



AN ALLETE COMPANY

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October 3, 2024

VIA E-FILING

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

Re: In the matter of the Interconnection Ombudsperson Surcharge
Docket No. E015/CI-24-248

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

In its August 15, 2024 filing in this matter, the Company supported incorporating the Ombudsperson Fee into section 1.5.1 of the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (or, "MN DIP"). The Company also suggested that the cadence for review of the surcharge be established after the Ombudsperson position is filled and its costs are more fully understood. Recognizing that the legislation requires the fee to be re-evaluated annually to properly fund the position, the Company agrees with Xcel Energy that specifying the amount of the fee in the MN DIP may pose a challenge to the flexibility needed to adjust it in the future.

The Company supports the development of a 30-day negative check off process to facilitate adjustment of the fee, and recommends the Commission accept Xcel's proposed modification to MN DIP 1.5.1 clarifying the necessity of the Ombudsperson Fee.

The Company is also supportive of recommendations 2, 3, and 4 offered by the Department of Commerce in its September 9, 2024 filing.

Minnesota Power appreciates the opportunity to provide these reply comments. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 218.428.9846 or jmccullough@mnpower.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jess McCullough'.

Jess McCullough
Public Policy Advisor II

JM:sr

I AM
ZERO INJURY.

*Together we choose to work safely for our families, each other, and the public.
We commit to be injury-free through continuous learning and improvement.*

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE VIA
ELECTRONIC FILING

Susan Romans, of the City of Duluth, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, says that on the 3rd day of October 2024, she served Minnesota Power's Reply Comments in **Docket No. E002, E015, E017/CI-24-248** on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Resources Division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce via electronic filing. The persons on E-Docket's Official Service List for this Docket were served electronically.



Susan Romans