

July 1, 2022

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

RE: Letter from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (the Department) regarding Dakota Electric Association's Request for Approval of a Reduction in the Association's Transfer/Connection and Reconnection Charge in Docket No. E111/M-22-227

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

On May 12, 2022, the Dakota Electric Association (Dakota Electric or Cooperative) filed its [Petition](#) (Docket No. E111/M-22-227) requesting the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve a reduction in the Cooperative's transfer/connection charge and reconnection charge.¹ Dakota Electric began assessing the lower reconnection fee and transfer/connection charge on May 2, 2022.²

On May 26, 2022, the Department filed [Comments](#) recommending the Commission approve Dakota Electric's Petition, with an effective date upon Commission approval, but no sooner than August 8, 2022. The Department based its recommendation on the required 60 days' notice utilities must provide to the Commission before changing established rates³ and on the Cooperative's Petition⁴.

Dakota Electric filed [Reply Comments](#) on June 22, 2022. Dakota Electric inadvertently requested modification to take effect no sooner than August 8, 2022.⁵ Dakota Electric stated it, "intends to voluntarily charge these lower fees until it receives formal approval from the Commission."⁶

¹ Petition, p. 8. Dakota Electric proposed to reduce the reconnection fee to \$10 from \$55 for regular hours reconnection (no longer requiring an after-hours fee) and reduce the transfer/connection charge from \$17.50 to \$8.50.

² Petition, p. 5. The Cooperative notified the Commission of its intention to voluntarily charge these lower fees in an April 26, 2022 [letter](#) filed in its 2019 general rate case (Docket No. E111/GR-19-478).

³ [Minnesota Statutes, § 216B.16](#), subdivision 1. [Minnesota Rule 7825.3200](#) requires utilities to notify the Commission at least 90 days prior to the proposed effective date of modified rates.

⁴ Petition, p. 4 proposed the modification date of Special Fees and Charges take effect upon Commission approval, but no sooner than August 8, 2022.

⁵ Reply Comments, p. 2.

⁶ Reply Comments, p. 2.

Will Seuffert

July 1, 2022

Page 2

The Department does not have concerns with Dakota Electric implementing lower rates on May 2, 2022.

The Department is available to answer any questions the Commission may have in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ HOLLY SODERBECK
Financial Analyst

HS/ja

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, 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 St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Response Comments**

Docket No. E111/M-22-227

Dated this **1st** day of **July 2022**

/s/Sharon Ferguson

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Eric	Fehlhaber	efehlhaber@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Adam	Heinen	aheinen@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th St W Farmington, MN 55024	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Corey	Hintz	chintz@dakotaelectric.com	Dakota Electric Association	4300 220th Street Farmington, MN 550249583	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Annie	Levenson Falk	annielf@cubminnesota.org	Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota	332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1360 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Pam	Marshall	pam@energycents.org	Energy CENTS Coalition	823 7th St E St. Paul, MN 55106	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
David	Moeller	dmoeller@allete.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_22-227_M-22-227