

August 16, 2024

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. E299, E132/SA-24-257

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 Rochester Public Utilities and People’s Energy Cooperative to Update Electric Service Territory Records.

Rochester Public Utilities filed the Petition on July 19, 2024.

The filing constitutes a joint request on behalf of Rochester Public Utilities and People’s Energy Cooperative (collectively the Parties) to update the official service territory map to reflect an agreed-upon change in the Parties’ electric service territory boundaries (Affected Areas). Through the permanent change to the Affected Areas, Rochester Public Utilities will annex four Affected Areas, equal to 115.20 acres, which will impact one commercial customer. Rochester Public Utilities will acquire the service rights for the Affected Areas from People’s Energy Cooperative.

The Department concludes that the joint request meets the Commission’s requirements regarding service area transfers and exceptions as indicated on the attached checklist and appears to be in order.

Therefore, the Department recommends the Commission approve the joint request of Rochester Public Utilities and People’s Energy Cooperative, for People’s Energy Cooperative to discontinue and transfer electric service to customers in the Affected Area to Rochester Public Utilities and requests MNGEO update the service territory map, to reflect the changes on the map as provided.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dr. Sydnie Lieb
Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Analysis

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Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce

Docket No. E299, E132/SA-24-257

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. Initial Filing Pp. 2-3.
 - Contact information, including email address, of the individuals who will update the electronic service territory map. Initial Filing Pp. 2-3.
 - Legal description of the property. Initial Filing Exhibit B Pp. 1-4.
 - Short explanation of why the agreement is consistent with Minn. Stat. § 216B.39. Initial Filing Pp 1-2.

Filing is related to:

- Several permanent boundary 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. Initial Filing Exhibit A Map.
 - If yes, signed by authorized representatives of both utilities. Initial Filing Exhibit A Map.
- A digital (PDF) map with the proposed transfer or exception clearly outlined. Initial Filing Exhibit 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). Initial Filing Exhibit D. A Certificate of Service was also filed on August 6, 2024, confirming the written notice had been mailed to the Affected Area customers.