



---- Via Electronic Filing ----

6/28/2016

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**RE: ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION, DELEGATING
AUTHORITY, AND FINDING THAT TARIFFS MUST BE
APPROVED BEFORE BECOMING EFFECTIVE**

DOCKET NO.: E-999/PR-16-09

Date: 6/28/2016

Dear Mr. Wolf:

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) respectfully submits the attached petition for clarification in regards to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) order in the above referenced docket.

MREA represents the interests of the state's 45 electric distribution cooperatives and the six generation and transmission cooperatives that supply them with power. Our member cooperatives are not-for-profit electric utility businesses that are locally owned and governed by the member-consumers they serve.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Horan

Jim Horan
Director of Government Affairs and Counsel
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

State of Minnesota
before the
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
John Tuma	Commissioner

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Petition for Clarification

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) respectfully submits this petition for clarification in the above referenced order. On June 27, 2016 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) filed an order in the above referenced docket regarding cost recovery charges allowable under Minnesota Statute 216B.164 subd. 3(a). The Commission ordered the opening of "a generic investigation (a) to investigate the appropriate methodology or methodologies for establishing electric cooperatives' fees under Minnesota Statute 216B.164, subd. 3; and (b) to review and determine whether the specific fees charged or filed by electric cooperative associations under Minnesota Statute 216B.164, subd. 3 comply with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216B.164."

On May 12, 2016 the Commission issued a notice establishing a comment period on two issues. The first issue, whether or not the Commission should investigate the fees, was addressed by the Commission in the above referenced order. The Commission did not specifically respond to the second issue of whether annual tariff compliance filings (and rates, fees and charges included within the filings) must be approved before becoming effective.

MREA believes Commission authority to review and approve tariff filings is very limited in statute, and suspending board-approved fees exceeds the Commission's jurisdiction. However, it is not clear from the order what action the Commission is taking with respect to suspending cost recovery fees and approval of annual cogeneration compliance tariff filings generally. MREA respectfully request clarification to fully understand the scope and intent of the order in this area.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Horan

Jim Horan
Director of Government Affairs and Counsel
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jim Horan, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association

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/s/Jim Horan

Jim Horan
Director of Government Affairs and Counsel
Minnesota Rural Electric Association