

AN ALLETE COMPANY

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December 21, 2019

# VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Daniel P. Wolf Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Minnesota Power's 2017 Federal Tax Act Compliance Docket No. E, G-999/CI-17-895

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Minnesota Power respectfully submits its updated tariff sheet and other compliance items in response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's Order in the above-referenced Docket dated December 5, 2018. Note that since the attached tariff sheet is a new page for Minnesota Power's Rate Book, an updated Table of Contents is also included.

Please contact me at the number above if you have any questions about this filing.

Yours truly,

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Susan Ludwig

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# STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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# I. INTRODUCTION

Minnesota Power ("the Company") respectfully submits its Compliance Filing in response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") December 5, 2018 Order ("Tax Docket Order") in the above-referenced Docket.

In the Tax Docket Order, the Commission established methods for rate-regulated utilities to incorporate into rates the tax cost savings resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA"). The Commission ordered all rate-regulated energy utilities to make a compliance filing within 30 days including the utility's proposed implementation date, all supporting calculations for the Commission-required refund and adjustment to base rates (as applicable), and a proposed customer notice. Minnesota Power provides the required information, as well as an updated tariff sheet for its new tax rider and updated Table of Contents for the Company's Rate Book.

# **II. MINNESOTA POWER'S RESPONSE**

Order Point 5 of the Tax Docket Order specifically relates to Minnesota Power and addresses returning excess accumulated deferred income taxes ("Excess ADIT") as shown below. The Company's base rates have already been modified to incorporate current period tax cost savings from the TCJA.

- 5. Minnesota Power shall return to ratepayers its TCJA-related savings as follows:
  - A. The utility shall use a rider to return the following annual savings to be implemented in conjunction with the implementation of final rates in

Docket No. E-015/GR-16-664. In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota:

- 1) Protected excess accumulated deferred income tax liability, amortized using ARAM as early as IRS provisions allow, plus
- 2) Unprotected excess ADIT liability, amortized over ten years.
- B. The utility shall also return to ratepayers the benefits of the excess ADIT impacts that have already accrued by—
  - 1) a one-time refund, consistent with its current rate design, or
  - 2) incorporating the benefits into the rate case interim refund calculation.

## A. Implementation timing of new tax rider

At the August 9, 2018 Commission hearing on this matter, Minnesota Power agreed to implement the new tax rider in conjunction with the implementation of final rates in the Company's rate case in Docket E-15/GR-16-664. However, the Tax Docket Order was issued on December 5, 2018, four days after final rates were implemented in the rate case on December 1. Because the Tax Docket Order was issued after final rates were implemented, the Company was unable to implement the tax rider in conjunction with final rates. Instead, Minnesota Power will implement the tax rider on January 1, 2019, which is the first of the month following the Commission Order and the soonest the tax rider could be implemented.

# **B.** Calculation of new tax rider

The tax rider returns to customers the protected Excess ADIT, amortized using ARAM as early as IRS provisions allow, plus unprotected Excess ADIT, amortized over ten years. The calculation for annual amortization of Excess ADIT was provided in Table 1 of Minnesota Power's June 18, 2018 Additional Reply Comments in this docket and is restated in Table 1 below. The tariff sheet for the new tax rider is attached to this Compliance Filing, as well as an updated Table of Contents for the Company's Rate Book.

	Total Excess ADIT	Amortization Period	Amortization of Excess ADIT
Excess deferred taxes for plant items	(219,741,783)	ARAM*	(9,173,288)
Excess deferred taxes for NOLs	36,498,107	ARAM	1,520,754
Excess deferred taxes for non-plant items	(6,499,648)	10 yrs	(649,965)
Total	(189,743,324)		(8,302,499)
Jurisdictional percentage			85.80%
Annual amortization of Excess ADIT			(7,123,544)
Annual amortization after gross-up (1.40335)			(9,996,825)
*Average Rate Assumption Method			

Table 1. Minnesota Power calculation of Excess ADIT

The calculation of the new tax rider was included in a letter submitted in this docket on August 3, 2018 and is restated in Table 2 below, using the grossed-up amortization of Excess ADIT shown in Table 1 and revenue requirements from Minnesota Power's June 28, 2018 Compliance Filing in its current rate case (Docket No. E015/GR-16-664).

