

August 26, 2022

VIA E-FILING

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of Minnesota Power's Application for Approval of its 2021-2035 Integrated Resource Plan
Docket No. E015/RP-21-33

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

The Energy Transition Office ("ETO") at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development ("DEED") respectfully submits the following comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") regarding Minnesota Power's Application for Approval of its 2021-2035 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP").

The ETO was established in 2021 by the State of Minnesota Legislature under MN Stat. 116J.5491 with the primary purpose of leading efforts that address economic dislocations experienced by communities and workers impacted by the closures of coal, nuclear energy, or natural gas power generation facilities in the State, including assisting in the establishment and implementation of economic support programs for impacted communities and impacted workers. One of the charges of the Energy Transition Office is to "monitor and participate in administrative proceedings that affect the office's activities, including matters before the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Revenue, and other entities." (Minn. Stat. § 116J.5491, Subd. 4 (13)).

Over the past five months, the ETO has been assisting the Energy Transition Advisory Committee ("ETAC") in its effort to develop a statewide energy transition plan to be submitted to the governor and the legislature. The energy transition plan is intended to recommend how to effectively address the economic effects of impacted facility retirements on impacted communities and impacted workers. Multiple meetings have been had with numerous stakeholders across the State to advance the development of the energy transition plan that will be submitted later this year. The plan will serve as important information for policy makers to consider. It is clear, long-term planning efforts will be needed by impacted communities to prepare for and recover from the loss of jobs and tax revenues originated by power plant closures. Some communities have started on these efforts, but

many have not. These communities have a long way ahead of them to effectively address power plant retirements before, during and after they occur.

We respect and understand the process by which closures of power generation facilities are being considered and hope that as the PUC makes decisions about the final retirement dates of major power plants, feasibility, the socioeconomic impacts and the significant amount of time, planning and coordination that is needed to manage the scale and complexity of community and worker transitions are considered in these decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Vita
Director, Energy Transition Office
DEED

CC: