

May 1, 2026

Sasha Bergman
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. E999/CI-16-521

Dear Ms. Bergman,

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

*In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and
Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat.
§216B.1611*

The Department recommends **approving the proposed changes** and is available to answer any questions the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dr. SYDNIE LIEB
Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Analysis

BP/ad
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce

Docket No. E999/CI-16-521

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 10, 2026, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter the PUC or the Commission) issued a Notice of Comment Period¹ in this docket regarding proposed updates to the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP) for Battery Energy Storage Systems and Limited/Non-Export Systems.

The issue in the Notice is: *Should the Commission approve the Technical Subgroup's proposed changes to the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and the Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP) regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems and Limited/Non-Export Systems?*

II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

January 22, 2020	In the January 22, 2020 Order, ² the Commission recommended additional discussion and eventual resolution of energy storage control modes, harmonization of the language and structure of energy storage requirements in operating agreements, and explicit treatment of distributed energy resources using Power Control Systems for maximum capacity and export control.
April 15, 2024	The Commission Order ³ requested input from the Distributed Generation Working Group (DGWG) on non-exporting systems and battery storage systems, specifically on how a new interconnection screen or interconnection track should be created for non-exporting distributed energy resource applications under 40 kW AC, and to explore if and how battery storage systems should be evaluated under the MN DIP.
March 14, 2025	Technical Subgroup Education Session
July 10, 2025	Technical Subgroup Education Session
April 10, 2026	The Commission issued Notice of Comments.

¹ *In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611, Notice of Comment Period*, April 10, 2026, Docket No. E999/CI-16-521, (eDockets) [20264-230219-01](#) (hereinafter "Notice").

² *In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611, Order Establishing Updated Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements*, January 22, 2020, Docket No. E999/CI-16-521, (eDockets) [20201-159427-02](#)

³ *In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611, Order Establishing a Two-Queue System, Directing Further Discussions, and Addressing Miscellaneous Matters*, April 15, 2024, Docket No. E999/CI-16-521, (eDockets) [20244-205355-01](#)

Topic(s) open for comment:

- Should the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the TIIR as found in Attachment B of this Notice?
- Should the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the TIIR as found in Attachment C to this Notice?
- What action should the Commission take regarding the three disputed items in the TSG's report as found in Attachment A to this notice?
- Should the Commission extend the temporary annual reporting on interconnection through at least 2030 by modifying the requirement in the August 13, 2018 Order (paragraph 20)?⁴
 - Should the Commission make any changes to these reporting requirements?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TIIR

The Department responds to the following notice topic:

Should the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the TIIR as found in Attachment B of this Notice?

The Department recommends the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the TIIR as found in Attachment B of the Notice.

B. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MN DIP

The Department responds to the following notice topic:

Should the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the ~~THR~~-MN DIP⁵ as found in Attachment C of this Notice?

The Department recommends the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the MN DIP as found in Attachment C of the Notice.

C. DISPUTED ITEMS IN THE TSG'S REPORT

The Department responds to the following notice topic:

What action should the Commission take regarding the three disputed items in the TSG's report as found in Attachment A to this notice?

⁴ Docket E999/CI-16-521: August 13, 2018 [Commission Order](#)

⁵ The Department believes this is a typo as Attachment C is the MN DIP.

The Department maintains its recommendations detailed below.

Contested Item 1 is “Use Export Capacity in 1.1.1.” The Department supports the use of Export Capacity in Section 1.1.1. The Department provided the following rationale:

- Using export capacity in 1.1.1. encourages DER to be configured for self-consumption, rather than export, which minimizes interconnection costs and mitigates the need for expensive and time-consuming distribution system upgrades.
- Using export capacity allows a broader range of DER projects to qualify for the streamlined 10 MW interconnection process to the distribution system, which reduces administrative bottlenecks.
- Using export capacity aligns with Minn. Stat. § 216B.1611, subd 1, the statute that mandates the establishment of generic standards for interconnection of distributed resources.
- Note: measurement of capacity for MN DIP jurisdiction is not a determination of capacity for net-metering rate eligibility per Minn. Stat. § 216B.164.

