

October 5, 2021

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, Division of Energy Resources**
Docket No. E295, E112/SA-21-697

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached are the *Comments* of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) in the following matter:

The Joint Request of Princeton Public Utilities and East Central Energy for Approval to Update Electric Service Territory Records.

The petition was filed September 24, 2021 by:

Kaela Brennan
McGrann Shea Carnival
Straughn & Lamb, Chtd.
800 Nicollet Mall, Suite 2600
Minneapolis, MN 55402

The Department recommends that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve the requested permanent service territory transfer from East Central Energy to Princeton Public Utilities and is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ JOHN KUNDERT
Financial Analyst

JPK/ja
Attachment



Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Docket No. E295, E112/SA-21-697

I. BACKGROUND

Princeton Public Utilities (“Princeton” or “the Municipal”) is an electric municipal utility organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota. East Central Energy (“ECE” or “the Cooperative”) is an electric distribution cooperative organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

II. SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

On September 24, 2021, the Municipal and Cooperative, collectively the Parties, jointly filed a petition under Minn. Stat. § 216B.44, asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to modify the Parties’ service territory boundaries. Approval of the Parties’ request would permanently transfer the Affected Area located within the City limits of Princeton and within the electric service territory assigned to the Cooperative to the Municipal or from ECE to Princeton.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

A. *TRANSFER OF THE AFFECTED AREA FROM THE COOPERATIVE TO THE MUNICIPAL*

The petition’s Exhibit A is a map of the Affected Area, which involves one area of 42 acres. There are no existing customers currently served by the Cooperative in the Affected Area.

Exhibits B is a legal description of the area.

1. The Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, except the East 300 feet thereof, and the North 500 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, except the East 300 feet thereof, all in Section 32, Township 36, Range 26, according to the United States Government Survey thereof and situated in Mille Lacs County, Minnesota.
2. EXCEPT: That part of the West 150.00 feet of the East 450.00 feet of the North 500.00 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and that part of the West 150.00 feet of the East 450.00 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, both in Section 32, Township 36, Range 26, which lies South of the Westerly extension of the North line of Lot 8, Block 1, Aero Business Park First Addition, said Mille Lacs Count Minnesota. and

3. That part of the West 150.00 feet of the East 450.00 feet of the North 500.00 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and that part of the West 150.00 feet of the East 450.00 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, both in Section 32, Township 36, Range 26 which lies South of the Westerly extension of the North line of Lot 8, Block 1, Aero Business Park First Addition, said Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. and
4. Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, all in Block 1, Aero Business Park First Addition, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota.

Per the Petition, the proposed transfer would be a permanent transfer of service territory. Further, the transfer of service territory would impact zero customers.

B. INTERIM SERVICE

The Parties appear to have agreed informally that, if a customer requests service before the Commission has considered the joint Petition, the Municipality will provide interim service to the Affected Area.

C. CUSTOMER NOTICE

Any customer notice that is necessary will be provided by the Municipality according to the Parties.

D. COMPENSATION

The filing made no mention of compensation, so the Department assumes no compensation occurred.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the permanent service territory transfer from East Central Energy to Princeton Municipal Utilities. MnGeo should update the Commission's maps to reflect the service area designations as shown on the map in the Petition.

/ja