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June 10, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Request of Rate Regulated Utilities for Authorization to Track Expenses Resulting From the Effects of COVD-19 and Record and Defer Such Expenses Into a Regulatory Asset Docket No. E.G-999/M-20-427

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) submits its Initial Filing herewith pursuant to the Commission's Notice of Comment Period in the above-referenced docket.

All individuals identified on the attached service list have been electronically served with the same.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns or if you require additional information. My direct dial number is (507) 209-2110 and my email address is kanderson@greatermngas.com.

Sincerely,

GREATER MINNESOTA GAS, INC.

/s/ Kristine A. Anderson Corporate Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kristine Anderson, hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at Faribault, Minnesota:

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.'s Initial Filing Docket No. E,G-999/M-20-427

filed this 10th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Kristine A. Anderson Kristine A. Anderson, Esq. Corporate Attorney Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie Sieben Valerie Means Matt Schuerger Joseph Sullivan John Tuma Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner

MPUC Docket No. E, G-999/M-20-427

In the Matter of the Request of Minnesota Regulated Gas and Electric Utilities for Authorization to Track Expenses Resulting From the Effects of COVID-19 and Record and Defer Such Expenses Into a Regulatory Asset GREATER MINNESOTA GAS, INC.'S INITIAL FILING

OVERVIEW

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. ("GMG") submits this Initial Filing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") pursuant to the Commission's Notice of Comment Period issued May 20, 2020 and the Commission's Order issued May 22, 2020 in the instant docket. GMG appreciates the Commission's approval of the utilities' request for deferred accounting and, while it is too early to determine whether GMG will seek recovery of the costs held in the regulatory asset, GMG believes that tracking its costs is appropriate given the unprecedented and uncertain nature of the Pandemic and its effects on utilities.

GMG joined with the other Petitioners in the submission of their Joint Petitioners' Comments submitted today. To the extent that there is room for commonality across utilities, GMG supports the discussion of the same contained therein. Nonetheless, as the Joint Petitioners' Comments explain, there is not a "one size fits all" approach, as each utility is sustaining unique impacts and costs. Ergo, GMG submits this Initial Filing to begin the process of identifying the effects of the Pandemic on it and building the record of its COVID-19 related financial impacts.

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMISSION

The Commission directed the utilities to provide an explanation of the proposed accounting methodology for tracking costs and revenues or grants incurred or received as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as any known and estimated costs and revenues, clearly identified within specific categories, in the initial filings.

GMG Initial Filing Page 2

DISCUSSION

GMG proposes that, consistent with the Commission's Order, it will classify its COVID-19 related costs and revenues as a Deferred Asset/Liability. GMG will do its best to utilize the categories reflected in Attachment A of the Petitioners' Joint Comments, making an effort to utilize uniform categories with the other Petitioners to the extent possible, subject to customization as appropriate for GMG; and, GMG's Attachment A appended hereto incorporates the categories that GMG is currently using in that regard. GMG anticipates that it may utilize additional categories as time goes on and its Pandemic-related impacts change and develop. As reflected in the Attachment, GMG will also incorporate an Unrecognized Revenue account that will offset the Unearned Revenue Waived Fees and Receivable Carrying Costs categories. Likewise, GMG will also track and account for any grants, investments, or similar items to the extent that they occur. GMG's Initial Filing is based on what it can identify and propose at the current time. It is, of course, subject to refinement as the facts develop over time and/or the Commission issues directives regarding the tracking.

GMG observes that its productivity has been impacted as a direct result of the Pandemic. For example, employee training and operations qualification work have been modified and slowed; new customer installation meetings were delayed and are now conducted over extended periods with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used for meetings; and, employees have been working remotely. In addition, GMG retained contract workforce to augment its technical staff to ensure adequate resource availability and workforce depth in the event of staff becoming ill. As a result, additional time from GMG employees has been required to perform contractor oversight. With specific regard to the information currently reflected in Attachment A, GMG has not identified incremental overtime for its employees or the impact of lost productivity. The labor costs reflected in Attachment A reflect the workforce augmentation discussed herein. GMG may incorporate costs for incremental overtime and/or lost productivity in a subsequent filing.

GMG has experienced a loss in sales resulting from the closing of some of its customers such as schools, restaurants, churches, and other commercial enterprises. However, it is difficult to quantify those losses and, thus, GMG has not yet incorporated those losses into its COVID-19 tracking. GMG may reconsider that approach and adjust future filings accordingly if it identifies a means to appropriately isolate and measure those impacts.

While GMG's tracking of its COVD-19 related impacts will most certainly develop over time, GMG remains committed to accurately reflecting both the adverse financial impacts directly related to the Pandemic and any financial impacts that would offset them. At an appropriate point in the future, GMG will asses its tracking and determine whether the overall impact on GMG warrants seeking recovery of its costs or whether simply expensing them is most appropriate and it will seek Commission approval for its ultimate path. GMG recognizes that, in the event that it ultimately seeks recovery, it will bear the burden of proof with regard to meeting the criteria for recovery. In the meantime, GMG assures the Commission and its ratepayers that it will continue to act responsibly to mitigate adverse impacts where possible, while also acting responsibly to maintain health and safety for its employees, customers, and business partners all while continuing to provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas.

GMG Initial Filing Page 3

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

GMG is confident that the proposed tracking method contained in the Joint Petitioners' Comments and as detailed herein with specific respect to GMG is reasonable and proper and that it will not be detrimental to the interests of GMG's ratepayers. Hence, GMG respectfully requests that the Commission approve its proposed tracking methodology.

Dated: June 10, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kristine A. Anderson Corporate Attorney Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. 1900 Cardinal Lane P.O. Box 798 Faribault, MN 55021 Phone: 888-931-3411

Attachment A Tracking

COVID-19 DEFERRED ASSET TRACKING

			\$ Incu	rred as of
Category	Class	Description		1/2020
Uncollectible Accounts	Bad Debts	Uncollectible Customer Accounts	\$	-
Other Operating Expense	Non-Labor	Personal Protective Equipment and other cleaning supplie	\$	4,405
Other Operating Expense	Outside Vendor Services	Locating services	\$	7,500
Other Operating Expense	Tools to Facilitate Work	Technology purchases and supplies	\$	12,411
Revenue Impacts	Unearned Revenue	Fees not billed to customers	\$	8,731
Revenue Impacts	Unearned Revenue	Interest not billed to past due customers	\$	3,212
Revenue	Other Income	SBA 504 loan payment forgiveness	\$	63,724