Contested Item 2 is “Modify to use 40 kW Export Capacity in 1.1.5.1.2.” The Department supports modification to use 40 kW Export Capacity in 1.1.5.1.2. The Department provided the following rationale:

Using export capacity ensures that the grid impact is based on actual power flow, and does not exclude safety-controlled systems from being excluded due to theoretical maximums. Note: eligibility for the simplified interconnection process here is not a determination of capacity for net-metering rate eligibility per Minn. Stat. § 216B.164.

The Department has no position in Contested Item 3 A.

Contested Item 3 B is “In 5.14.3 use “A DER using an acceptable control method is required to execute an Interconnection Agreement and the Export Capacity specified by the Interconnection Customer in the Interconnection Agreement will subsequently be included as a limitation in the Interconnection Agreement.” The Department provided the following rationale:

Explicitly specifying that a “acceptable control method” as a prerequisite for DER interconnection establishes a clear technical baseline that ensures grid stability while preventing delays in the interconnection process.

D. TEMPORARY ANNUAL REPORTING ON INTERCONNECTION

The Department responds to the following notice topic:

Should the Commission extend the temporary annual reporting on interconnection through at least 2030 by modifying the requirement in the August 13, 2018 Order (paragraph 20)?

Should the Commission make any changes to these reporting requirements?

The August 13, 2018 Order (paragraph 20) states:

20. On March 1, until at least 2022, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and Dakota Electric shall each file a report with the Commission on interconnections that occurred during the preceding calendar year. This report shall include, at minimum:

- a. Facility capacity;
- b. DER type (technology);
- c. Date of application submittal;
- d. Date application deemed complete;
- e. Date and disposition at applicable milestones in the interconnection process:
 - i. Initial review,
 - ii. Supplemental review,
 - iii. System-impact study,
 - iv. Facilities study,
 - v. Interconnection agreement, and
 - vi. Permission to operate;
- f. Final process track (simplified, fast-track, or study);
- g. Number of pre-application reports requested and processed;
- h. A narrative of how the process is working and where there is potential for improvement by the utility or interconnection applicants; and

- i. For facilities of greater than 20 kW, the variance between the cost estimate provided in the facilities-study report and the actual cost of upgrades, including an explanation for variances that fall outside a +/- 20% range.

The Commission delegates to its Executive Secretary the authority to determine the formatting and docket for the annual reporting.⁶

The Department recommends the Commission extend the temporary annual reporting on interconnection through at least 2030 by modifying the requirement in the August 13, 2018 Order (paragraph 20). The Department recommends no changes to the reporting requirements.

E. OTHER ISSUES

The Department responds to the following notice topic:

Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

The Department has no other issues or concerns related to this matter at this time.

IV. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on analysis of the Technical Subgroup's proposed changes to the TIIR and MN DIP and the information in the record, the Department has prepared recommendations, which are provided below. The recommendations correspond to the subheadings of Section III above.

A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TIIR

- The Department recommends the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the TIIR as found in Attachment B of the Notice.

B. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MN DIP

- The Department recommends the Commission adopt the TSG's proposed changes to the MN DIP as found in Attachment C of the Notice.

C. DISPUTED ITEMS IN THE TSG'S REPORT

- The Department supports the use of Export Capacity in Section 1.1.1.
- The Department supports modification to use 40 kW Export Capacity in 1.1.5.1.2.
- The Department has no position in Contested Item 3 A.
- The Department supports the usage in 5.14.3 of "A DER using an acceptable control method is required to execute an Interconnection Agreement and the Export Capacity specified by the

⁶ *In the Matter of Updating the Generic Standards for the Interconnection and Operation of Distributed Generation Facilities Established under Minn. Stat. §216B.1611, Order Establishing Updated Interconnection Process and Standard Interconnection Agreement*, August 13, 2018, Docket No. E999/CI-16-521, (eDockets) [20188-145752-02](#)

Interconnection Customer in the Interconnection Agreement will subsequently be included as a limitation in the Interconnection Agreement.”

D. TEMPORARY ANNUAL REPORTING ON INTERCONNECTION

- The Department recommends the Commission extend the temporary annual reporting on interconnection through at least 2030 by modifying the requirement in the August 13, 2018 Order (paragraph 20). The Department recommends no changes to the reporting requirements.

