

## NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: June 12, 2020

### In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Power's Renewable Resources Rider and 2020 Renewable Factor

**PUC Docket Number:** E-015/M-19-523

**Comment Period:** Supplemental Comment period closes July 9, 2020 at 4:30pm  
Supplemental Reply Comment period closes July 20, 2020 at 4:30pm

*Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.*

**Issue:** Should Minnesota Power's (Minnesota Power's or MP's) updated 2020 Renewable Resources Rider (RRR) revenue requirements and rates be approved?

#### **Topic(s) Open for Comment:**

- Minnesota Power's proposed Renewable Resources Cost Recovery revenue requirement.
- Minnesota Power's proposed Renewable Resources Cost Recovery Rider rates.
- Does Minnesota Power's resolution of its rate case (Docket Nos. E-015/GR-19-442 and E-015/M-20-429) have any impact on parties positions and, if so, what effect?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

#### **Background:**

On May 11, 2007, the Commission established Minnesota Power's Renewable Resources Rider (RRR) through an order to allow recovery of investments and expenditures related to transmission upgrades for the Oliver Wind II power purchase agreement with FPS Energy under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1645.

Beginning in 2010, MP also utilized its RRR to recover costs related to the Bison Wind energy Center. MP started cost recovery for Bison 1 in 2010 and subsequently began recovering costs for the remaining Bison facilities in 2013 and 2015. Additionally, MP used the RRR to recover costs for Thomson Dam – Hydro restoration Projects beginning in 2016.

On November 2, 2016, concurrent with the filing of its 2016 general rate case, in Docket No. E-015/GR-16-664, MP filed its 2017 RRR Factor Filing.<sup>1</sup> The Commission granted provisional approval of the 2017 renewable factor on December 21, 2016, with implementation effective January 1, 2017. On November 8, 2017, the Commission approved the 2017 RRR Factor Filing.

In its November 8, 2017 Order in Docket No. E-015/M-16-776, the Commission “Required MP to make a compliance filing at the conclusion of its 2016 rate case describing the final resolution of the true-up for RRR projects moved into base rates and the cash collections thereon.”

On June 5, 2018, MP filed its 2018 RRR Factor Petition in Docket No. E-015/M-18-375. MP requested Commission approval to recover updated tracker balance, updated investments and expenditures related to the two remaining projects associated with the Thomson Project that were not rolled into base rates in the 2016 rate case, and true-up of actual production tax credits. MP also included reimbursements of sums related to the Bison 6 LGIA.

In an Order dated July 30, 2018, in Docket No. E-015/M-18-375, the Commission “Granted provisional approval of the Renewable Resource Rider billing factors as outlined in the Department’s June 29, 2018 letter effective on the first day of the month following a Commission Order on this issue, or as soon as practical thereafter.” In an Order dated November 19, 2018, in Docket No. E-015/M-18-375, the Commission allowed Minnesota Power to implement its 2018 Renewable Resources Rider factors concurrent with the anticipated implementation date of final rates in MP’s 2016 general rate case in Docket No. E-015/GR-16-664, and required MP to file the updated rate factors in a compliance filing before implementation.

On August 15, 2019, MP filed its Petition in the instant proceeding, in Docket No. E-015/M-19-523, seeking approval of its 2020 Renewable Resource Rider factors.

On December 23, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (Department) filed Comments requesting that MP provide additional information in reply comments.

On February 14, 2020, MP submitted Reply Comments responding to the Department’s request for additional information, providing updated Exhibits and calculations, and requesting approval of modified 2020 RRR Factors.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](https://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

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<sup>1</sup> Docket No. E-015/M-16-776.

**Submit Public Comments:**

**Online:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Comment and follow the prompts

**Email:** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail:** Consumer Affairs Office  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (523) and select *Search*.

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**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Ray Hetherington, at [raymond.hetherington@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.hetherington@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2203; or Sundra Bender, at [sundra.bender@state.mn.us](mailto:sundra.bender@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2247.

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