

January 7, 2025

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

RE: **Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce**
Docket No. E145, E328/SA-24-428

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached are the comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Joint Request of the MiEnergy Cooperative and the
City of Whalan to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries.

Brian Krambeer, CEO, on behalf of the MiEnergy Cooperative and David Hallum, Mayor for the City of Whalan, filed the Petition on December 9, 2024.

The filing constitutes a joint request on behalf of MiEnergy Cooperative (MiEnergy) and the City of Whalan, (collectively the Parties) to update the official service territory map to reflect an agreed-upon change in the Parties electric service territory boundaries (Transfer Area). Through the permanent change of the Transfer Area, MiEnergy will take over 58 Whalan Public Utilities accounts, equal to 195 acres. MiEnergy will acquire the service rights for the Transfer Area from the City of Whalan.

The Department notes that the ownership of the City of Whalan's transfer of ownership to MiEnergy Cooperative was voted on by the City of Whalan, which we believe provides adequate customer notice. As a result, the Department concludes that the Joint Request meets the Commission's requirements regarding service area transfers as indicated on the attached checklist and appears to be in order.

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Therefore, the Department recommends the Commission approve the joint request of MiEnergy and the City of Whalan to Modify Electric Service Territory Boundaries resulting in the permanent transfer of the 58 Whalan Public Utilities accounts to MiEnergy, and requests MNGEO update the service territory map, to reflect the changes on the map as provided.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Wyckoff, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Energy Resources

LB/ad
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce

Docket No. E145, E328-SA-24-428

CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING AGREED UPON SERVICE AREA TRANSFERS AND EXCEPTIONS

- ☒ A cover letter with the submitter's full contact information, including where to provide electronic service.
 - ☒ A joint letter explaining the change.
 - ☒ Contact information for both utilities: Name, title, phone number, work address, email. Utility Petition Pg. 2-3.
 - ☒ Contact information, of the individual who will update the electronic service territory map. Utility Petition Pg. 2.
 - ☒ Legal description of the property. Utility Petition Schedule A.
 - ☒ Short explanation of why the agreement is consistent with Minn. Stat. § 216B.39. Utility Petition pg. 1.
- Filing is related to:
- ☒ Several permanent boundary changes, or
 - ☐ Service by exception. The parties agree the limited right to serve by exception does not convey permanent rights to serve the exception area.
 - ☒ Settlement Agreement, if applicable. Utility Petition Pg. 2 and Exhibit B.
 - ☒ If yes, signed by authorized representatives of both utilities. Utility Petition Pg. 3.
 - ☒ A digital (PDF) map with the proposed transfer or exception clearly outlined. Utility Schedule A.
 - ☐ Transfer or exception takes place on one of the Federally Recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota. Not applicable for this filing.
 - ☐ If yes, utility documented consultation with the affected Tribal Nation at page ____.
 - ☒ Affected customers received written notice, including utility and Commission contact information. Table with type and number of customers affected and notice date(s). Exhibit B and C – note, the ownership of the City of Whalan's transfer of ownership to MiEnergy Cooperative was voted on by the City of Whalan .