

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation 2685 145th Street West Rosemount, MN 55068 www.minnesotaenergyresources.com

March 20, 2020

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

## Re: In the Matter of a Petition by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of Farm Tap Customer-Owned Fuel Line Replacement Plan, Tariff Amendments, and Deferred Accounting

Docket No. G011/M-17-409

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

On December 30, 2019, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation ("MERC") filed its "Report on Farm Tap Planning and Design Phase and Procedural Proposal." This report was submitted in accordance with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's November 30, 2017, Order Approving Phase 1 of Farm Tap Replacement Project with Conditions.

On January 30, 2020, MERC received the enclosed letter from the Minnesota Land Improvement Contractors of America in support of the filing. MERC submits the attached letter be incorporated into the record in the above-reference docket.

Please contact me at (414) 221-2374 if you have any questions regarding the information in this filing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Mary L. Wolter</u> Mary L. Wolter Director – Gas Regulatory Planning & Policy Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation

Enclosure cc: Service Lists



MINNESOTA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA 9600 Dennison Boulevard South Northfield, Minnesota 55057-4547 E-mail: mnlica2@gmail.com

## Farm Taps

On May 19, 2017, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) filed a petition for 'Approval of Farm Tap Customer-Owned Fuel Replacement Plan, Tariff Amendments and Deferred Accounting'. Docket Number G011/M-17-409. This was Phase I of the proposal. This was presented to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for approval to conduct a study on Farm Tap replacement, estimated costs, and how these costs would be allocated to MERC customers. Phase I was approved on November 30, 2017.

Now, on December 30, 2019, MERC submitted Phase II proposal to the MPUC for approval. This is the plan detailing how the Farm Taps will be handled. There are various scenarios in this plan. Some of the options include replacement, integrity verification, disconnection, alternative replacement and abandonment. With all cases, legal documents will need to be drawn up and signed in order for MERC to take over responsibility of the utility, and it will be added to the GSOC system for location.

There will also be public hearings set up across the state to voice opinions on this. Participation in the hearings is encouraged.

This has been a safety topic of great concern with many people for many years as Farm Taps were private utilities and were not located for excavators. Don Loken has been at the forefront of this and has pushed very hard at local, state and even national levels. MnLICA emphatically thanks Don for his efforts in addressing this issue. MnLICA also applauds MERC for recognizing the safety issue of unmarked natural gas lines and taking steps to remedy it. We thank you both and truly hope this long overdue solution will make a safer environment for everyone.

Pros. Lent SURER Mark Morreim **Cheryl Morreim** 71610 263rd Street



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attn :

Docket No. G011/M-17-409

In the Matter of the Petition of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for Approval of Farm Tap Customer-Owned Fuel Line Replacement Plan, Tariff Amendments, and Deferred Accounting

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Colleen T. Sipiorski, hereby certify that on the 20th day of March, 2020, on behalf of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC), I electronically filed a true and correct copy of the enclosed Letter of Minnesota Land Improvement Contractors of America 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.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020.

<u>/s/ Colleen T. Sipiorski</u> Colleen T. Sipiorski

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Michael	Ahern	ahern.michael@dorsey.co m	Dorsey & Whitney, LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 554021498	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
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_17-409_M-17-409
Daryll	Fuentes	dfuentes@usg.com	USG Corporation	550 W Adams St Chicago, IL 60661	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Michael	Krikava	mkrikava@taftlaw.com	TAFT Stettinius & Hollister, LLP	2200 IDS Center 80 S 8th St Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Andrew	Moratzka	andrew.moratzka@stoel.co m	Stoel Rives LLP	33 South Sixth St Ste 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Catherine	Phillips	catherine.phillips@we- energies.com	We Energies	231 West Michigan St Milwaukee, WI 53203	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Catherine	Phillips	Catherine.Phillips@wecene rgygroup.com	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (HOLDING)	231 West Michigan St Milwaukee, WI 53203	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
J. Gregory	Porter	greg.porter@nngco.com	Northern Natural Gas Company	1111 South 103rd St Omaha, NE 68124	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.stat e.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Colleen	Sipiorski	Colleen.Sipiorski@wecener gygroup.com	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation	700 North Adams St Green Bay, WI 54307	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Kristin	Stastny	kstastny@taftlaw.com	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP	2200 IDS Center 80 South 8th St Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop & Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024629	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409
Mary	Wolter	mary.wolter@wecenergygr oup.com	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (HOLDING)	231 West Michigan St Milwaukee, WI 53203	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-409_M-17-409