



Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation
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April 2, 2020

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

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Steve Kelley
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Responsive Measures to the Outbreak of COVID-19
Docket No. E,G999/CI-20-375**

Dear Mr. Seuffert and Commissioner Kelley:

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (“MERC” or the “Company”) submits this letter in response to the March 25, 2020, letter from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) and Minnesota Department of Commerce in the above-referenced docket, regarding utility measures in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and declaration of peacetime emergency. In that letter, the Commission and Department requested information from the state’s electric and gas utilities on voluntary actions being taken to work with affected customers and communities for the duration of the peacetime emergency declared by Minnesota Governor Walz on March 13, 2020. In particular, the Commission and Department requested that utility providers commit to undertake the following voluntary actions for the duration of the national security or peacetime emergency:

1. Extend the protections of Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule provided under Minnesota Statutes sections 216B.096 by restricting disconnection of residential customers for nonpayment of utility bills and reconnecting customers who have been disconnected for the duration of the national security or state peacetime emergency. This request shall not affect the utility’s ability to disconnect a customer’s service for public safety concerns unrelated to non-payment of services;
2. Waive late fees that any residential or small business customer incurs because of the economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic.
3. Arrange payment plans for customers requesting help during this time that is based on the financial resources and circumstances of the customer.

MERC has already suspended disconnections for residential customers, unless unsafe conditions exist, to ensure the safety of our customers and employees. MERC will also suspend disconnections for nonpayment for small business customers, unless unsafe

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conditions exist, to ensure the safety of our customers and employees. This suspension will remain in effect through the duration of the state peacetime emergency.

MERC will also continue to work with affected residential and small business customers to arrange payment plans for those requesting assistance based on consideration of the financial resources and circumstances of the customer and will work to reconnect customers entering into such payment plans, consistent with the Cold Weather Rule. MERC will not assess late payment charges for the duration of the declared emergency for residential and small business customers who have entered into payment arrangements.

MERC is committed to promoting health and safety in the communities we serve. As conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic change, MERC remains committed to ensuring safe, reliable natural gas service for customers across Minnesota.

Please contact me at (414) 221-4734 or Theodore.Eidukas@wecenergygroup.com if you have any questions regarding the information in this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theodore T. Eidukas

Theodore T. Eidukas

Vice President – State Regulatory Affairs
WEC Energy Group

cc: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kristin M. Stastny, hereby certify that on the 2nd of April, 2020, on behalf of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation, I electronically filed a true and correct copy of the enclosed Letter on www.edockets.state.mn.us. Said document was also served via U.S. mail and electronic service as designated on the attached service list.

Dated this 2nd of April, 2020.

/s/ Kristin M. Stastny _____

Kristin M. Stastny

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-375_Official
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_20-375_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_20-375_Official
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_20-375_Official