



December 6, 2021

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Subject:     *Dakota Electric Association Letter***  
**Request for Variance – Billing Error Rules**  
**Docket No. E-111/M-21-810**

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

On November 23, 2021, Dakota Electric Association® (Dakota Electric or Cooperative) filed a petition with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requesting approval of a variance to Minnesota Rule 7820.3800 regarding Billing Errors. In this petition, the Cooperative noted that while preparing a member for a transition to AGi metering, Dakota Electric discovered that it had incorrectly applied standby charges for this member and had overcharged them since their solar facility entered service. Since the solar facility entered service more than three years ago, Dakota Electric filed a variance request with the Commission so that we can return the entire overcharge amount, with interest, to the effected member. Dakota Electric calculated the following refund amounts:

<i>Time Period</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Within Commission Rules: 09/18 through 08/21</i>	\$6,418.23	\$275.98	\$6,694.21
<i>Exceeding Commission Rules: 01/17 through 08/18</i>	\$3,019.74	\$37.25	\$3,056.99
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,437.97</i></b>	<b><i>\$313.23</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,751.20</i></b>

While preparing the member refund for the most recent three-year period, the Cooperative discovered that its initial refund calculation did not factor in a state tax refund. Dakota Electric investigated this further and determined that an additional refund of \$672.45 is warranted, with \$457.29 associated with the most recent three-year period, which can be refunded immediately, and \$215.16 associated with the period between January 2017 and August 2018, which would be included in the amount requiring a rule variance. These changes result in the following refund breakdown.

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Tax</b>	<b>Total Refund</b>
Within Commission Rules: 09/18 through 08/21	\$6,418.23	\$275.98	\$457.29	\$7,151.50
Exceeding Commission Rules: 01/17 through 08/18	\$3,019.74	\$37.25	\$215.16	\$3,272.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,437.97</b>	<b>\$313.23</b>	<b>\$672.45</b>	<b>\$10,423.65</b>

### **Conclusion**

Dakota Electric respectfully requests that the Commission accept this refund revision and apologizes for any inconvenience. Dakota Electric recommends that the Commission approve the revised refund amounts detailed above and approve a variance to Minnesota Rule 7820.3800 to allow for a refund for the charges billed to this member. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 651-463-6258 or at [aheinen@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:aheinen@dakotaelectric.com).

*Sincerely,*

*/s/ Adam J. Heinen*

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Adam J. Heinen  
Vice President of Regulatory Services  
Dakota Electric Association  
4300 220<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

**Certificate of Service**

I, Melissa Cherney, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the attached document to those on the following service list by e-filing, personal service, or by causing to be placed in the U.S. mail at Farmington, Minnesota.

**Docket No. *E-111/M-21-810***

Dated this 6th day of December 2021

*/s/ Melissa Cherney*

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Melissa Cherney