

August 21, 2020

Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Subject: Dakota Electric Association Supplement to Quarterly Compliance

In the Matter of the Petition of the Minnesota Rate Regulated Electric and Gas Utilities for Authorization to Track Expenses Resulting From the Effects of COVID-19 and Record and Defer Such Expenses into a Regulatory Asset E,G-999/M-20-427

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

On July 31, 2020, Dakota Electric Association® (Dakota Electric® or Cooperative) filed a quarterly compliance filing in response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission or MPUC) May 22, 2020 Order and the Commission's June 25, 2020 Notice of Clarification Of Quarterly Reporting Requirement in the above-referenced docket. This supplemental letter seeks to 1) highlight an entry made on the July 31 tracking spreadsheet and 2) avoid potential confusion in the Cooperative's January 2021 Resource and Tax Adjustment filing.

Dakota Electric's quarterly compliance included an overview of the Cooperative's COVID-19 financial impacts through June and presents accounts receivable aging by class. One entry in this spreadsheet was identified as "GRE Covid-19 Aid Payments." As the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading across the nation and State of Minnesota, the Great River Energy (GRE) Board of directors took action on April 2, 2020 by

unanimously approving a resolution to provide funds to ease the financial impact on member distribution systems indicating that "these refunds can be used by our members to offset lost sales, provide late fee holidays, or any other use as deemed appropriate by them." As noted in our July 31 compliance filing, Dakota Electric is applying these funds as a credit or offset to the COVID related costs that we are tracking. Dakota Electric specifically requested that GRE provide these funds to us through individual checks and not as a credit on our monthly wholesale power bill. We did this because we wanted to avoid any potential confusion about the application of these funds. They are not invoiced as a wholesale power cost and are not intended to be used as an offset to wholesale power costs. As a result, these refunds will not be included in the Cooperative's January 2021 Resource and Tax Adjustment filing.

Dakota Electric is providing this letter to clarify the source, intended purpose, and Dakota Electric application of these funds at this time to avoid any potential confusion when we file our Resource and Tax Adjustment filing in January 2021.

## **Conclusion**

If you or your staff have any questions about the clarification provided in this supplemental compliance filing, please contact me at 651-463-6258 or dlarson@dakotaeelctric.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Douglas R. Larson

Douglas R. Larson Vice President of Regulatory Services Dakota Electric Association 4300 220<sup>th</sup> Street West Farmington, MN 55024

## **Certificate of Service**

I, Cherry Jordan, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the attached document to those on the following service list by e-filing, personal service, or by causing to be placed in the U.S. mail at Farmington, Minnesota.

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

Dated this 21st day of August 2020	)
/s/ Cherry Jordan	
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