ADDENDUM A – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Over 90 individuals provided oral comments at the public hearings held both virtually and in person throughout Minnesota Power's service territory. In addition, nearly 400 written public comments were received by the April 17, 2025 deadline set by the Commission.

2. All comments made at the public hearings or submitted in writing were fully considered. The description below summarizes the topics raised in the public comments.

3. Comments in opposition to the Acquisition shared concerns that the Acquisition may result in increased rates, significant changes to Minnesota Power that will prevent the Company from satisfying the Carbon Free Standard, and/or may change the Company's transparency, values, or operations. A vast majority of written comments opposed the Acquisition.

4. Comments in support of the Acquisition largely repeated the Petitioner's employee and public messaging about the Acquisition - expressing that it will provide Minnesota Power with the capital needed to satisfy the Carbon Free Standard while continuing to be a positive presence in the local community. Commenters frequently noted trust in the current leadership of the Company. Numerous commentors in support of the Acquisition were Minnesota Power employees. Many other supportive commentors were from nonprofit or community organizations that receive funds from Minnesota Power. These commentors often indicated support for Minnesota Power but did not comment in the merits of the transaction itself. It is unclear whether these individuals felt obligated to support Minnesota Power due to the financial support they are provided by the company.

Comments at Public Hearings

1. Matt Baumgartner supported the Acquisition, stating that it would provide essential capital to meet clean energy goals and praised ALLETE's leadership for their community commitment, and integrity.[1] Matt Baumgartner commented again at a later hearing, stating that Blackrock already owns ALLETE Minnesota Power and is deeply embedded 401k or retirement accounts, that Minnesota Power will still be regulated, that ALLETE's leadership has demonstrated integrity, and that the Acquisition would provide capital needed for clean energy infrastructure.[2]

2. Sara Niemi supported the Acquisition, stating that ALLETE has a long-standing commitment to community service and has been a consistent corporate partner of United Way through funding, volunteering, and leadership.[3] Sara Niemi commented against at a later public hearing and made similar comments.[4]

[1] Virtual Public Hearing Transcript (Tr.) at 35:1–38:16 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Baumgartner).
[2] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 72:5–76:24 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Baumgartner).
[3] Virtual Tr. at 38:22–41:4 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Neemi).
[4] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 62:8–64:13 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Niemi).

3. Deb DeLuca supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power is the service provider to Duluth Seaway Port operations and that ALLETE is critically important to the region's clean energy strategy, and emphasized that the acquiring Partners had committed to preserving ALLETE's leadership, values, headquarters location, and philanthropic foundation.[5]

4. Rachel Johnson supported the Acquisition, stating on behalf of the APEX organization that it would bring critical infrastructure investment needed for regional economic growth and clean energy transition.[6]

5. Wendy Reed supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power's partnerships with the University of Minnesota Duluth support student internships, scholarships, and energy workforce development, contributing to the region's ability to sustain a technical and trained workforce that remains in Minnesota communities. Wendy Reed noted that Minnesota Power employees serve on key advisory boards across the university and have taken on leadership roles that guide the college.[7]

6. Richard Libbey expressed concern about local control post-Acquisition, asking how critical operational decisions such as day-to-day operations and plant closures would be made, what the implications might be if the equity investors' financial expectations aren't met, what impacts the Acquisition might have on retirees and pensions, and whether the Commission would retain authority and oversight over rate cases.[8]

7. William Andersen expressed concern about Minnesota Power separating wind assets created by customers' rate payments from the customers' benefits, raising questions about asset ownership, transparency, and equity.[9]

8. Laura Iancu's comment was read into the record. She opposed the acquisition and expressed concern that the Partners will raise the cost of energy to "bleed the poor dry." She and other low-income people want eco-friendly energy at their homes with little to no cost.[10]

9. Newkomis opposed the Acquisition, questioning the reasoning for selling Minnesota Power to a Canadian private company despite customers paying rate increases, and raising concerns about secret under the table dealings, integrity, indigenous land, infrastructure ownership by a different country, and long-term accountability including whether or not the foreign investment will be permanent.[11]

[5] Virtual Tr. at 41:8–44:10 (Jan. 10, 2025) (DeLuca).
[6] Virtual Tr. at 44:14–46:21 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Johnson).
[7] Virtual Tr. at 46:23–50:4 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Reed).
[8] Virtual Tr. at 53:1–55:1 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Libbey).
[9] Virtual Tr. at 56:15–58:15 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Andersen).
[10] Virtual Tr. at 58-60 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Iancu).
[11] Virtual Tr. at 60:12–62:2 (Jan. 10, 2025) (Newkomis).

10. David Chura, a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that the benefits of the Acquisition included access to capital, and that the Partners reinforced their commitments to the local community with ALLETE employees.[12]

11. Derek Pederson supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power and the Partners have committed to continuing the partnership with organized labor.[13]

12. John Sundman opposed the Acquisition, stating that it was not in the best interest of customers, that he doesn't understand the reasoning for the sale of the company, and that he believes there is no real need for the sale. John Sundman expressed concerns about Minnesota Power's rate increases, the reliability of their wind and solar energy investments, the identity of the investors in this Acquisition, and the costs of renewable energy investments being passed onto the customers.[14]

13. Katherine Markovich opposed the Acquisition, raising concerns about transparency regarding potential conflicts of interest and affordability data.[15]

14. Jordan Nikunen, a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that it will benefit customers, communities, employees, and the company itself. Jordan Nuken stated his belief that day-to-day operations, procedures, and processes would not change at ALLETE Minnesota Power after the Acquisition.[16]

15. William Schuldt opposed the Acquisition, expressing concerns about the lack of significant benefit to the customer, management risks, and potential negative impacts on customers.[17]

16. Nancy Aronson Norr supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power would remain a regulated utility under the Commission's authority and that the acquisition is critical to ALLETE's ability to fund its clean energy transition.[18]

17. Mike Kuitu asked a question about who will run the Company, and CPP Investments responded to his question that the current management team would continue to run the Company. Mike Kuitu expressed concerns about private equities quickly selling off their investments, future workers' agreements, and the timing of the proposal in relation to federal policy.[19]

18. Jennifer Misquadace opposed the Acquisition, expressing concerns about increasing electric bills, unclear benefit to customers, monopolistic ownership of energy

[12] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 28:12–29:23 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Chura).
[13] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 30:1–31:14 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Pederson).
[14] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 31:17–33:8 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Sundman).
[15] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 33:16–34:21 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Markovich).
[16] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 34:24–37:10 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Nikunen).
[17] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 37:13–39:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Schuldt).
[18] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 40:3–42:12 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Aronson Norr).
[19] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 42:17–44:1 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Kuitu).

by Blackrock, and a lack of an answers as to why the electric bills were increasing or why Minnesota Power would need to be purchased.[20]

19. Charity Johnson, on behalf of STARBASE Minnesota, supported the Acquisition, noting the value of the Minnesota Power Foundation's support for local STEM education initiatives and advocating for continued community partnership benefits as a result of the Acquisition.[21]

20. Robert Tammen opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern about the risks of selling the Company to a global financial institution and preferring the current ownership.[22]

21. Philip Defoe opposed the Acquisition, discussing Minnesota Power's delayed approach to renewable energy investments and the resulting costs to customers, as well as the unclear reasons as to why the company is being sold.[23]

22. Jim Perkins opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern over selling a great public company to private investors and what will happen to it afterwards.[24]

23. Oren Olson opposed the Acquisition, raising concerns about selling Minnesota Power to buyers in a different country, Minnesota Power's land ownership, and continuity of existing customer agreements.[25]

24. Trisha Zimmerman supported the Acquisition, stating that her husband's career at Minnesota Power provided family stability and community contribution, and she trusts the Company's leadership in making decisions that are in the best interest of the company's sustainability.[26]

25. Kelsey Miller stated that Minnesota Power has contributed significant volunteer hours and financial resources to Second Harvest, strengthening food access across the region.[27]

26. Doug Frisk stated that Minnesota Power has been a foundational supporter of student robotics programs and STEM education in the region and that he supports the Acquisition if it can make Minnesota Power continue this support.[28]

[20] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 46:9–49:13 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Misquadace).
[21] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 49:15–51:15 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Johnson).
[22] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 52:9–53:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Tammen).
[23] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 54:5–55:21 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Defoe).
[24] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 56:1–58:4 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Perkins).
[25] Cloquet 10:00 a.m. Tr. at 58:6–58:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Olson).
[26] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 24:13–25:15 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Zimmerman).
[27] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 25:16–26:23 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Miller).
[28] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 26:24–28:6 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Frisk).

