



Phone: 715.979.9161
Email: executive.director@mtera.org
Website: www.mtera.org

June 9, 2025

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Re: Docket Number E123/C-25-219. In the Matter of a Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Assn.

Submitted via email to: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Bozho' (Hello) and greetings from the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA). MTERA is an Inter-Tribal Consortia and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves the 35 Tribes in the Midwest, including the 11 Tribal Nations within Minnesota. MTERA's current bylaws have structured the organization so that Tribes are the decision makers and help guide the organization's strategic approach to collective action on clean energy objectives and goals.

Although MTERA always seeks to represent consensus perspectives on any given issue, it is important to note that not all MTERA Member Tribes agree upon the views expressed by MTERA. Further, it is important to understand that interactions with MTERA do not substitute for Nation-to-Nation consultation, which can only be achieved through direct communications between the federal government and Tribal Nations.

While the Commission posed several questions in its Amended Request for Comments, I write to offer MTERA's response to the following question:

Should the Commission investigate the Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association?

The simple answer is yes. MTERA supports the Upper Sioux Community's Formal Complaint to help address the additional topics related to what is clearly a public interest issue: that is, whether a rural electric cooperative can unilaterally threaten to shut off power to a federally



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recognized Indian Tribe for purported violations of state or federal law or cooperative policies. MTERA supports robust and engaged consultations between the State of Minnesota and the federally recognized Tribal Nations within the state on all energy-related matters, including those related to this complaint. In addition, no community within Minnesota should have to face community-wide power outages without warning or without the ability to mediate a fair solution that works for Tribal Nations like the Upper Sioux Community, all utilities and for all ratepayers within the communities served within Minnesota.

MTERA is willing to provide technical assistance to the Commission and coordinate with the Upper Sioux Community, your office, and all parties to find what should be a solution-based process for Upper Sioux to achieve their clean energy project goals, resolve any interconnection issues and provide energy reliability for the Upper Sioux Community.

Miigwech (Thank You) for your attention to MTERA's comments on this important issue and we look forward to finding a fair solution to this complaint.

Sincerely,


Daniel Wiggins Jr., MTERA Executive Director

From: [Daniel Wiggins Jr.](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [Leslie McLove](#)
Subject: Docket Number E123/C-25-219. In the Matter of a Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Assn.
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 3:32:35 PM
Attachments: [MTERA Letter to MN PUC 6.9.2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Please find the comments for MTERA on Docket Number E123/C-25-219. In the Matter of a Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association. MTERA supports the Upper Sioux Community's Formal Complaint to help address the additional topics related to what is clearly a public interest issue. Please find MTERA's full comment on this matter in the letter attached.

If there are any questions or communication needed on this topic, please feel free to contact me.

Miigwech!

Daniel Wiggins Jr
Executive Director
Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA)
Ph: 715.979.9161 | www.mtera.org