 Table 2. Calculation of New Tax Rider

Docket E015/GR-16-664.

Calculation of Uniform Discount Rate for 2017 Federal Tax Cut Refund of Excess ADIT					
	Revenue /1				
Residential, including Dual Fuel	113,278,810				
General Service, including Dual Fuel	69,482,120				
Large Light & Power	117,008,560				
Large Power, excluding Other	350,070,253				
Municipal Pumping	1,755,516				
Lighting	3,544,891				
Total	655,140,150				
Annual Refund Amount	(9,996,825)				
Uniform Discount to Apply to Bills	-1.5259%				
1/ MP Compliance Filing, 6/28/2018, Sch	nedule 10, page 2.				

#### C. Proposed Customer Notice

The following notice will appear on customer bills beginning on January 1, 2019:

Effective January 1,2019, per the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a 1.5259% credit will be applied to your bill. The line item appears on your bill as "Tax Reform Credit -1.5259%"

# **D.** One-time Refund

For the amounts of Excess ADIT which have already accrued, the Commission directed Minnesota Power to either return to customers by a one-time refund or by incorporating the benefits into the interim refund calculation in the Company's rate case. Because of the complexity and timing uncertainty involved with interim rate refunds, Minnesota Power proposes to issue a one-time refund to customers in the March 2019 billing cycle. If the timing of interim rates should happen to fall within the March 2019 billing cycle, then the Company proposes to issue the one-time Excess ADIT refund on the month following interim rate refunds.

# **III. CONCLUSION**

Minnesota Power has provided the information required by the Tax Docket Order. The implementation date for the new tax rider will be January 1, 2019, and an updated tariff sheet is provided. The proposed implementation for returning accrued amounts of Excess ADIT to customers will be a one-time lump sum in the March 2019 billing cycle, unless interim rate refunds should fall in March 2019. In that case, the one-time lump sum would be paid to customers in the April 2019 billing cycle.

Dated: December 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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# **RIDER FOR 2017 FEDERAL TAX CUT REFUND**

# APPLICATION

Applicable to electric service under all Retail Rate Schedules (and including all applicable Riders thereto) except that this Rider shall not be applicable to service under Company's Rider for Large Power Interruptible Service, Rider for Large Power Incremental Production Service or Competitive Rate Schedules – Rate Codes 73 and 79. In addition, this Rider is not applicable to billings under the Rider for Conservation Program Adjustment, Rider for Renewable Resources, Rider for Transmission Cost Recovery, Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE), Rider for Boswell Unit 4 Emission Reduction Rider for Voluntary Renewable Energy, Rider for Fuel and Purchased Energy Adjustment, and Pilot Rider for Community Solar Garden.

#### ADJUSTMENT

There shall be applied to Customer's monthly bill an Excess Accumulated Deferred Income Tax (Excess ADIT) refund factor applicable to all charges for service taken under Company's standard rate schedules (except as described above):

All applicable Retail Rate Customers:

-1.5259% refund factor

Filing Date	August 3, 2018		MPUC Docket No.	E, G-999/CI-17-895
Effective Date	January 1, 2019		Order Date	December 5, 2018
	Approved by:	<u>Marcia A. Po</u> Marcia A. Po Director - Ra	odratz	

# AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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Susan Romans of the City of Duluth, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, says that on the **21<sup>st</sup>** day of **December**, **2018**, she served Minnesota Power's Compliance Filing in **Docket No. E,G-999/CI-17-895** on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Resources Division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce via electronic filing. The persons on E-Docket's Official Service List for this Docket were served as requested.

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Susan Romans

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