27. Jennifer Gelo provided comments stating her appreciation for Minnesota Power's environmental efforts.[29]

28. Sherri Fedora raised a question about whether retirees' pensions would be protected under the Acquisition.[30]

29. Linda Herron expressed concern about transparency, compliance with Minnesota's clean energy laws, local control, regulatory oversight, and possible rate increases under private equity ownership.[31]

30. Justin Riddle, a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that it would strengthen the Company's financial ability to invest in clean energy and maintain reliability while upholding Minnesota Power's core values.[32]

31. Jesse Luoma a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power's workforce is competent and committed, hat leadership can be trusted to navigate the clean energy transition, that the Acquisition is the best way to ensure the clean energy future, and that the foundation of Minnesota Power won't change.[33]

32. David Leonza opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern about foreign companies buying the Company, such as the potential that the foreign companies may not prioritize the local communities when distributing power.[34]

33. Suzanne Herstad supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power is a strong community partner, and the Acquisition will support local infrastructure projects and clean energy goals.[35]

34. Kirk Ilenda supported the Acquisition, stating that he trusts Minnesota Power's leadership and that reliable service, the carbon-free mandate, and resulting investment in industrial infrastructure require the capital the Acquisition would provide.[36]

35. Kristi Stokes supported the Acquisition, stating that it will allow Minnesota Power to continue to be vital partner to downtown Duluth's development and public safety initiatives for a long time and allow Minnesota Power to raise capital to pay for renewable energy mandates.[37]

[29] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 28:7–30:20 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Gelo).
[30] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 30:21–31:12 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Fedora).
[31] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 31:13–33:5 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Herron).
[32] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 33:18–35:14 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Riddle).
[33] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 35:19–37:16 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Luoma).
[34] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 37:17–39:11 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Leonza).
[35] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 39:13–41:10 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Herstad).
[36] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 41:11–45:6 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Ilenda).
[37] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 45:7–46:19 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Stokes)

36. Tom Ryther opposed the Acquisition, expressing concerns of past negative experiences with utility buyouts, including cutbacks to programs in place before the buyout, declining staff morale, and declining focus on customers.[38]

37. Mary Mingo Gallet opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern about BlackRock, including their track-record of buying things, breaking them, and selling them off for profit, leaving those working there with nothing.[39]

38. Taylor Pedersen supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power has been a key driver of regional economic growth and clean energy development.[40]

39. Aric Forsman, a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that the proposal was not a hostile takeover, that the carbon-free energy mandate requires capital to transform the grid, that ALLETE may be left vulnerable in the future if the transaction is not approved, and that the commitments made by the Partners address regional concerns such as local leadership remaining in place, remaining contracts being honored, the Duluth headquarters remaining in place, and community giving and economic development support continuing.[41]

40. Laura Kleive supported the Acquisition, stating that the investment would support clean energy transition projects and that utility rates would continue to be regulated by the Commission.[42]

41. Jordan Ash opposed the Acquisition, stating that private equity ownership could lead to increased debt, reductions of qualified staff, deferral of necessary maintenance and capital improvements, safety risks, environmental violations, reliability concerns, and conflicts of interest involving BlackRock.[43]

42. Paul Helstrom, a Minnesota Power employee, supported Minnesota Power, stating that the Company has a strong track record in renewable energy and community engagement, and that the Acquisition would not change the company.[44]

43. Kate Yapel expressed concern about the Acquisition, stating that private ownership could reduce transparency about clean energy goals, hinder clean energy progress, and prioritize profit over environmental responsibility.[45]

44. Megan Perry-Spears opposed the Acquisition, stating it is not in the public interest and expressing concerns about rising rates, corporate conflicts of interest, impact

[38] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 46:20–49:14 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Ryther).
[39] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 49:15–50:17 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Gallet).
[40] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 50:18–52:21 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Pedersen).
[41] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 53:5–54:24 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Forsman).
[42] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 56:6–57:4 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Kleive).
[43] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 57:5–59:14 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Ash).
[44] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 59:15–62:7 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Helstrom).
[45] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 64:14–67:15 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Yapel).

to the environment, and threats to local control, stating that the Acquisition would prioritize short-term profit over long-term public benefit.[46]

45. Martha Assefa expressed concern about the Acquisition, stating distrust in BlackRock and private equity regarding rising rates, lack of long-term commitments, and declining regulation, and urged regulators to reject the Acquisition for community protection.[47]

46. Jeff Udd supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power's clean energy goals rely on the added financial backing from the Acquisition.[48]

47. Beth Tamminen opposed the Acquisition, stating that she has not read information that says Minnesota Power cannot raise the capital needed for clean energy transition, that the model of a public utility being owned by private investors has not worked well and is not in the public interest, and that as a long-term shareholder and customer, she believes the Acquisition is supported primarily by distant investors over local customers.[49]

48. Mike Mayou, a Duluth city councilor, opposed the Acquisition and expressed concern on behalf of his constituents, stating that the Acquisition reduces local control, could increase rates for public infrastructure and city operations, affecting taxpayers, and the struggles of transitioning from natural gas that a lack of control over utilities can bring.[50]

49. Justin Dean opposed the Acquisition, stating that private equity firms focus on short-term profit, which may result in raising rates or reducing safety and staffing.[51]

50. Andy Wheeler supported the Acquisition, stating that he trusts Minnesota Power leadership and believes the Acquisition is necessary for long-term financial sustainability.[52]

51. Gavin Skelton supported the Acquisition, stating that his internship experience at Minnesota Power demonstrated its commitment to renewable energy and that the Acquisition would support continued innovation and investment towards renewable energy.[53]

[46] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 67:16–70:13 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Perry-Spears).
[47] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 70:14–72:4 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Assefa).
[48] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 76:25–77:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Udd).
[49] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 79:6–80:24 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Tamminen).
[50] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 81:1–83:15 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Mayou).
[51] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 83:16–84:8 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Dean).
[52] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 84:9–85:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Wheeler).
[53] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 86:9–86:19 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Skelton).

52. Judy Derauf opposed the Acquisition, stating that private equity firms lack transparency and are not accountable in the same way as public utilities, which could negatively affect customers through unreasonable rates or poor services.[54]

53. Tom Bates opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern about private equity priorities, stating that BlackRock's focus on profit could harm Minnesota Power's local commitments and increase management fees and customer burden.[55]

54. Kathryn Milun opposed the Acquisition, discussing Minnesota Power's past opposition to federal clean energy policies, stating that it's not true that Minnesota Power needs to sell itself to get capital to transition to clean power, and stating that community-based solutions could offer better energy transition outcomes than private equity ownership.[56]

55. Bill Lynch opposed the Acquisition, stating that acquisitions often harm companies, and warned of negative outcomes from BlackRock's ownership.[57]

56. Tonya Loken supported the Acquisition, stating on behalf of Essentia Health that ALLETE has been a reliable energy provider and valuable community partner whose leadership is trusted to continue in that role.[58]

57. Kate Van Daele supported the Acquisition, stating as a Minnesota Power employee that the Company is deeply embedded in the community and that its leadership and values will remain stable through the Acquisition, that the Acquisition is essential for Minnesota Power to meet the state's carbon-free standards by 2040, and that the Acquisition will not change the fact that it will continue to be regulated by the state.[59]

58. Jim Klukkert opposed the Acquisition, stating that the history of capital in Minnesota has been harmful and warning that BlackRock's practices represent a threat to local interests.[60]

59. Buddy Robinson stated that there are no good reasons for the Acquisition and a host of reasons against it, expressing concerns about transparency including the classification of projected rate hikes as a trade secret, the incentive to build expensive infrastructure, conflicts of interest creating incentive to cost shift from industrial customers to everyone else, and that there is no guarantee Blackrock will provide for Minnesota Power's capital needs.[61]

[54] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 86:20–87:23 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Derauf).
[55] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 88:6–89:25 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Bates).
[56] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 90:6–92:16 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Milun).
[57] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 92:18–93:11 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Lynch).
[58] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 93:16–94:24 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Loken).
[59] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 94:25–98:11 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Van Daele).
[60] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 98:12–99:24 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Klukkert).
[61] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 100:6–101:23 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Robinson).

