

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
*Staff Briefing Papers*

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Meeting Date: **August 10, 2017** .....\*Agenda Item #11

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Companies: Greater Minnesota Gas

Docket No. G022/M-15-434

In the Matter of Greater Minnesota Gas' 2014 Annual Service Quality Report.

Issues: Should the Commission Accept Greater Minnesota Gas' Service Quality Reports for 2014?

Staff: Marc Fournier .....651-201-2214

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***Relevant Documents***

Commission Order Accepting Report, Docket No. G022/M-14-964..... August 31, 2015

Initial Filing 2014 Service Quality Report Greater Minnesota Gas  
G004/M-15-434 ..... May 8, 2016

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Division of Energy Resources. .... July 22, 2015

Reply Comments of Greater Minnesota Gas. .... August 3, 2015

Letter from Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Division of Energy Resources ..... June 22, 2017

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The attached materials are workpapers of the Commission Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based upon information already in the record unless noted otherwise.

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## **Statement of the Issue**

Should the Commission accept GreaterMinnesota Gas' Service Quality Report for 2014?

## **Background**

In Comments dated July 22, 2015, the DOC observed significant inconsistencies between the Report and the data presented in the monthly Cold Weather Rule (CWR) reports filed by Greater Minnesota Gas. Further, many of the CWR reports were late filed. In addition, the DOC noted that the CWR reports filed with the Report did not match the reports originally filed with the Commission. Given these concerns, the DOC recommended that the Commission withhold decision on the annual service quality report and require the Greater Minnesota Gas to commission an audit by an independent firm of Greater Minnesota's data collection, maintenance, and retrieval practices used to fulfill Greater Minnesota's regulatory filing and reporting requirements. The DOC also recommended that the Company provide clarifying information in Reply Comments.

Greater Minnesota responded to the DOC's concerns in Reply Comments filed on August 3, 2015. The Company strongly disagreed with the DOC's audit recommendation and argued that the recommendation is unnecessary. Greater Minnesota also provided clarifying information requested by the DOC.

## **Parties**

**DOC:** Given the improvement in data reporting observed in the 2015 and 2016 annual service quality reports, the DOC concludes that an external, independent audit of Greater Minnesota's data collection, maintenance, and retrieval practices related to the Company's regulatory filing and reporting requirements is unnecessary at this time. The improved data accuracy and timeliness demonstrated in subsequent CWR reports and in the two most recent annual service quality reports indicates that the Company recognizes its regulatory obligations and has successfully improved its data collection and maintenance activities.

Based on the DOC's analysis in the 2015 and 2016 annual service quality reports, the DOC modifies its earlier recommendations in this docket. The DOC now recommends that the Commission accept Greater Minnesota's 2014 annual service quality report.

**Greater Minnesota Gas:** Greater Minnesota Gas requests that its 2014 Service Quality report be accepted.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff agrees with the recommendation of the DOC and accept Greater Minnesota Gas' 2014 service quality report, as listed in the DOC's June 22, 2017 letter.