

Minnesota Energy Resources

An Integrys Energy Group Company 1995 Rahncliff Court, Suite 200 Eagan, MN 55122 www.minnesotaenergyresources.com

June 19, 2015

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Metro Square – Suite 350 212 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

PUBLIC DOCUMENT--TRADE SECRET DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of a New Area Surcharge for the Detroit Lakes – Long Lake Project

Docket No. G-011/M-15-441

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On May 11, 2015, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC or the Company) filed a Petition for Approval of a New Area Surcharge for the Detroit Lakes – Long Lake Project, requesting Commission approval of a new area surcharge (NAS) for a fifteen year period.

On June 10, 2015, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (the Department) submitted comments in the above referenced docket recommending that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approve Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation's (MERC) petition for approval of a New Area Surcharge (NAS) for the Detroit Lakes – Long Lake project with the following proposed modifications:

- Adjust the surcharge from 15 years to 20 years; and
- Adjust the surcharge rates to \$23.31 per month for residential customers and \$44.17 per month for all other customer classes.

MERC thanks the Department for its review and submits these Reply Comments responding to the Department's recommendations.

We first note that the NAS model that was filed with MERC's initial petition included the Conservation Cost Recovery Charge (CCRC) in the distribution rate for the NAS calculation. This charge should not be included in the distribution margin and MERC has re-run the model to exclude the CCRC rate. See Attachments A (15-year term) and B (20-year term).¹ Based on the revised model, the surcharge over a 15-year term would be \$30.90 for residential customers and \$58.55 for

¹ The nonpublic version of the revised models contains trade secret information. Specifically, the cost of plant additions, estimated customer sign-ups, estimated customer usage, and project map contained in Exhibits B and C of the filing are not generally known to, and not readily ascertainable by, vendors and competitors of MERC, who could obtain economic value from their disclosure. MERC maintains this information as trade secret. Accordingly, the nonpublic version of the New Area Surcharge filing contains data which qualifies as "Trade Secret Data" pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37, Subdivision 1(b).



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all other customer classes; the surcharge over a 20-year term would be \$25.33 for residential and \$47.99 for all other customer classes.

MERC agrees with the Department's recommendation to use a 20-year surcharge term, but proposes that the surcharge amount be approved based on the revised model calculation submitted in Attachment B. Specifically, we propose a surcharge of \$25.35 for residential customers based on a 20-year surcharge term.

MERC would propose to file amended tariff sheets and customer notices reflecting the Commission's decision on compliance filing following approval of the proposed NAS.

Please contact me at (651) 322-8965 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amber S. Lee____

Amber S. Lee Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation

Enclosures cc: Service List

Attachment A

Analysis
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Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reph Comments Docket No. G-011M-15-441 June 19, 2015

PUBLIC DOCUMENT--TRADE SECRET DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

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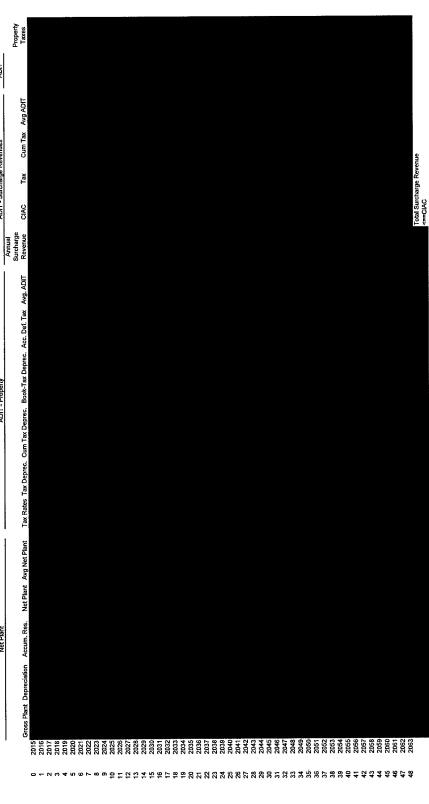
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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-311/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. Revised New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Respy Comments Docket No. G-011M-15-441 June 19, 2015

> MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page 1. TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS.... CAC 1. Gross Plant Investment CAC Depreciable Book Basis Book Depreciation Rate