60. Angel Dobrow expressed concern about affordability for small businesses, small landlords, and individual customers as a result of increased electricity rates post-Acquisition.[62]

61. Stephanie Hemphill expressed concern about corporate ownership, stating briefly that more democracy is needed in decisions like this, warning against loss of local control, and stating her belief that Minnesota Power can come up with other ways to accomplish their goals.[63]

62. Briana Coughlin stating that Minnesota Power's sponsorship of the Iron Trail Motors Event Center significantly supports community programs by keeping event rental costs affordable and enhancing local engagement.[64]

63. Maggie Schuppert opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern that about the track-record of private equity ownership and how it would reduce transparency and potentially result in cost-cutting measures that harm services, land stewardship, and public accountability.[65]

64. Gray Smith opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern about BlackRock or foreign ownership of a public utility and stating that it could negatively affect shareholder income and local control.[66]

65. Robert Bassing opposed the Acquisition, discussing concerns about BlackRock and investments in renewable energy leading to increased energy prices and less reliable sources of energy.[67]

66. Matt Shermoen supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power and ALLETE have worked transparently with local stakeholders and that the partnership with CPP Investments and GIP could foster reliable, affordable energy and regional economic development.[68]

67. Trisha Zimmerman supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power's long-term support of Second Harvest Northland through donations and employee volunteering has positively impacted food access across the region.[69]

68. Joni Namyst stated that Minnesota Power's multi-decade partnership with the Itasca County YMCA has helped deliver vital services and programs to families through grants, sponsorships, and board participation.[70]

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[62] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 102:18–103:17 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Dobrow).
[63] Duluth 6:00 p.m. Tr. at 103:18–104:5 (Apr. 7, 2025) (Hemphill).
[64] Eveleth 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 26:18–27:25 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Coughlin).
[65] Eveleth 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 28:12–31:10 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Schuppert).
[66] Eveleth 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 31:11–32:25 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Smith).
[67] Eveleth 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 33:5–36:3 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Bassing).
[68] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 25:9–26:19 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Shermoen).
[69] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 26:21–28:9 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Zimmerman).
[70] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 28:10–29:22 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Namyst).

69. Sam Johnson stated that Minnesota Power's employees contribute both financially and personally to the community, and that the Boswell's workforce plays a critical role in the region's social fabric and infrastructure.[71]

70. John Rajala supported the Acquisition, stating that his long experience as a customer and family connection to ALLETE informed his trust in the Company's leadership, and he viewed the Petition as part of a global energy transition.[72]

71. Benjamin Thraenert supported the Acquisition, stating that private ownership would support carbon-free goals and that continued use of union labor under the Acquisition would benefit local workers and the economy.[73]

72. Jodi Piekarski supported the Acquisition, stating that throughout her career at Minnesota Power, she has seen the Company build strong partnerships and that the Partners share the Company's values of safety, community, and integrity.[74]

73. Josh Casper, the Mayor of Cohasset, supported the Acquisition on behalf of the City of Cohasset, stating that Minnesota Power has shown transparency about the Acquisition and a continued commitment to Boswell and the community.[75]

74. Guy Clairmont supported the Acquisition, stating that from his civic and business experience, Minnesota Power demonstrates strong leadership, and he expressed confidence in the Company's values and its employees' contributions to the community.[76]

75. Mike Waldron stated that Minnesota Power has demonstrated long-standing support for the veteran community and nonprofits, and he trusts its leadership to uphold community investments throughout the Acquisition.[77]

76. Rick Blake supported the Acquisition, discussing Minnesota Power's technical expertise, past industrial partnerships, concerns with its access to capital to make a successful energy transition, and community contributions, and stating confidence in its judgment and long-term regulated status.[78]

77. Kristopher Perkovich opposed the Acquisition, raising questions about private equity motives for focusing on Minnesota, rate increases, whether the CARE program will remain available, effects of artificial intelligence on the job market, and long-

[71] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 29:23–31:15 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Johnson).
[72] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 31:17–34:3 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Rajala).
[73] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 34:7–35:8 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Thraenert).
[74] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 35:9–37:21 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Piekarski).
[75] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 38:4–38:24 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Casper).
[76] Cohasset 5:00 p.m. Tr. at 39:1–40:7 (Apr. 8, 2025) (Clairmont).
[77] Virtual Tr. at 34:1–35:21 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Waldron).
[78] Virtual Tr. at 36:1–38:20 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Blake).

term community effects. Minnesota Power responded to the CARE program question by stating there will be no negative impact on the program through the Acquisition.[79]

78. Chris Bartz stated that his internship and employment experience at ALLETE were positive and that the Acquisition excites him due to the Partners commitment to continued presence in Duluth that would benefit students and professionals.[80]

79. Sara Shuster stated her personal and organizational experiences with Minnesota Power have been positive and that she trusts its leadership to maintain community support.[81]

80. Stacey Green, a Minnesota Power employee, supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power needs the access to capital to fund the state mandated transition to carbon-free resources by 2040, that it will provide financial support for infrastructure investments, that ALLETE stock is currently 75 percent held by these institutional investors already, that Minnesota Power's operations and leadership will remain local and regulated, and that she has confidence in its community values and transparency.[82]

81. Sarah Kjorlien opposed the Acquisition, expressing concerns about future rate increases, diminished transparency, long-term accountability, the private equity's commitment to renewable energy, and a lack of evidence that the acquisition is in the public interest.[83]

82. Robert Iverson opposed the Acquisition, stating concern over transparency, accountability, rate increases, and the motivations of private equity firms.[84]

83. Grant Studer opposed the Acquisition, raising concerns about effectiveness of regulatory oversight on a massive company, conflicting interests related to fossil fuel investments, and customer impacts related to increased rates or reduced costs from cutting corners on services provided.[85]

84. John Teschner opposed the Acquisition, stating that private equity ownership may shift decision-making away from the public interest and potentially conflict with customer needs, noting that the benefits of investors are likely to the detriment of ratepayers.[86]

[79] Virtual Tr. at 38:24–42:14 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Perkovich).
[80] Virtual Tr. at 43:5–44:7 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Bartz).
[81] Virtual Tr. at 44:11–44:25 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Shuster).
[82] Virtual Tr. at 45:4–48:4 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Green).
[83] Virtual Tr. at 48:8–50:13 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Kjorlien).
[84] Virtual Tr. at 50:15–51:11 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Iverson).
[85] Virtual Tr. at 51:13–54:21 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Studer).
[86] Virtual Tr. at 55:10–56:9 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Teschner).

85. Melisa Gomez raised a question about the CARE program's funding in light of federal assistance changes. Minnesota Power and CUB responded to her question by stating the CARE program is not funded through the federal government.[87]

86. Derek Medved supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power's continued local presence and economic partnerships show its long-term commitment to the community.[88]

87. Julie Lucas supported the Acquisition on behalf of MiningMinnesota, stating that Minnesota Power is essential to the mining industry and that the Acquisition is the key to maintaining reasonable rates during the clean energy transition in the region.[89]

88. Ariel Wolf expressed distrust in the Partners' assurances and concern that Minnesota Power would not maintain its values post-Acquisition.[90]

89. Tom Jansen supported the Acquisition, stating that as a longtime community member and Minnesota Power employee, he values the Company's leadership, integrity, and community commitment, and he trusts the Acquisition was evaluated with public and customer interests in mind.[91]

90. David Gohl opposed the Acquisition, stating that it would reduce public control, expressing concern over instability with foreign ownership and diminished shareholder accountability through ways to bypass PUC regulation, and arguing that Minnesota Power has succeeded without private equity involvement.[92]

91. Amanda Othoudt supported the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power is a valuable local economic development partner, and the Acquisition would help meet clean energy goals and strengthen grid reliability in the public's interest.[93]

92. Meghann Boser stated that Minnesota Power has a long history of reliable donations, volunteerism, and support for Morrison County United Way and other nonprofits, and she trusts leadership will maintain those commitments.[94]

93. Mike Paulus supported the Acquisition, stating that it could bring needed financial resources and expertise to clean energy efforts, while also emphasizing safeguards are needed due to the importance of transparency, accountability, and national infrastructure security.[95]

[87] Virtual Tr. at 56:11–57:6 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Gomez).
[88] Virtual Tr. at 58:3–60:8 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Medved).
[89] Virtual Tr. at 60:13–62:7 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Lucas).
[90] Virtual Tr. at 62:23–63:10 (Apr. 10, 2025) (Wolf).
[91] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 28:9–30:15 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Jansen).
[92] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 30:16–32:10 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Gohl).
[93] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 32:14–34:8 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Othoudt).
[94] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 34:9–37:8 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Boser).
[95] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 37:9–39:12 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Paulus).

