



505 Nicollet Mall
P.O. Box 59038
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0038

September 1, 2017

Mr. Dan Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 East Seventh Place, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**RE: In the Matter of the Application of CenterPoint Energy, a division of
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., for Authority to Increase Natural Gas
Rates in Minnesota
Docket No. G-008/GR-13-316
Request to Extend Decoupling**

Dear Mr. Wolf,

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) authorized a three year pilot full decoupling program (RD Rider) for CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp, d/b/a/ CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, or the Company) in the June 9, 2014 Order in the Company's 2013 Rate Case¹. The three year full decoupling pilot will end on June 30, 2018; however, the RD Rider adjustment for the last evaluation period is expected to be in effect from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 with a final true-up.

The Company filed a general rate case on August 2, 2017² which included a request to continue the full decoupling program as a regular feature of the Company's tariffs.³ However, we recognize a final order in the 2017 Rate Case is not expected before the end of the last Evaluation Period. Therefore, absent Commission action, the RD rider will expire on June 30, 2018. As such, the Company is filing this *Request to Extend Decoupling* until the Commission makes a final determination regarding the RD Rider in the 2017 rate case⁴.

As discussed in the 2017 Rate Case, the RD Rider is a critical component of the Company's and Minnesota's energy conservation efforts. The RD Rider removes the financial disincentive to the Company of pursuing conservation and thereby helps to achieve the State's goals related to energy conservation.

Extending the Company's current decoupling pilot until such time as the Commission makes a final decision on decoupling in the rate case avoids the potential of a "gap" in the decoupling program which could be both confusing to customers and harmful to the Company. Therefore, the Company believes this short extension of the current decoupling pilot is both reasonable and in the public interest.

¹ Docket No. G-008/GR-13-316.

² Docket No. G-008/GR-17-285.

³ See the testimony of Mr. Burl Drews.

⁴ Additionally, the Company has also filed its second Evaluation Report concurrently with this *Request to Extend Decoupling*.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (612) 321-4625 or Peggy.Sorum@CenterPointEnergy.com.

Sincerely,

/s/

Peggy Sorum
Manager – Regulatory Financial Activities
CenterPoint Energy

Enclosures
cc: Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Marie	Doyle	marie.doyle@centerpointenergy.com	CenterPoint Energy	505 Nicollet Mall P O Box 59038 Minneapolis, MN 554590038	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Ronald B.	Edelstein	ron.edelstein@gastechnology.org	GTI	1700 S Mount Prospect Rd Des Plains, IL 60018	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Edward	Garvey	garveyed@aol.com	Residence	32 Lawton St Saint Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Kimberly	Hellwig	kimberly.hellwig@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth Street Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Annete	Henkel	mui@mutilityinvestors.org	Minnesota Utility Investors	413 Wacouta Street #230 St.Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Bruce L.	Hoffarber	bhoffarber@usenergyservices.com	U.S. Energy Services, Inc.	605 Highway 169 N Ste 1200 Plymouth, MN 55441	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Mary	Holly	mholly@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.	225 S Sixth St Ste 3500 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Nicolle	Kupser	nkupser@greatermngas.com	Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.	202 South Main Street P.O. Box 68 Le Sueur, MN 56058	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Roger	Leider	roger@mnpropane.org	Minnesota Propane Association	PO Box 220 209 N Run River Dr Princeton, MN 55371	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Michael	Loeffler	mike.loeffler@nngco.com	Northern Natural Gas Co.	CORP HQ, 714 1111 So. 103rd Street Omaha, NE 681241000	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Pam	Marshall	pam@energycents.org	Energy CENTS Coalition	823 7th St E St. Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth St Ste 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Mike	OConnor	moconnor@ibewlocal949.org	Local 949 IBEW	12908 Nicollet Ave S Burnsville, MN 55337	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Greg	Palmer	gpalmer@greatermngas.com	Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.	PO Box 68 202 South Main Street Le Sueur, MN 56058	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Kevin	Reuther	kreuther@mncenter.org	MN Center for Environmental Advocacy	26 E Exchange St, Ste 206 St. Paul, MN 551011667	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Peggy	Sorum	peggy.sorum@centerpointenergy.com	CenterPoint Energy	505 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
James M.	Strommen	jstrommen@kennedy-graven.com	Kennedy & Graven, Chartered	470 U.S. Bank Plaza 200 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13- 316_Potentially Interested Persons

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Samantha	Williams	swilliams@nrdc.org	Natural Resources Defense Council	20 N. Wacker Drive Ste 1600 Chicago, IL 60606	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons
Jonathan	Wolfgram	Jonathan.Wolfgram@state.mn.us	Office of Pipeline Safety	Minnesota Department of Public Safety 445 Minnesota Street Suite 147 St. Paul, MN 55101-1547	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_13-316_Potentially Interested Persons