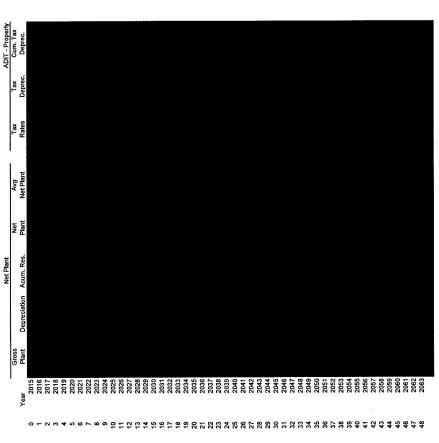
Book Depreciation Rate Depreciable Tax Basis

Tax Rate

Property Tax Rate First Year of Analysis 2015

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First Year of Analysis



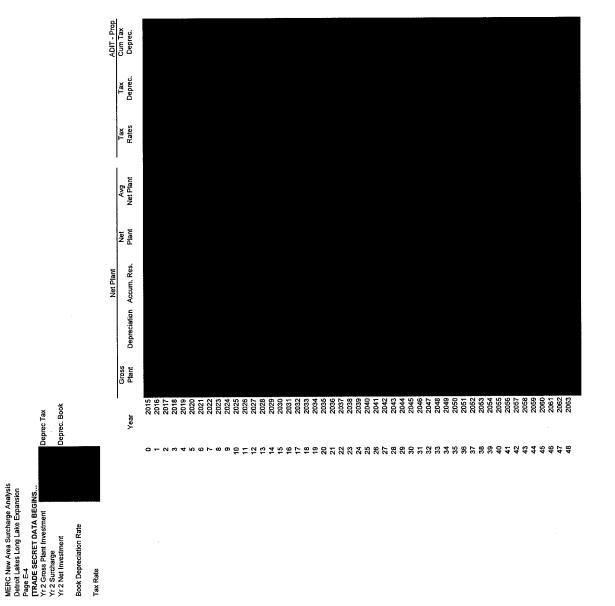
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Book Depreciation Rate

Tax Rate

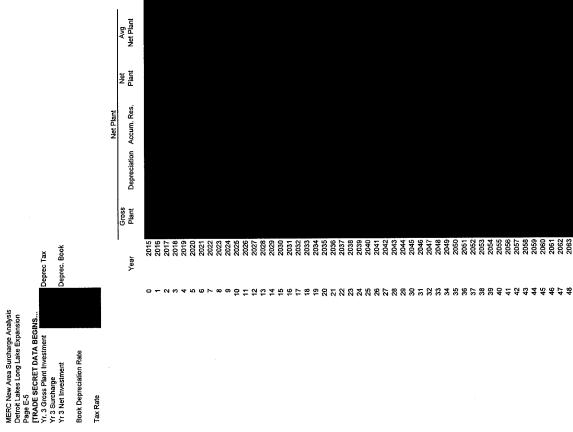
Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

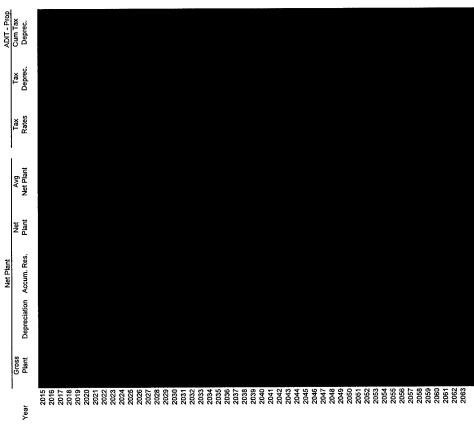
Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-011M-F3-441 June 19, 2015



Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011M-15-441 June 19, 2015



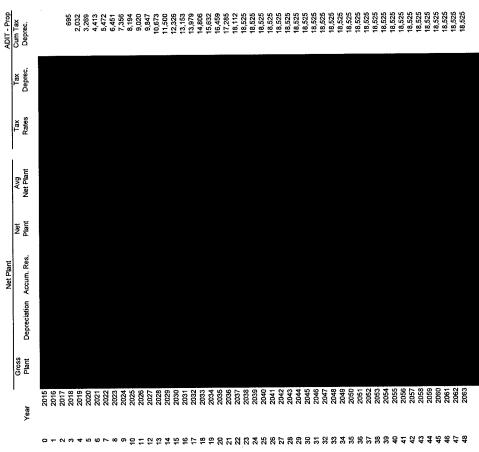


Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

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Deprec. Book

Book Depreciation Rate

Tax Rate

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E-7 TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS... Yr 5 Goos Pant Investment Yr 5 Net Investment Yr 5 Net Investment

Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

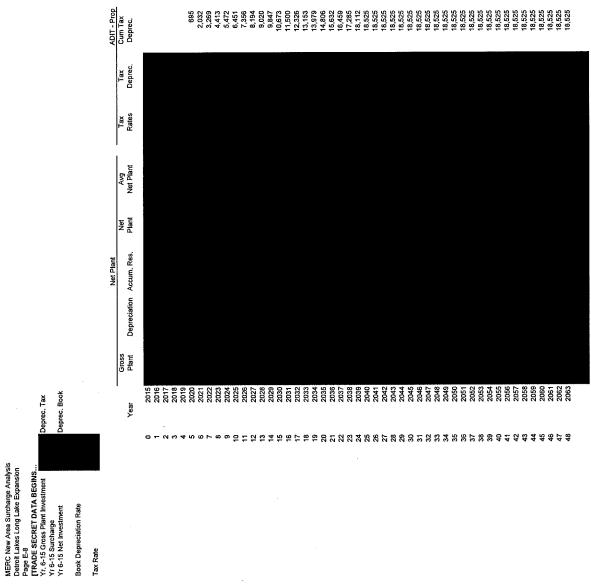
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Tax Rate

Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-311/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

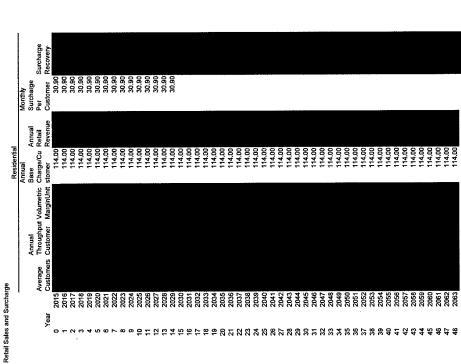


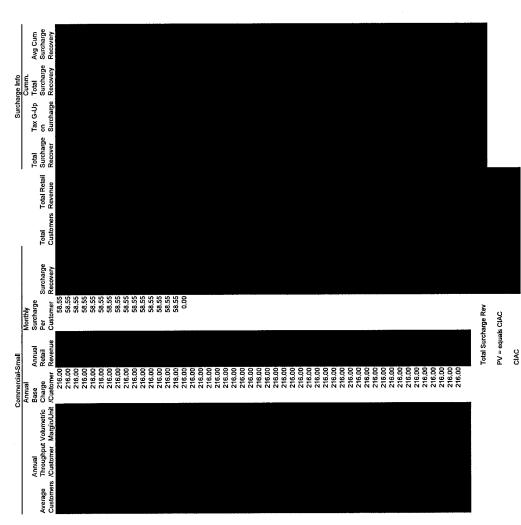
Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion

TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...





Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 PUBLIC DOCUMENT--TRADE SECRET DATA HAS BEEN EXCISEDAttachment A

June 19, 2015

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E-10 **[TRADE SECRET** DATA BEGINS... Income Tax Rate MPUC Factor

Capital Structure:

Overall Factor Tax Factor Weighted Cost Cost Ratios Long Term Debt STD Common Equity Total

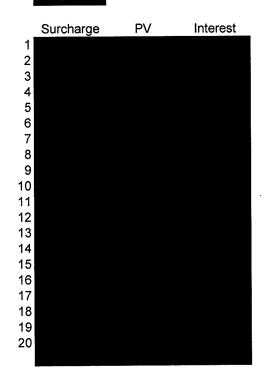
Income Tax Rate

ROR Actual Disct Rate Disc Rate per MPUC

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...