94. James Meyer opposed the Acquisition, expressing concern that larger ownership may reduce local control and worsen service quality, and stated a preference to keep Minnesota Power local.[96]

95. Kathy Lange stated that Habitat for Humanity has received long-standing grant support from Minnesota Power and praising its contributions to affordable housing and volunteer service in the community.[97]

96. Terry Mentele asked whether the Acquisition would affect retiree benefits, such as pensions or health care. Minnesota Power responded to his question by stating these benefits would not be affected by the Acquisition.[98]

Public Comment Period – Written Comments Prior to Comment Deadline

97. Of the over 400 written public comments, 181 comments opposing the Acquisition were submitted using a comment template. The comments state that the interest of private equity investors in earning outsized profits is inconsistent with the interests of Minnesota Power customers and cited risks to rates, reliability, transparency, employment, and climate goals under private equity ownership. [99]

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[96] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 39:13–40:24 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Meyer).
[97] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 41:1–42:15 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Lange).
[98] Little Falls 12:00 p.m. Tr. at 43:7–43:25 (Apr. 11, 2025) (Mentele).
[99] *See* Comments by Peg Furshong and Scott Rockvam (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01); Comments by Kay Westile, Steve Petrich, Walter Anfang, (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01); Comments by Colleen and Joe OMeara, Sharon Friedler, Andy Pearson, Leanna Goose, Todd Bartholomay, Jaci Christenson, Ken Holmbeck, Rachel Wormer, Angela Harris, Dan Bitterman, Leah Rogne, John Siekmeier, Dolores Delaney, Anita Vogel, Steph Emerich, Jennifer Schally, David Stendahl, Arne Kildegaard, Dani Replogle, Ruth Shaw, Robert Nesheim, Simona Fischer, Richard Fish, Dianne Hudson, Alan Epp, Christine Popowski, Lacy Squier, Juliann Rule, Grant Tiefenbruck, and Lisa Bergerud (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217363-01); Comments by Marilyn Marden, Nancy Dennis, ML Wilm, Kenneth Stewart, Paula Brust, Kurt Walser, Christopher Carlson, Alice West, Lauren Kofsky, Brian Buxton, Lesa Hofer, Betty Firth, Mary Ann Vande Vusse, Rosa Oesterreich, Carolyn Cleveland, Pam Roiger, Michael Buresch, Bernie Meyer, Betty Otsea, Ken Pearson, Sharon Kimble, Karen Hurst, Jianhua Qian, Paul Moss, Jane Dow, Ankita Kerssen, Gretchen Musicant, and Michael Walker (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217364-01); Comments by Erik Peterson, Sven Sorge, Nancy Nelson, Scott Lagaard, Derek Benedict, Steven Smith, Robert Kean, Franz Kitzberger, Arlene Renshaw, Mark Brown, Julie Johnson, Anna Thompson, Linda Ganister, Sara Wolff, Russ Ragenbaugh, Leo Cashman, Karen Locke, Timothy King, Lyla Brown, Nate Sathet, Arlene Mathison, Brad Trom, William Kuttler, Buff Grace, Amy Schmidt, Scott Sparlin, Gail Linnerson, Douglas Mensing, and Alice Madden (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217365-01); Comment by Carol Orban (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217411-01); Comment by Bonnie Beckel (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217405-01); Comment by Audrey Arner (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217403-01); Comment by Sharon Kutter (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217398-01); Comment by Peg Challgren (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217394-01); Comment by Mary Johannsen (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217416-01); Comments by Kay Slama, Elizabeth Merz, Maggie Rozycki, Gail Irish, Florence Dacey, and Margo Wyse (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01); Comments by Neville Bruce, David West, Michelle Hensley, Wade Mathiowetz, Jeanne Fahlstrom, Emily Thompson, Thomas Beer, Joe Newberg, Ellie Schmidt, Andrew Phelan, and Sharon Dill (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-03); Comments by Beth Hynes-Ciernia,

98. Gale Claesson submitted comments expressing concerns regarding the impact the Acquisition may have on customer rates.[100]

99. Louise Curnow submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating risks of monopolistic control, higher rates, and weaker regulation.[101]

100. Andy Goldfine submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that a private equity company should not own a publicly regulated utility and that allowing such a sale would betray public trust.[102]

101. Celia Domich submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that she is a customer of Minnesota Power, and the Acquisition is not in her best interest.[103]

102. Danielle Gilbert submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because out-of-state ownership could harm consumers and local interests.[104]

103. Katya Gordon submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, questioning the necessity of private ownership for capital access and emphasizing the importance of transparency and public accountability in utility management.[105]

104. Matt Pedersen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns over political tensions, unresolved issues related to overcharging customers in 2024, and the potential for increased electricity costs under new ownership.[106]

Corrine Lapinsky, Dan Lapinsky, DeCourcy Squire, Elsie Jorgensen, and Therese Pelkey (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01); Comments by ML Wilm, Olaf Brekke, Amy Greeley, Eric Chandler, and Joshua Williams (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02); Comments by Paul McHugh, Caron Grimm, Sue Wick, Christine Popowski, and Kirsten Lind Seal (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03); Comments by Mehgan Blair, Tom Nacey, Sandri Anderson, and Linnette Werner (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04); Comment by Beth Hynes-Ciernia (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01); Comment by Kenneth Stewart (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217770-01); Comments by Verlaine Halvorsen, Laura Lambert, Murray Smart, S. Lagaard, ML Wilm, Tina Decker, Sylvia Fisher, Nancy Toskey, Bud Johnston, Dave Holt, Alexandra Kiminski, Laurie Schneider, Linda Olson, Cynthia Huse, Brenda TeVogt, Amy Blumenshine, S.A. Kellermann, and Lynn Anderson (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01); Comments by Julie Hignell, Lee Peterson, Michelle Thelen, Lori Kemp, Brian Wojtalewicz, Elizabeth Brown, and Carla Arneson (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02); Comments by Anja Hogan, Keri Heise, B. Rosas, Kathleen Felt, Alli Szewcynski, Tom Mahoney, Jasmine Phoenix, Carol Gieseke, and Mike Tauber (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01); Comments by Katherine Hinson, Jean Ross, Robert Mueller, Dylan Cheever, Rhyan Schicker, Sven Sorge, Joseph Boyle, Paul Sobocinski, Keith Hanson, and Kay Randall (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).

[100] Comment by Gale Claesson (June 14, 2024) (eDocket No. 20246-207691-01).
[101] Comment by Louise Curnow (Mar. 20, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216641-01).
[102] Comment by Andy Goldfine (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[103] Comment by Celia Domich (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[104] Comment by Danielle Gilbert (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[105] Comment by Katya Gordon (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[106] Comment by Matt Pedersen (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).

105. Michelle Sutton submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[107]

106. Ryan Jansen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns about private equity seeking higher profits than public market investors, past examples of similar acquisitions leading to negative outcomes, and a potential conflict of interest involving data center development.[108]

107. Sam Weston submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it would negatively affect Minnesota.[109]

108. Brook Johnson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that the utility should remain publicly held.[110]

109. Dale Smith and Sue Finstick submitted comments expressing concern about the Acquisition. They raised questions about future rate increases, commitment to carbon-free energy goals, and continued support for solar energy under private ownership.[111]

110. Keith Douglas submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns about rate increases and reduced protection for the public under private ownership.[112]

111. Sally Smith submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing the sale of Michigan's upper peninsula utility to other private-equity firms and the rate increases following the sale.[113]

112. Scott Buchanan submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing the conflict between private equity's desire for maximized profits and affordable services. Buchanan cites examples of other utility sales leading to negative outcomes and expressed concerns about higher costs, reduced service reliability, and loss of public accountability.[114]

113. Bryan Hansel submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to anticipated customer cost increases.[115]

114. Brian Kapp submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns regarding private-equity ownership, rate increases, and concerns related to NTEC.[116]

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[107] Comment by Michelle Sutton (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[108] Comment by Ryan Jansen (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[109] Comment by Sam Weston (Mar. 24, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216712-01).
[110] Comment by Brook Johnson (Mar. 25, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216791-01).
[111] Comment by Dale Smith and Sue Fink (Mar. 25, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216791-01).
[112] Comment by Keith Douglas (Mar. 25, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216791-01).
[113] Comment by Sally Smith (Mar. 25, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216791-01).
[114] Comment by Scott Buchanan (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20253-216791-01).
[115] Comment by Bryan Hansel (Mar. 26, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216831-01).
[116] Comment By Brian Kapp (Mar. 26, 2026) (eDocket No. 20253-216829-01).

