

Staff Briefing Papers

Meeting Date June 12, 2025

Agenda Item Item 1*

Company All Utilities

Docket No. U-999/PR-25-16

In the Matter of Commission Subcommittee Delegations under Minn. Stat. 216A.03, subdivision 8

Issues Should the Commission name Commissioner Audrey Partridge chair of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee?

Staff Mike Bull mike.bull@state.mn.us 651-201-2196

✓ Relevant Documents

Date

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The attached materials are work papers of the Commission Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

BACKGROUND

Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8, the Commission may create and appoint members to subcommittees of the Commission consisting of at least one Commissioner. The Commission has established the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs by order dated May 16, 2024. Chair Katie Sieben is the current chair of this subcommittee and is recommending Commissioner Partridge to succeed her.

DISCUSSION

The Commission is authorized to create subcommittees and delegate authority to a subcommittee to act on behalf of the Commission. Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8(a). Because the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office works on many different types of cases, often with complicated procedural histories, it can be challenging to quickly get Commissioners up to speed on consumer issues when needed. The commission established this subcommittee to receive regular briefings about the work of the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office, including ongoing and emerging consumer issues.

Based on information received in briefings, the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee is empowered to take further actions as needed. For example, the subcommittee could initiate a Commission investigation on a particular topic, direct legal staff to draft a letter, direct regulatory staff to issue an information request, or direct the Deputy Executive Secretary to coordinate a planning meeting on a consumer issue.

The subcommittee can also make decisions on dockets primarily related to consumer issues, such as Commission investigations initiated by the subcommittee. The subcommittee would follow all procedures in Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8, and the decision would be memorialized in a written order and filed in eDockets.

Chair Katie Sieben is the current chair of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and is recommending Audrey Partridge take over as chair of the subcommittee. Commissioner Partridge has agreed to become chair of the Subcommittee effective as of effective June 13, 2025.

DECISION OPTIONS

1. Appoint Commissioner Audrey Partridge as chair of the Subcommittee on Affairs effective as June 13, 2025.