

**Ex Parte Communication Report**

Date:

To: Public Ex Parte Communication File

Docket No:

Case Name:

From: PUC Staff:

RE: Permissible Ex Parte Communications Pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7845.7400.

1. Type of communication: (Oral or Written)

If written, attach the document.

If oral, Date:

Time:

*NOTE: In both instances, please notify the Maker the communication has been submitted for inclusion in the record.*

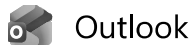
2. Maker of the Communication:

3. Recipient of the Communication:

4. For communications involving the setting of interim rates or the review of compliance filings, the topic was:

5. For all other permissible communications that are prohibited for the Commissioners under Minn. Rules, part 7845.7200, the substance of the communication was:

6. For oral permissible ex parte communications, has a copy of this memo been sent to the assigned Administrative Law Judge?      Yes                      No                      N/A



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**RE: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Clarification on NTEC Agreements, 17-568**

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**From** Matthew Brodin (ALLETE) <mbrodin@allete.com>

**Date** Fri 3/27/2026 3:11 PM

**To** Jennifer Kuklenski (MP) <jkuklenski@mnpower.com>; Ricker, Isabel (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <Isabel.Ricker@state.mn.us>

**Cc** Jennifer Cady (MP) <jjcady@mnpower.com>

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Hello Isabel,

As requested, below is some clarification of Minnesota Power's position. Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information or clarification.

In response to the questions from your email below:

1. The NTEC Agreements, outside of the CDA, are still in effect.
2. The NTEC owners are currently assessing the best path forward for the project, including who should be the construction and operating agent. Minnesota Power will provide an update to the MPUC once the owners have had a chance to work through the governance process laid out in the agreements to decide these issues. The Guaranty is in the name of ALLETE, Inc., and was approved by the MPUC with the condition that Minnesota Power may not recover Guaranty related costs without the express approval of the MPUC. Minnesota Power has not sought recovery from customers for any costs associated with the Guaranty.
3. Under the current NTEC agreements, Minnesota Power direct bills the project owners for any employee time and expenses associated with NTEC. ALLETE's pro rata NTEC costs are billed to South Shore Energy, a subsidiary of ALLETE, and not to Minnesota Power. As a result, Minnesota Power customers are neither billed nor pay for services and expenses associated with NTEC.

In sum, maintaining the status quo while the NTEC owners work through the governance process to determine the best path forward for the project, including who will act as the construction and operating agent, will not result in any costs being passed on to Minnesota Power customers. Rescinding approval of the agreements at this time, on the other hand, would immediately disrupt the governance and administrative processes of the NTEC owners during this transition period.

Thank you,

Matt Brodin

**MATTHEW R. BRODIN**  
Senior Regulatory Counsel

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**From:** Jennifer Kuklenski (MP) <jkuklenski@mnpower.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:25 PM  
**To:** Ricker, Isabel (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <Isabel.Ricker@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Matthew Brodin (ALLETE) <mbrodin@allete.com>; Jennifer Cady (MP) <jjcady@mnpower.com>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL MAIL] Clarification on NTEC Agreements, 17-568

Hi Isabel,

I am including our Senior Regulatory Counsel, Matt Brodin, and Jennifer Cady on this response.

Matt will be able to address your questions.

Thank you,  
Jennifer

Jennifer Kuklenski, MBA, PhD (She/her)  
Manager - Regulatory Strategy and Policy  
ALLETE | Minnesota Power, Regulatory Affairs  
P: 218 355 3297 | A: 30 W Superior St, Duluth MN 55802

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**From:** Ricker, Isabel (She/Her/Hers) (PUC) <Isabel.Ricker@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 12:07 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Kuklenski (MP) <jkuklenski@mnpower.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL MAIL] Clarification on NTEC Agreements, 17-568

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Hi Jennifer,

I am preparing staff briefing papers in docket 17-568, regarding whether the Commission should rescind previously approved NTEC agreements. We intend to hear this item at the April 9 Agenda Meeting.

To make sure I accurately reflect Minnesota Power's position, I am hoping you can clarify the current status of the transaction:

1. Please confirm whether the NTEC Agreements (outside of the Capacity Dedication Agreement) remain in effect. These would be the Assignment of Rights - Construction Agent, Assignment of Rights - Operating Agent, and Guaranty Agreement.
2. Does Minnesota Power plan to remain as the facility's construction agent, operating agent, and/or guarantor?
3. If yes, how is Minnesota Power being compensated for these services and how are ratepayers protected from costs and service impacts?

If you are able to provide responses to the questions by end of day tomorrow March 26 that would be wonderful; let me know if you need more time. I plan to file your response as a permissible ex parte communication for transparency.

Thank you,  
Isabel

**Isabel Ricker**

Rates Analyst | Economic Analysis

Pronouns: She/Her

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