaries. Approval of the Parties’ request would permanently transfer the Affected Area located within the City limits of Wadena and within the electric service territory assigned to the Cooperative, from TWEC to Wadena.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

A. TRANSFER OF THE AFFECTED AREA FROM THE COOPERATIVE TO THE MUNICIPAL

The petition’s Exhibit A is a map of the Affected Area, which involves four areas approximately 42 acres and temporary/construction service for one customer.

Exhibit B to the Petition contains the Legal Description of the Affected Areas, which is as follows:

All of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section One (1), Township One Hundred Thirty Four (134), Range Thirty-six (36) lying North of the right-of-way of Trunk Highway 10, EXCEPT that part thereof West of the following described Line: Commencing at the cast iron monument which designates the Northwest corner of Section One (1), Township One Hundred Thirty-four (134), Range Thirty-six (36); thence South 89° 52’ 14” East. 3672.68 feet on an assumed bearing along the North line of said Section One (1) to the point of beginning of the boundary line to herein described; thence South 00° 12’ 39” East, 29.44 feet to an iron monument; thence continuing South 00° 12’ 39” East 165 feet more or less to the northeasterly right of way line of Trunk Highway 10 and thence terminating, EXCEPT the 660 feet thereof.

Per the Petition, the proposed transfer would be a permanent transfer of service territory. Further, the transfer of service territory would impact one customer. Wadena is currently serving one temporary/construction commercial customer in the transfer area. The Municipal will continue to serve that customer.

B. INTERIM SERVICE

The Parties agreed in writing that, if a customer requests service before the Commission has considered the joint Petition, Wadena will provide interim service to the affected area, subject to certain conditions.

C. CUSTOMER NOTICE

Wadena filed with the Commission of a copy of the customer notice letter the Municipal sent to the affected customer on June 24, 2021.

D. COMPENSATION

The Department notes that the Parties agreed in writing on appropriate compensation regarding the proposed permanent transfer of service rights in the Affected Area.

Thus, the Department agrees that the Parties' request to establish the Affected Area as part of the Municipal's service area is consistent with Minn. Stat. § 216B.44.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the permanent service territory transfer from Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative to the City of Wadena. MnGeo should update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the Petition.

/ja