115. Micah Spieler-Sandberg submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns that the transition away from local control would increase electricity costs and discourage electrification and sustainability efforts.[117]

116. Edward Knudsen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, highlighting Minnesota Power's quality service, environmental stewardship, and low rates, but cited concerns of potential reductions in service quality, higher rates, and negative impacts on local employment after the Acquisition.[118]

117. Mike Olson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that the sale is not in the best interest of the public.[119]

118. Charlene Roise submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private-equity ownership would put profit above community and environmental interests.[120]

119. Carolyn Olson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to BlackRock's record and the possibility of drastic rate increases.[121]

120. Bonnie Frielund submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to concerns about potential rate increases, achievement of state decarbonization standards, and impacts of rate increases on retirees with fixed incomes.[122]

121. Kevin Heaslip submitted comments opposing the Acquisition and suggesting public ownership of the utility as an alternative.[123]

122. Alma Zimmerman submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that ALLETE has historically been community and consumer oriented, and raised concerns about a lack of commitment to community and consumer stewardship by the Partners.[124]

123. Dennis Bartholomew submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns that new ownership could jeopardize retiree pension and medical obligations.[125]

124. Brian Bergeron submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing loss of local control, short-term profit focus, job-security risks, the increasing concentration of

[117] Comment by Micah Spieler-Sandberg (Mar. 26, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216832-01).
[118] Comment by Edward Knudsen (Mar. 27, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216880-03).
[119] Comment by Mike Olson (Mar. 27, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216880-02).
[120] Comment by Charlene Roise (Mar. 27, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-216880-01).
[121] Comment by Carolyn Olson (Mar. 31, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-217016-01).
[122] Comment by Bonnie Frielund (Mar. 31, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-217003-01).
[123] Comment by Kevin Heaslip (Mar. 31, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-217006-01).
[124] Comment by Alma Zimmerman (Mar. 31, 2025) (eDocket No. 20253-217005-01).
[125] Comment by Dennis Bartholomew (Apr. 2, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217162-01).

corporate power in a few large investment firms, environmental setbacks, and foreign-influence concerns.[126]

125. Judith Derauf submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private equity prioritizes profit over public interest and may lead to rate increases, service reductions, and weakened environmental commitments.[127]

126. Stephanie Kiero submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, referencing human-rights concerns, anticipated rate increases, and transparency issues.[128]

127. Janet Magree submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[129]

128. John Knutson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to worries about higher rates and service decline that could result from private investor ownership.[130]

129. Allie Tibbetts submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because of potential rate increases and concerns about environmental and economic practices.[131]

130. Brandan Fiedler submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns about transparency, potential resale of the Company, financial misconduct, regulatory burdens, and increased rates that could impact customers and employers.[132]

131. Connor McLeod submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to anticipated rate increases.[133]

132. Alyssa Faber submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating intent to significantly reduce power usage in protest and expressing opposition to corporate influence over community utilities.[134]

133. Sandy Peters submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns as a retiree, shareholder, and former employee regarding forced divestment, lack of transparency, potential rate increases, and risk to local accountability.[135]

134. Susan Nygaard submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[136]

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[126] Comment by Brian Bergeron (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[127] Comment by Judith Derauf (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[128] Comment by Stephanie Kiero (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[129] Comment by Janet Magree (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[130] Comment by John Knutson (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[131] Comment by Allie Tibbetts (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[132] Comment by Brandon Fiedler (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[133] Comment by Connor McLeod (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[134] Comment by Alyssa Faber (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[135] Comment by Sandy Peters (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[136] Comment by Sysan Nygaard (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).

135. Nichole Carter submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concerns over fossil fuel investments, abandonment of climate goals under political pressure, and expansion into oil and gas sectors internationally.[137]

136. Bryan Hansel submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to anticipated rate increases, reduced local control, and profit-first priorities.[138]

137. Dennis Hamsher submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns over transparency, public input, and the risk of negative economic impacts.[139]

138. Emily Onello submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing health risks, threats to state carbon-free goals, and potential impacts on ratepayers.[140]

139. Eric Chandler submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concerns over rate increases.[141]

140. Jordan Hewitt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating preference for local ownership even if rates rise to avoid sale to investment firms.[142]

141. Sarah Seidelmann submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns about asset stripping, profit extraction, and negative impacts on community and environmental stewardship.[143]

142. William Williams submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that the Acquisition does not serve the public interest.[144]

143. DiAnn White submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it is a bad deal for Minnesota Power customers and Minnesotans.[145]

144. Gregg Kelley submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to fossil fuel investments, lack of environmental commitment, and the potential for increased emissions and harm to the North Shore ecosystem.[146]

145. Katheryn Schneider submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that foreign investors could raise costs and reduce local control.[147]

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[137] Comment by Nichole Carter (Apr. 3, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217202-01).
[138] Comment by Bryan Hansel (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[139] Comment by Dennis Hamsher (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[140] Comment by Emily Onello (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[141] Comment by Eric Chandler (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[142] Comment by Jordan Hewitt (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[143] Comment by Sarah Seidelmann (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[144] Comment by William Williams (Apr. 4, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217274-01).
[145] Comment by DiAnn White (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01).
[146] Comment by Gregg Kelley (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01).
[147] Comment by Katheryn Schneider (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01).

146. Susan Henke submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns over capital investment risks, private equity profit motives, ties to fossil fuels, and going through the regulatory process if resold.[148]

147. Susan Willis submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing distrust of private equity motives, concerns about system stability, and skepticism of buyer intentions.[149]

148. Rusty White submitted comments opposing the Acquisition stating that it is not in the public interest.[150]

149. Lisa Franchett submitted comments opposing the Acquisition citing concerns over private equity ownership and affordability.[151]

150. Suzanne Griffith submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concerns about short-term investments and maintaining community commitments.[152]

151. Lynn Anderson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns of rate increases and misalignment with state clean-energy goals.[153]

152. Megan Perry-Spears submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing conflicts of interest, rate hike risks, threats to local control, environmental consequences, and failure to demonstrate public benefit.[154]

153. Kayla Pridmore submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to the concerns that private-equity profit targets would raise residential and small-business rates without public benefit.[155]

154. Libby Bent submitted comments opposing the Acquisition related to transparency, short-term profit focus, and under-investment in maintenance and clean energy.[156]

155. Paul Anderson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that local ownership better understands public-utility obligations than profit-focused institutional investors.[157]

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[148] Comment by Susan Henke (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01).
[149] Comment by Susan Willis (Apr. 7, 2025) (Batch Comments (eDocket No. 20254-217311-01).
[150] Comment by Rusty White (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217364-01).
[151] Comment by Lisa Franchett (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217364-01).
[152] Comment by Suzanne Griffith (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[153] Comment by Lynn Anderson (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[154] Comment by Megan Perry Spears (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[155] Comment by Kayla Pridmore (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[156] Comment by Libby Bent (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[157] Comment by Paul Anderson (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).

156. Rebecca Lindquist submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, contending that overpaying for the utility would lead to higher rates and that BlackRock's fossil-fuel interests conflict with regional priorities.[158]

157. Drew Jensen submitted comments expressing support for Minnesota Power's philanthropic work and local community contributions, specifically referencing support for the Duluth Children's Museum.[159]

158. Alice Lesch submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to the concern about the purchase premium, impact on ratepayers, and reduced transparency.[160]

159. Steven Schmidt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing the concern that investor profit motives could drive rate increases, limit shareholder gains, and impact employee wages and benefits.[161]

160. Greg Wicklund submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because adding foreign private-equity ownership could worsen customer experience and harm Minnesota consumers.[162]

161. Michael Lawrence submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns of rate increases, environmental setbacks, and misalignment with local values.[163]

162. Ken Fuelling submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, asserting that private-equity ownership could prioritize profit over community energy needs and climate commitments.[164]

163. Michael Lyons submitted comments opposing the Acquisition with concerns of possible service interruptions and the price setting by a private firm.[165]

164. Debby Bocnuk submitted comments.[166]

165. Ryan Jansen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns over rate increases, prior private equity failures in other states, and a conflict of interest related to data centers and energy usage.[167]

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[158] Comment by Rebecca Lindquist (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[159] Comment by Drew Jensen (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[160] Comment by Alice Lesch (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[161] Comment by Steven Schmidt (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[162] Comment by Greg Wicklund (Apr. 8, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217366-01).
[163] Comment by Michael Lawrence (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217418-01).
[164] Comment by Ken Fuelling (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217417-01).
[165] Comment by Michael Lyons (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217415-01).
[166] Comment by Debby Bocnuk (eDocket No. 20254-217414-01) (comment could not be viewed in, or downloaded from, the eDocket eFiling system).
[167] Comment by Ryan Jensen (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217413-01).

