

Ex Parte Communication Report

Date:

To: Public Ex Parte Communication File

Docket No:

Case Name:

From: PUC Staff:

RE: Permissible Ex Parte Communications Pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7845.7400.

1. Type of communication: (Oral or Written)

If written, attach the document.

If oral, Date:

Time:

NOTE: In both instances, please notify the Maker the communication has been submitted for inclusion in the record.

2. Maker of the Communication:

3. Recipient of the Communication:

4. For communications involving the setting of interim rates or the review of compliance filings, the topic was:

5. For all other permissible communications that are prohibited for the Commissioners under Minn. Rules, part 7845.7200, the substance of the communication was:

6. For oral permissible ex parte communications, has a copy of this memo been sent to the assigned Administrative Law Judge? Yes No N/A

(Name and Date)

Re: 25-325 clarification

From Pradhan, Bhavin (COMM) <Bhavin.Pradhan@state.mn.us>

Date Wed 10/22/2025 3:06 PM

To Li, Austin (PUC) <Austin.Li@state.mn.us>; Rakow, Stephen (COMM) <stephen.rakow@state.mn.us>

Cc Gomez, Kit (PUC) <Kit.Gomez@state.mn.us>; Teigland, Peter (He/Him/His) (COMM) <Peter.Teigland@state.mn.us>

Hi Austin,

Thank you for reaching out and giving us the opportunity to clarify.

The Department provides the following clarifications to its Initial Comments (filed October 9, 2025) regarding Docket No. E017/M-25-325, *In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Petition for a Proposed Energy Storage System Pilot at The University of Minnesota Morris*.

1. The Department recommends the Commission require Otter Tail Power Company to submit a post-selection compliance filing summarizing:
 - Scoring criteria for vendor selection;
 - Chosen technology;
 - Key commercial terms;
 - Warranty for the BESS system; and
 - Delivery schedule.
2. The Department requests the Company provide two items:
 - a. The specifics of the financial arrangement with UMN-Morris, including the exact contribution amount, in its reply comments.
 - b. The calculation for compensation payments to UMN-Morris in the post-selection compliance filing.
3. The Department recommends that the *Research and Learnings* report and the *Risk Mitigation* report be filed two years after the BESS becomes operational.

Please let us know if there is any other information we can provide.

Best,
Bhavin

From: Li, Austin (PUC) <Austin.Li@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:29 PM

To: Pradhan, Bhavin (COMM) <Bhavin.Pradhan@state.mn.us>; Rakow, Stephen (COMM) <stephen.rakow@state.mn.us>

Cc: Gomez, Kit (PUC) <Kit.Gomez@state.mn.us>

Subject: 25-325 clarification

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. The Commission is in the process of analyzing the filings submitted in docket 25-325 regarding Otter Tail Power's proposed battery energy storage project on the University of Minnesota-Morris campus. For your reply comments submitted on Oct 9th, we would like to seek your clarification on certain Department recommendations:

For Otter Tail to provide a post-selection compliance filing (Department recommendation A.2).

- 1) In various instances, in addition to requiring Otter Tail to inform on chosen technology, key commercial terms, warranties, and delivery schedule, the Department also mentions "scoring" (see comments page 4 & 7), while in other instances of this, the Department did not mention "scoring", but includes "vendor" (see comments page 2). We would like to ask the Department to clarify the exact informational criteria that it recommends that Otter Tail provide in the recommended post-selection compliance filing.

For Otter Tail to provide in reply comments the specifics of the financial arrangement with UMN-Morris with a description of the exact amount of the UMN-Morris's contribution and the calculation for the compensation payment in the post-selection compliance filing (Department recommendation B).

- 2) We would like to ask the Department to clarify if it requests that this financial information be provided as separate reply comments or as part of the aforementioned post-selection compliance filing.

For Otter Tail to provide a comprehensive reporting requirement (Department recommendation C).

- 3) The Department recommends that Otter Tail provide a formal "lessons-learned" report (second bullet point) as well as a risk mitigation safety report (third bullet point). We would like to ask the Department to clarify the desired timeframe for when such reports should be submitted to stakeholders.

I will file your response as permissible ex parte for transparency.

Thank you,

Austin Li (he/him)

Economic Analysis Unit, Department of Energy Fellow

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