Attachments

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of people 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 St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Comments

Docket No. E999/CI-16-521

Dated this 1st day of **May 2026**

/s/Sharon Ferguson

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98	Thomas	Melone	thomas.melone@allcous.com	Minnesota Go Solar LLC		222 South 9th Street Suite 1600 Minneapolis MN, 55120 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
99	Tim	Mergen	tmergen@meeker.coop	Meeker Cooperative Light And Power		1725 US Hwy 12 E. Suite 100 PO Box 68 Litchfield MN, 55355 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
100	Pontius	Mike	mpontius@mnpower.com			null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
101	Luther	Miller	luther.c.miller@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
102	Darrick	Moe	darrick@mrea.org	Minnesota Rural Electric Association		11640 73rd Ave N Maple Grove MN, 55369 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
103	Dalene	Monsebroten	dalene.monsebroten@nmpagency.com	Northern Municipal Power Agency		123 2nd St W Thief River Falls MN, 56701 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
104	Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.com	Stoel Rives LLP		33 South Sixth St Ste 4200 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
105	Alex	Nelson	anelson@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association		4300 220nd St Farmington MN, 55024 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
106	Ben	Nelson	benn@cmpasgroup.org	CMPMPA		459 South Grove Street Blue Earth MN, 56013 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
107	David	Niles	david.niles@avantenergy.com	Minnesota Municipal Power Agency		220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
108	Michael	Noble	noble@fresh-energy.org	Fresh Energy		408 Saint Peter St Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55102 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
109	Rolf	Nordstrom	rnordstrom@gpsd.net	Great Plains Institute		2801 21ST AVE S STE 220 Minneapolis MN, 55407-1229 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
110	Samantha	Norris	samanthanorris@alliantenergy.com	Interstate Power and Light Company		200 1st Street SE PO Box 351 Cedar Rapids IA, 52406-0351 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
111	Logan	O'Grady	logrady@mnseia.org	Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association		2288 University Ave W St. Paul MN, 55114 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
112	Timothy	O'Leary	toleary@llec.coop	Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc		P.O. Box 639 Tyler MN, 56178-0639	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

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						United States				
113	Jeff	O'Neill	jeff.oneill@ci.monticello.mn.us	City of Monticello		505 Walnut Street Suite 1 Monticello MN, 55362 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
114	Russell	Olson	rolson@hcpd.com	Heartland Consumers Power District		PO Box 248 Madison SD, 57042-0248 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
115	Wendi	Olson	wolson@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		215 South Cascade Fergus Falls MN, 56537 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
116	Bethany	Owen	bowen@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power		30 West Superior Street Duluth MN, 55802 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
117	Cezar	Panait	cezar.panait@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
118	Dan	Patry	dpatry@sunedison.com	SunEdison		600 Clipper Drive Belmont CA, 94002 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
119	Jeffrey C	Paulson	jeff.jcplaw@comcast.net	Paulson Law Office, Ltd.		4445 W 77th Street Suite 224 Edina MN, 55435 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
120	Dean	Pawlowski	dpawlowski@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company		PO Box 496 215 S. Cascade St. Fergus Falls MN, 56537-0496 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
121	Susan	Peirce	susan.peirce@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 Seventh Place East St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
122	Wess	Pfaff	wes.pfaff@mrenergy.com			null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
123	Crystal	Pomerleau	crystal.r.pomerleau@xcelenergy.com	Xcel		null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
124	Elizabeth	Psihos	elizabeth.psihos@idealenergies.com			null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