166. Erica Henkel submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns of rate pressures and negative regional impacts.[168]

167. Jeff Roemer submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because the sale could impose additional customer costs and further rate increases.[169]

168. Christina Goerdt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it is not in the best interest of Minnesotans.[170]

169. Susan Iserngagen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to loss of local ties and the risk that foreign investors could sell off infrastructure.[171]

170. Leslie Brunfelt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because private-equity cost-cutting and price increases could harm consumers.[172]

171. Dale Koziol submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing support for increased local or regional control over utility governance and rate-setting.[173]

172. Kyle Ingebrigtson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing risks of higher prices, weaker grid investment, and reduced sustainability commitments.[174]

173. Sharon Becker submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private-equity firms may prioritize profit over public service and degrade essential utilities.[175]

174. Casey McGill submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concerns of rate increases. [176]

175. Kurt Witzig submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that it would jeopardize the public interest through rate increases. [177]

176. Brook Johnson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power should not be sold to a private firm.[178]

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[168] Comment by Erica Henkel (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217409-01).
[169] Comment by Jeff Roemer (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217408-01).
[170] Comment by Christina Goerdt (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217404-01).
[171] Comment by Susan Iserngagen (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217402-01).
[172] Comment by Leslie Brunfelt (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217401-01).
[173] Comment by Dale Koziol (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217400-01).
[174] Comment by Kyle Ingebrigtson (Apr. 9, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217397-01).
[175] Comment by Paul Anderson (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[176] Comment by Casey McGill (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[177] Comment by Kurt Witzig (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[178] Comment by Brook Johnson (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).

177. Jane Fitzpatrick submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that local utility ownership aligns operations with customer interests better than private investors.[179]

178. Peter Spooner submitted comments opposing the Acquisition with concerns that private-equity firms absorb assets, reduce services, and drive inflation.[180]

179. Angela Lenahan submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[181]

180. Amelia Hughes submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that public utilities should not be owned by private investors and that the sale could create hardship for families.[182]

181. Anne Leino submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it would benefit investors while raising prices for Minnesotans.[183]

182. Michael Sunnafrank submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing service degradation and asset stripping by private firms.[184]

183. Katelynn Robinson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing inflationary practices of private-equity firms and risks to clean-energy transition.[185]

184. Kimberly Benning submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, asserting that profit-focused ownership would hurt struggling customers.[186]

185. Anthony Castaneda submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing satisfaction with current service and distrust of outside investment firms.[187]

186. Kevin Hoeschen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing satisfaction with current service.[188]

187. Ariel Wolf submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, asserting that electricity is a necessary utility that should not be treated as a profit source for private equity.[189]

[179] Comment by Jane Fitzpatrick (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[180] Comment by Peter Spooner (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[181] Comment by Angela Lenahan (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[182] Comment by Amelia Hughes (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[183] Comment by Anne Leino (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[184] Comment by Michael Sunnafrank (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[185] Comment by Katelynn Robinson (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[186] Comment by Kimberly Benning (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[187] Comment by Anthony Casaneda (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[188] Comment by Kevin Hoeschen (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).
[189] Comment by Airel Wolf (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-02).

188. Kimberly Hoffmockel submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to concerns that the Partners would ignore the utility's mission and raise rates.[190]

189. Mary Munroe submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that selling a vital utility to private investors is shortsighted and harms Minnesotans' well-being.[191]

190. Spencer Miller submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because private-equity ownership could increase prices and reduce investment in the region.[192]

191. Jolene Stevens submitted comments opposing the Acquisition with concerns regarding private-equity firms.[193]

192. Carol Gallinger submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, asserting that Minnesota Power should remain locally owned.[194]

193. Kathy Kunst submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing distrust of foreign ownership.[195]

194. Mike Wolf submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to expected rate hikes, weaker grid resilience, and reduced sustainability efforts.[196]

195. Ivy Vainio submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, recommending the consideration of long-term environmental impact on future generations.[197]

196. Pv Tkach submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that energy should not be owned by Wall Street investors.[198]

197. Brenda Kangas submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to conflict-of-interest concerns and monopoly risk.[199]

198. Callie Thompson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[200]

199. Carol Faber submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it would enrich buyers and impoverish customers.[201]

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[190] Comment by Kimberly Hoffmockel (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[191] Comment by Mary Munroe (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[192] Comment by Spencer Miller (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[193] Comment by Jolene Stevens (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[194] Comment by Carol Gallinger (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[195] Comment by Kathy Kunst (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[196] Comment by Mike Wolf (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[197] Comment by Ivy Vainio (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-01).
[198] Comment by Pv Tkach (Apr. 10, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217467-03).
[199] Comment by Brenda Kangas (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[200] Comment by Callie Thompson (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[201] Comment by Carol Faber (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).

200. Clay Helberg submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to concerns that private-equity firms extract value without improving service.[202]

201. Judith Sheriff submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing current reliability and warning that private investors prioritize profits.[203]

202. Julie Dowd submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, emphasizing hardship for customers on fixed incomes.[204]

203. Kait Wolf submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, warning of inflationary private-equity practices.[205]

204. Lauren Durant submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing loss of local control.[206]

205. Maria Allen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[207]

206. Mike Boeselager submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that additional financial resources could strengthen grid reliability and renewable-energy goals while local management remains in place.[208]

207. Pamela Griggs submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, requesting that ownership remain in the United States with utility expertise.[209]

208. Patricia Sterner submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that private-equity models harm public utilities.[210]

209. Robert and Faye Topliff submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing loss of local stewardship, environmental risks, profit-driven motives, and weakened accountability under foreign and private equity control.[211]

210. Sandy Johnson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[212]

211. Scott Herrly submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, warning that BlackRock could extract profits and raise utility costs.[213]

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[202] Comment by Clay Helberg (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[203] Comment by Judith Sheriff (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[204] Comment by Julie Dowd (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[205] Comment by Kait Wolf (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[206] Comment by Lauren Durant (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[207] Comment by Maria Allen (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[208] Comment by Mike Boeselager (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[209] Comment by Pamela Griggs (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[210] Comment by Patricia Sterner (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[211] Comment by Robert and Faye Topliff (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[212] Comment by Sandy Johnson (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).
[213] Comment by Scott Herrly (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217575-01).

212. Amanda Mosiniak submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to concerns that private-equity firms extract value without improving service.[214]

213. Andrew Olker submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, warning against transferring essential services to firms without local accountability.[215]

214. Jay Krajic submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[216]

215. Joel McKinney submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[217]

216. Linda Soyring submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concern over increased energy costs.[218]

217. Michele DeSmet submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing loss of local control, forced divestment, and lack of transparency.[219]

218. Nadine Roberts submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing loss of local control.[220]

219. Paul Ojanen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[221]

220. Rachelle Wakefield submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to concerns of rate increases and climate issues.[222]

221. Marah Evans submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, warning that private-equity firms raise rates, lay off employees, and sell assets.[223]

222. Daryl Capistran submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to loss of local control.[224]

223. Debra Roach submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, asserting that it offers no assurance of reasonably priced, carbon-free power.[225]

[214] Comment by Amanda Mosiniak (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[215] Comment by Andrew Olker (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[216] Comment by Jay Krajic (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[217] Comment by Joel McKinney (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[218] Comment by Linda Soyring (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[219] Comment by Michele DeSmet (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[220] Comment by Nadine Roberts (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[221] Comment by Paul Ojanen (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[222] Comment by Rachelle Wakefield (Apr. 14, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217577-01).
[223] Comment by Marah Evans (Apr. 15, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217683-01).
[224] Comment by Daryl Capistran (Apr. 15, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217682-01).
[225] Comment by Debra Roach (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).