Discount Rate

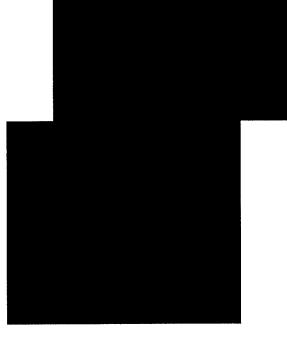


Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion **ITRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...** Assumptions Construction Costs CIAC Costs for Service Line Customer's Sign-Up Year 1 - 2014 Year 2 - 2015 Year 3 - 2016 Year 3 - 2016 Year 5 - 2019 Year 6 - 15 - 2020 through 2029 Total Customer Connects

Percentage of Total Connects Available

Total Project

Attachment A Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015



Attachment B

Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15441 Docket No. G-011-01-9, 2015

Minnesota Energy Resources New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion

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	Retail	(14)		Page E-9
	Total Rev.	(13)		Calculation
	Property	(12)		Page E-2
ments	O&M	(11)		Page E-9 x Rate per Customer
Traditional Revenue Requirements	Book	(10)		Page E-2
Traditional Re	Allowed	(6)		Calculation Page E-10
т	Average	Kate base (8)		Calculation
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	Average	Net Plant (6)		Page E-2
ıt	Net Plant	In Service (5)		Page E-2
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MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion	Page E-3 [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS	Yr. 1 Gross Plant Investment	CIAC	Depreciable Book Basis

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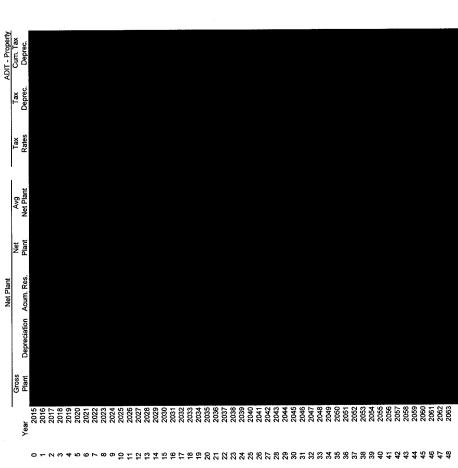
Depreciable Tax Basis 718,915 Tax Rate 41.45%

Property Tax Rate

3.50% / Gross Plant

First Year of Analysis

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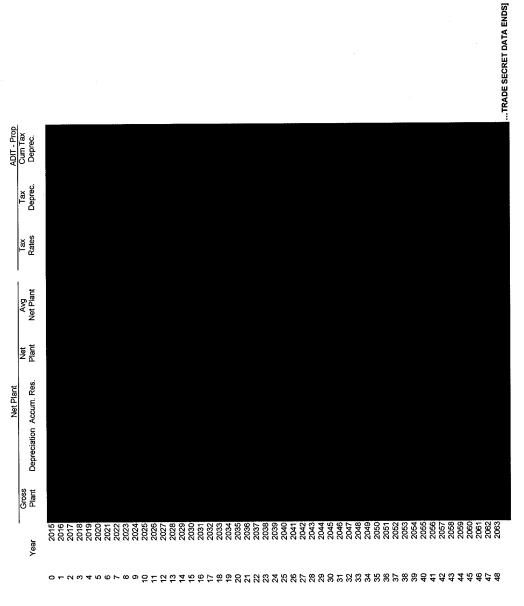
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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011M-15-441 June 19, 2015

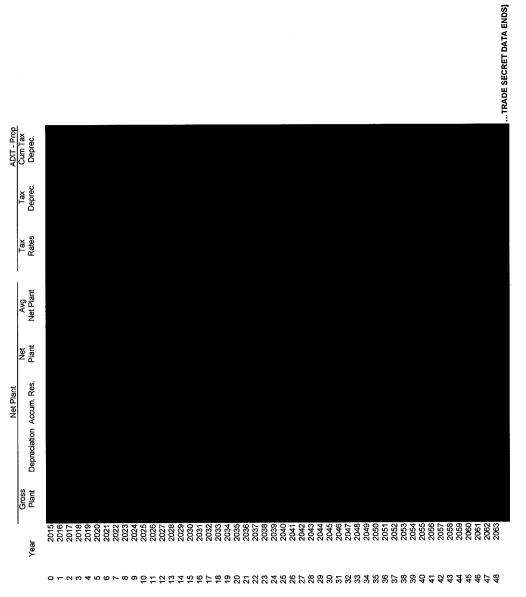
> MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroti Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E.4 **TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...** Yr 2 Gross Plant Investment Yr 2 Surcharge Yr 2 Net Investment Yr 2 Net Investment Sook Depreciation Rate Tax Rate 41.45%



Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repy Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

> MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E-5 ITAGE SECRET DATA BEGINS... Yr. 3 Gross Plant Investment 30,875 Deprec Tax Yr 3 Net Investment 30,875 Deprec. Book Book Depreciation Rate 2.120% Tax Rate 41,45%



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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-011MI-15-441 June 19, 2015

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E-6 **ITADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...** Y. 4 Surcharge Y1 4 Surcharge Y1 4 Net Investment 18,525 Deprec. Tax -18,525 Deprec. Book 2.120% 41.45% Book Depreciation Rate Tax Rate

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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

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Tax Rates

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repty Comments Docket No. G-011/M-F441 June 19, 2015

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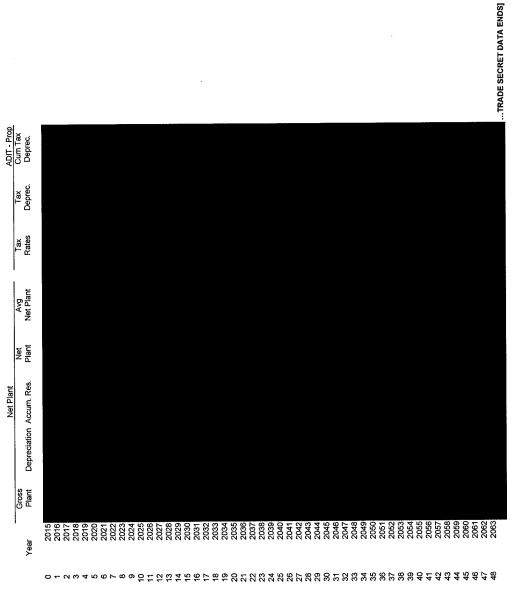
Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-411 June 19, 2015

> MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E.3 **ITRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...** Yr. 6-15 Gross Plant investment 18,525 Deprec. Tax Yr 6-15 Nurcharge Yr 6-15 Net investment 18,525 Deprec. Book Book Depreciation Rate 2.1200%

41.45%

Tax Rate



Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Repy Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...

Retail Sales and Surcharge

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Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. New Area Surcharge Analysis PUBLIC DOCUMENT--TRADE SECRET DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion Page E-10 **[TRADE SECRET** DATA BEGINS...

DATA BEGINS... Income Tax Rate MPUC Factor

Capital Structure:



Income Tax Rate

ROR Actual Disct Rate Disc Rate per MPUC

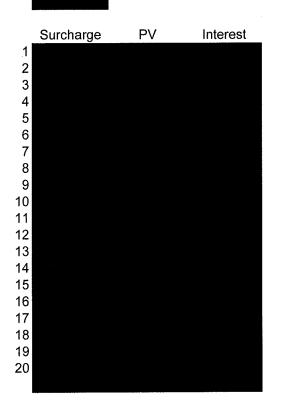
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Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015

MERC New Area Surcharge Analysis Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...

Discount Rate

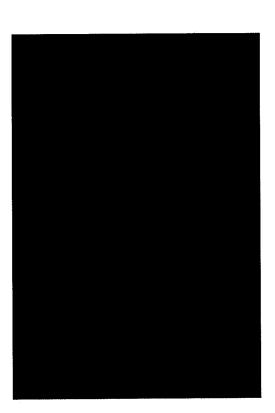


Detroit Lakes Long Lake Expansion **TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS...** Assumptions Construction Costs Construction Costs CIAC Costs for Service Line Customer's Sign-Up Year 1 - 2014 Year 1 - 2014 Year 2 - 2015 Year 3 - 2016 Year 3 - 2016 Year 4 - 2017 Year 5 - 2019 Year 6 - 15 - 2020 through 2029 Total Customer Connects

Percentage of Total Connects Available

Total Project

Attachment B Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation Reply Comments Docket No. G-011/M-15-441 June 19, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA)) ss COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Kristin M. Stastny, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that on June 19, 2015, on behalf of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) she electronically filed a true and correct copy of the attached Reply Comments on <u>www.edockets.state.mn.us</u>. Said documents were also served via U.S. mail and electronic service as designated on the attached service list.

<u>/s/ Kristin M. Stastny</u> Kristin M. Stastny

Subscribed and sworn to before me This 19th Day of June, 2015.

<u>/s/ Alice Jaworski</u> Notary Public, State of Minnesota My Commission Expires: January 31, 2020

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
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Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_15-441_M-15-441

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_15-441_M-15-441