



**UPM**

The Biofore  
Company

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
MN Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

February 1, 2019

**Re: Comments Regarding Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of an Amended and Restated Electric Service Agreement Between Blandin Paper and Minnesota Power Docket No. E015/M-19-37**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

I am submitting this letter on behalf of Blandin Paper Company in support of Minnesota Power's petition in the above referenced docket to approve a revised electric service agreement (ESA) between Blandin and Minnesota Power.

Currently, I serve as General Manager for Blandin's paper mill, which is located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Although this is a relatively new role for me in the Company, I have been with Blandin for over 15 years, during which time I have held a variety of positions. I am therefore intimately familiar with both the plant operations and negotiations of the revised ESA before you. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment.

The revised ESA is the result of extensive negotiations between the parties and reflects the mill's revised operating parameters focused on production of paper machine number 6 following the permanent closure of paper machine number 5 in the year 2017. Notwithstanding this operational change, and as referenced in Minnesota Power's petition, Blandin continues to provide significant benefits to the regional economy via employment, taxes, and other measures.

To be sure, the Blandin mill operates in a very challenging global marketplace. Competitive electric rates are, and will remain, a critical issue for the mill going forward because electric energy costs are such a significant portion of our overall cost of production. We greatly appreciate Minnesota Power working with Blandin on a revised ESA, which is one component of the mill's effort to control electric energy costs. Therefore, and in light of the public interest consideration I understand is before you in evaluating the revised ESA, Blandin respectfully asserts that the revised ESA appropriately balances Blandin's concerns, Minnesota Power's needs, and the general interests of ratepayers.

For these reasons, Blandin urges the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve the revised ESA. Thank you for considering these comments.

Scott Giudici  
General Manager, UPM Blandin Paper

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Camille Dahl, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document(s) to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**On behalf of Blandin Paper Company:**

### **LETTER COMMENT**

In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Petition for Approval of an Amended and Restated Electric Service Agreement Between Blandin Paper and Minnesota Power.

PUC Docket No. E015/M-19-37

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019

/s/ Camille Dahl  
Camille Dahl

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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David	Chura	dchura@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power	30 West Superior Street Duluth, MN 55802	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-37_M-19-37
Paul	Ciesielski	Paul.Ciesielski@arcelormittal.com	ArcelorMittal	3300 Dickey Road East Chicago, IN 46312	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-37_M-19-37
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Riley	Conlin	riley.conlin@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 S. 6th Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_19-37_M-19-37
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