224. Shaun Floerke submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, citing Minnesota Power's long-standing scholarship program and workforce-development benefits to the region.[226]

225. Anita DeLuca submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that investment-firm ownership could drive up rates.[227]

226. Laurie Cottingham submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private ownership is not in consumers' best interests.[228]

227. Suzanne Cervin submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, noting that shareholder-profit models are inappropriate for public utilities.[229]

228. Heather Schmidt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, predicting higher rates and fewer services for households.[230]

229. Mary Prudhomme submitted comments opposing the Acquisition with concerns about difficulties addressing emergencies with out-of-state owners and local assisted living facilities.[231]

230. Ann Marie Schlichting submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing forced changes to land use and environmental risks from solar panel development.[232]

231. Todd Roswold submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, contending that it would not serve Minnesota communities.[233]

232. Richard Pelto submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[234]

233. Charles Carter submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[235]

234. Gretchen Zerba Lessard submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to anticipated higher costs for consumers.[236]

235. Stacy McKenzie submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that it threatens affordability and reliability.[237]

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[226] Comment by Shaun Floerke (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[227] Comment by Anita DeLuca (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[228] Comment by Laurie Cottingham (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[229] Comment by Suzanne Cervin (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[230] Comment by Heather Schmidt (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[231] Comment by Mary Prudhomme (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[232] Comment by Ann Marie Schlichting (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[233] Comment by Todd Roswold (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[234] Comment by Richard Pelto (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[235] Comment by Charles Carter (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[236] Comment by Gretchen Zerba (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[237] Comment by Stacy Mckenzie (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).

236. Catherine Strand submitted comments supporting the Acquisition.[238]

237. Robin Macdonell submitted comments opposing the Acquisition for public-interest reasons.[239]

238. John Muehlbauer submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that it is the best way for the Company to move forward.[240]

239. Carsten Doepnerhove submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, questioning how investors would recover purchase costs without raising rates or cutting investment.[241]

240. Kim Buncich submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing risks of large rate increases, speculative investments, and loss of shareholder voice.[242]

241. Larry Popovich submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, expressing concern for retiree pensions, medical plans, and local service.[243]

242. Beth Eastman submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, emphasizing lack of transparency and the danger of a private-equity model.[244]

243. Candace Jensen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, predicting higher winter power bills for residents.[245]

244. Carol Anderson submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, highlighting Minnesota Power's positive partnership in local economic development and urging protection of staff and rates.[246]

245. Livia Red submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, favoring continued Minnesotan ownership and company culture.[247]

246. Tess Summers submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private-equity owners would prioritize profit.[248]

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[238] Comment by Catherine Strand (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[239] Comment by Robin Macdonell (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-02).
[240] Comment by John Muehlbauer (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[241] Comment by Carsten Doepnerhove (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[242] Comment by Kim Brucich (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[243] Comment by Larry Popovich (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[244] Comment by Beth Eastman (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[245] Comment by Candace Jensen (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[246] Comment by Carol Anderson (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[247] Comment by Livia Red (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[248] Comment by Tess Summers (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).

247. Josh Headlee submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, citing customer service, better service, and economic and environmental benefits.[249]

248. Rachel Wexler submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing environmental concerns related to Fish Lake.[250]

249. Joel Maki submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[251]

250. Blake Cazier submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it is not in the public interest.[252]

251. Buddy Robinson submitted comments on the Acquisition, citing rate increases, lack of transparency, conflicts of interest with industrial shareholders, risks of cost-shifting to residential customers, and potential degradation of clean energy investments and community engagement.[253]

252. Kristine Osbakken submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that it threatens local control, transparency, and progress toward carbon-free energy.[254]

253. Mike Kuitu submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to transparency and worker benefit protection.[255]

254. Barry Tegg submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that the Partners' financial strength will fund infrastructure investment and decarbonization.[256]

255. Eric Clement submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, asserting that the Partners can provide low-cost capital for grid modernization and carbon-free goals.[257]

256. Lynn Tryggestad submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing environmental and private-equity concerns.[258]

257. Thomas Rauschenfels submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to anticipated customer harm.[259]

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[249] Comment by Josh Headlee (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[250] Comment by Rachel Wexler (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[251] Comment by Joel Maki (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[252] Comment by Blake Cazier (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[253] Comment by Buddy Robinson (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-03).
[254] Comment by Kristine Osbakken (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).
[255] Comment by Mike Kuitu (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).
[256] Comment by Barry Tegg (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).
[257] Comment by Eric Clement (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).
[258] Comment by Lynn Tryggestad (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).
[259] Comment by Thomas Rauschenfels (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-04).

258. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce submitted comments supporting the Acquisition due to expected access to long-term capital for grid modernization and carbon-free generation while remaining under Commission oversight.[260]

259. Andrea Buck submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, warning of neglected service and sustainability setbacks under distant ownership.[261]

260. Cindy O'Neill submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because higher prices would burden Duluth customers.[262]

261. Dale Lewis submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, preferring current community ownership and affordable power.[263]

262. Danielle Winters submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[264]

263. Dawn Hiller submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[265]

264. Jacquelyn Dold submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, referencing opposition from consumer and environmental groups.[266]

265. Jean Scully submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, questioning foreign ownership.[267]

266. Julie Reichhoff submitted comments opposing the Acquisition stating that private-equity firms lack community stewardship.[268]

267. Kathryn Towle submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[269]

268. Kevin Erickson submitted comments opposing the Acquisition due to predicted cost increases and reduced service.[270]

269. Lisa Brown submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing tariff issues and concerns over foreign control.[271]

[260] Comment by Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (Apr. 15, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217662-01).
[261] Comment by Andrea Buck (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[262] Comment by Cindy O'Neill (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[263] Comment by Dale Lewis (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[264] Comment by Danielle Hiller (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[265] Comment by Dawn Hiller (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[266] Comment by Jacquelyn Dold (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[267] Comment by Jean Scully (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[268] Comment by Julie Reichhoff (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[269] Comment by Kathryn Towle (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[270] Comment by Kevin Erickson (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[271] Comment by Lisa Brown (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).

270. Mark Neiman submitted comments opposing the Acquisition citing affordability concerns.[272]

271. Teddy Burch submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that it is not in the public interest.[273]

272. Theodore Widmer submitted comments supporting the Acquisition citing needed infrastructure investments, carbon free goals, and reliability.[274]

273. Amy Grace submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, stating that it is not in the public interest.[275]

274. Will Keyes submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, citing continued community involvement, employee benefits, and financial assurances for reliability.[276]

275. Jean Granger submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, asserting that it would benefit investors rather than residents.[277]

276. Christine Popowski submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[278]

277. The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, citing benefits to local unions and workforce benefits.[279]

278. Bruce Harten submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, warning that additional large loads could degrade power quality and damage customer equipment.[280]

279. Dawson Weathers submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing concerns of loss of local investment, risks to ratepayers, transparency, and environmental concerns.[281]

280. Anne Erickson submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition.[282]

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[272] Comment by Mark Neiman (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[273] Comment by Teddy Burch (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[274] Comment by Theodore Widmer (Apr. 15, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217630-01).
[275] Comment by Amy Grace (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217808-01).
[276] Comment by Will Keyes (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217807-01).
[277] Comment by Jean Granger (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217801-01).
[278] Comment by Christine Popowski (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217800-01).
[279] Comment by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217797-01).
[280] Comment by Bruce Harten (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217795-01).
[281] Comment by Dawson Weathers (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217794-01).
[282] Comment by Anne Erickson (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217790-01).

281. Stephanie Hemphill submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, asserting that the sale is risky for customers and unnecessary for raising capital.[283]

282. The North East Area Labor Council submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, citing benefits to local unions and workforce benefits.[284]

283. Rebecca Heisel submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition.[285]

284. Dolores Heupel submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, arguing that a necessity such as electricity should not be controlled by a private-equity group.[286]

285. Debbie Mencel submitted comments supporting the Acquisition.[287]

286. Wesley Sisson submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, citing security, environmental, and ratepayer concerns.[288]

287. Gloria Walters submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, citing concerns about private equity and increased costs to customers.[289]

288. Eric Berube submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, contending that additional capital will help meet state clean-energy mandates, modernize infrastructure, and stabilize rates and jobs.[290]

289. Christie Manning submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that private-equity ownership would raise rates and reduce transparency.[291]

290. Tom Starkey submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, expressing concern about union jobs, potential rate increases, and conflicts of interest with industrial customers.[292]

291. Josh Fetcher submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, raising concerns of future rate hikes and reduced transparency if the utility becomes privately held.[293]

[283] Comment by Stephanie Hemphill (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217788-01).
[284] Comment by the North East Area Labor Council (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217783-01).
[285] Comment by Rebecca Heisel (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217782-01).
[286] Comment by Dolores Heupel (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217781-01).
[287] Comment by Debbie Mencel (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217777-01).
[288] Comment by Wesley Sisson (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217774-01).
[289] Comment by Gloria Walters (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217773-01).
[290] Comment by Eric Berube (Apr. 16, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217753-01).
[291] Comment by Christine Manning (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[292] Comment by Tom Starkey (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[293] Comment by John Fetcher (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).