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136	Kay	Schraeder	kschraeder@minnkota.com	Minnkota Power		5301 32nd Ave S Grand Forks ND, 58201 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
137	Matthew	Schuerger	matthew.schuerger@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
138	Ronald J.	Schwartau	rschwartau@noblesce.com	Nobles Electric Cooperative		22636 U.S. Hwy. 59 Worthington MN, 56187 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
139	Rob	Scott Hovland	rob.scott-hovland@mrenergy.com	Missouri River Energy Services		3724 W Avera Dr PO Box 88920 Sioux Falls SD, 57109-8920 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
140	Dean	Sedgwick	sedgwick@itascapower.com	Itasca Power Company		PO Box 455 Spring Lake MN, 56680 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
141	Doug	Shoemaker	dougs@charter.net	Minnesota Renewable Energy		2928 5th Ave S Minneapolis MN, 55408 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
142	Felicia	Skaggs	fskaggs@meeker.coop	Meeker Cooperative Light & Power		1725 US Highway 12 E Suite 100 Litchfield MN, 55355 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
143	Trevor	Smith	trevor.smith@avantenergy.com	Avant Energy, Inc.		220 South Sixth Street Suite 1300 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
144	Rafi	Sohail	rafi.sohail@centerpointenergy.com	CenterPoint Energy		800 LaSalle Avenue P.O. Box 59038 Minneapolis MN, 55459-0038 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
145	Beth	Soholt	bsoholt@cleangridalliance.org	Clean Grid Alliance		570 Asbury Street Suite 201 St. Paul MN, 55104 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
146	Marcia	Solie	m.solie@bcrea.coop	Brown County Rural Electrical Association		24386 State Hwy. 4, PO Box 529 Sleepy Eye MN, 56085	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

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						United States				
147	Braden	Solum	braden.solum@idealenergies.com	iDEAL Energies		5810 Nicollet Ave Minneapolis MN, 55419 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
148	Brandon	Stamp	brandon.j.stamp@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		401 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis MN, 55401 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
149	Sky	Stanfield	stanfield@smwlaw.com	Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger		396 Hayes Street San Francisco CA, 94102 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
150	Kristin	Stastny	kstastny@taftlaw.com	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP		2200 IDS Center 80 South 8th Street Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
151	Sherry	Swanson	sswanson@noblesce.com	Nobles Cooperative Electric		PO Box 58 Slayton MN, 56172 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
152	Bryant	Tauer	btauer@whe.org	Wright-Hennepin		6800 Electric Dr Rockford MN, 55373 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
153	Emma Marshall	Torres	emarshall-torres@convergentep.com			null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
154	Pat	Treseler	pat.jcplaw@comcast.net	Paulson Law Office LTD		4445 W 77th Street Suite 224 Edina MN, 55435 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
155	Jeff	Triplett	triplettj@powersystem.org	MREA		10710 Town Square Dr NW St 201 Minneapolis MN, 55449 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
156	Adam	Tromblay	atromblay@noblesce.com	Nobles Cooperative Electric		P.O. Box 58 Slayton MN, 56127-0058 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
157	Lise	Trudeau	lise.trudeau@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
158	Alan	Urban	alan.m.urban@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy		null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

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159	Ellen	Veazey	lveazey@solarunitedneighbors.org	Solar United Neighbors		1350 Connecticut Ave NW Ste 412 Washington DC, 20036 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
160	Sam	Villella	sdvillella@gmail.com			10534 Alamo Street NE Blaine MN, 55449 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
161	Wendy	Vorasane	wendy.vorasane@idealenergies.com			null null, null United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
162	Roger	Warehime	roger.warehime@owatonnautilities.com	Owatonna Municipal Public Utilities - Gas		208 S Walnut Ave PO BOX 800 Owatonna MN, 55060 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
163	Samantha	Weaver	samantha@communitysolaraccess.org	Coalition for Community Solar Access		1380 Monroe St. Washington DC DC, 20010 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
164	Elizabeth	Wefel	eawefel@flaherty-hood.com	Missouri River Energy Services		525 Park St Ste 470 Saint Paul MN, 55103 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
165	John	Williamson	john.williamson@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry		443 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul MN, 55155-4341 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
166	Danielle	Winner	danielle.winner@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
167	Robyn	Woeste	robynwoeste@alliantenergy.com	Interstate Power and Light Company		200 First St SE Cedar Rapids IA, 52401 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
168	Terry	Wolf	terry.wolf@mrenergy.com	Missouri River Energy Services		3724 W Avera Dr PO Box Sioux Falls SD, 57109-8920 United States	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC
169	Brian	Zavesky	brianz@mrenergy.com	Missouri River Energy Services		3724 West Avera Drive P.O. Box 88920 Sioux Falls SD, 57108-	Electronic Service		No	16-521Official Service List PUC

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