292. Scott Lyytinen submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, stating that new owners would supply capital needed for clean-energy and reliability investments.[294]

293. Celeste Gutierrez submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, regarding concerns of higher rates, loss of transparency, and clean-energy commitments under private-equity ownership.[295]

294. Maria Wardoku submitted comments in opposition to the Acquisition, citing lack of transparency and the fossil-fuel interests.[296]

295. Kate Hunt submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, stating that it will preserve local headquarters, continue philanthropic programs, and fund decarbonization mandates.[297]

296. Eric Enberg submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, raising concerns of rate increases.[298]

297. Aaron Illikainen Enberg submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, raising concerns related to community involvement and environmental concerns.[299]

298. Amy Honkala submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, citing continued Commission control over rates.[300]

299. Alex Field submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, raising concerns related to community involvement and environmental concerns.[301]

300. Julie Fender submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, citing investments for renewable energy, grid modernization, and workforce protections.[302]

301. Rebecca Goutermont submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, stating that Minnesota Power will maintain current service and meet future consumer needs.[303]

302. Michael Scanlan submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, arguing that hedge-funds load companies with debt and prioritize short-term profit over customers.[304]

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[294] Comment by Scott Lyytinen (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[295] Comment Celeste Gutierrez (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[296] Comment by Maria Wardoku (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[297] Comment by Kate Hunt (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[298] Comment by Eric Enberg (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[299] Comment by Aaron Illikainen (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[300] Comment by Amy Honkala (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[301] Comment by Alex Field (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[302] Comment by Julie Fender (Apr. 16, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217749-02).
[303] Comment by Rebecca Goutermont (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[304] Comment by Michael Scanlan (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).

303. Phillip Goutermont submitted comments in support of the Acquisition, expressing confidence that the Board will act in the best interests of customers and shareholders.[305]

304. Emily Beltt submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[306]

305. Kathleen Shamp submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[307]

306. Dianne Hansen submitted comments opposing the Acquisition stating that it is not in the public interest.[308]

307. Amy Brallier submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that "trade-secret" redactions already signal reduced transparency.[309]

308. Sharon Coombs submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, citing private-equity harm in other sectors and warning of similar risks for utilities.[310]

309. Brandon Shofner submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that new investment will improve reliability, fund state energy goals, and preserve union jobs.[311]

310. Derek Pederson submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that new investment will improve reliability, fund state energy goals, and preserve union jobs.[312]

311. John Orrison submitted comments opposing the Acquisition because a sale to an equity firm would reduce local rate-payer influence over power production.[313]

312. Daniel Nordling submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, asserting that the Partners will provide capital to meet carbon-free and reliability goals.[314]

313. Emily Ekstrom submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, provided that the Commission oversight continues to ensure safe, reliable, affordable service.[315]

314. Rachel Wagner submitted comments opposing the Acquisition, stating that private-equity ownership is inconsistent with affordable, reliable service.[316]

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[305] Comment by Phillip Goutermont (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[306] Comment by Emily Bent (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[307] Comment by Kathleen Shamp (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[308] Comment by Dianne Hansen (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[309] Comment by Amy Brallier (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[310] Comment by Sharon Coombs (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217822-01).
[311] Comment by Brandon Shofner (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[312] Comment by Derek Pederson (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[313] Comment by John Orrison (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[314] Comment by Daniel Nordling (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[315] Comment by Emily Ekstrom (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[316] Comment by Rachel Wagner (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).

315. Douglas Lande submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[317]

316. Christine Popowski submitted comments opposing the Acquisition.[318]

317. Chris Aepelbacher submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, contending that well-capitalized owners will supply funds for Minnesota's carbon-free standard while local management and Commission regulation remain.[319]

318. Amanda Kluge submitted comments supporting the Acquisition, stating that committed investors will fund needed projects at lower overall cost under continued Commission oversight. [320]

Written Comments eFiled Outside the Public Comment Period

319. The Commission also eFiled comments after the close of the public comment period. As of May 15, 2025, approximately 17 written comments have been eFiled outside of the public comment period.

320. Bruce Penner submitted comments opposing the acquisition, expressing concern that distant, profit-oriented owners would be less sensitive to customers and raise rates.[321]

321. Zack Vance submitted comments opposing the acquisition.[322]

322. Alexis Scarbrough submitted comments opposing the acquisition, predicting rate increases and stating that the utility should remain Minnesota-owned.[323]

323. Mike Pelletier submitted comments opposing the acquisition, stating it would enrich investors at rate-payer expense.[324]

324. Chad Lander submitted comments supporting the acquisition, arguing that well-capitalized partners will fund green-energy mandates and prevent a hostile takeover.[325]

325. Steve Maasch submitted comments opposing the acquisition, citing forced share sale for retirees, rate hikes, loss of local control, and lack of transparency.[326]

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[317] Comment by Douglas Lande (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[318] Comment by Christine Popowski (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[319] Comment by Chris Aepelbacher (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[320] Comment by Amanda Kluge (Apr. 17, 2025) (Batch Comments) (eDocket No. 20254-217821-01).
[321] Comment by Bruce Penner (April 21, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217926-01).
[322] Comment by Zack Vance (April 21, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217925-01).
[323] Comment by Alexis Scarbrough (Apr. 21, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217924-01).
[324] Comment by Mike Pelletier (Apr. 21, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217923-01).
[325] Comment by Chad Lander (Apr. 21, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-217922-01).
[326] Comment by Steve Maasch (Apr. 22, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218014-01).

326. Shawneen Kilde submitted comments opposing the acquisition, stating that it is not in the public interest.[327]

327. Lynn Tryggestad submitted comments opposing the acquisition, asserting that loss of local control and potential rate hikes outweigh claimed benefits.[328]

328. Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce submitted comments supporting the acquisition citing the commitment to the local community and environmental goals.[329]

329. Pat deGrood submitted comments supporting the acquisition stating that it provides stability to the Company and will allow it to continue local commitments and sustainable practices.[330]

330. Kristin Renskers submitted comments in support of the acquisition citing labor protections, the need for capital, and benefits to reliability.[331]

331. Alice Madden submitted comments opposing the acquisition stating that it is not in the public interest.[332]

332. Onsite Group Solutions submitted comments in support of the acquisition stating that it will allow the Company to maintain local focus and maintain local labor connections.[333]

333. JT Haines submitted comments opposing the acquisition stating it is not in the public interest.[334]

334. Eric Hoffman submitted comments in support of the acquisition, citing the continued support of local unions.[335]

335. Horace Kahlbaugh submitted comments opposing the acquisition.[336]

336. Ryan Bishop, a Minnesota Power employee, submitted comments in support of the acquisition stating that the access to capital will help ALLETE meet sustainability goals.[337]

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[327] Comment by Shawneen Kilde (Apr. 22, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218013-01).
[328] Comment by Lynn Tryggestad (Apr. 22, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218011-01).
[329] Comment by Herman Town Area Chamber of Commerce (Apr. 24, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218078-02).
[330] Comment by Pat deGrood (Apr. 24, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218078-01).
[331] Comment by Kristin Renskers (Apr. 25, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218128-01).
[332] Comment by Alice Madden (Apr. 29, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218278-01).
[333] Comment by Onsite Group Solutions (Apr. 30, 2025) (eDocket No. 20254-218331-01).
[334] Comment by JT Haines (May 2, 2025) (eDocket No. 20255-218541-01).
[335] Comment by Eric Hoffman (May 6, 2025) (eDocket No. 20255-218655-01)
[336] Comment by Horace Kahlbaugh (May 12, 2025) (eDocket No. 20255-218811-01).
[337] Comment by Ryan Bishop (May 12, 2025) (eDocket No. 20255-218778-01).