

Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

State of Minnesota

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power
for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Utility
Service in Minnesota

Docket No. E015/GR-21-335

Exhibit _____

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

November 1, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS	1
II. SUMMARY OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST.....	2
III. RATE BASE.....	4
A. Net Plant.....	5
B. Cash Working Capital.....	6
IV. OPERATING INCOME	8
A. Test Year Revenue and Expense.....	8
B. Revenue Credits	9
1. Retail Non-firm and Other Industrial.....	9
2. Sales for Resale (Off-System)	11
V. RATE CASE ADJUSTMENTS	11
A. Rate Base Adjustments	13
1. Asset Retirement Obligation (“ARO”)	13
2. Cost to Retire	13
3. Decommissioning	14
4. Boswell 1 and 2 (“BEC 1 and 2”) Regulated Asset.....	14
5. Boswell 3 Environmental Project	15
6. Electric Vehicle Program (“EV Program”).....	15
7. Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Project (“EVSE Project”)	15
8. Pro Rata ADIT	16
9. Aircraft Hangar	16
10. Continuing Cost Recovery Riders	16
11. DC Line Addition	17
12. Prepaid Other Post Employment Benefit (“OPEB”) Asset.....	17
13. Prepaid Pension Asset.....	17
14. Cash Working Capital.....	18
15. Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments	18
B. Operating Income Adjustments	18
1. Advertising Expense	18
2. Charitable Contributions	19

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

		Page
3.	Economic Development.....	20
4.	Organizational Dues.....	21
5.	Employee Expenses	21
6.	Incentive Compensation.....	22
7.	Investor Relations	23
8.	Credit Card Fees	23
9.	ARO	24
10.	Decommissioning	24
11.	Boswell 1 and 2 Regulated Asset.....	24
12.	Boswell 3 Environmental Project	25
13.	EVSE Project	25
14.	Service Center Sales	25
15.	Conservation Expense.....	27
16.	Aircraft Hangar	28
17.	Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (“CARE”).....	29
18.	CIP Incentive	29
19.	CIP Carrying Charge.....	29
20.	CPA Incentive.....	30
21.	CPA.....	30
22.	CCRC	30
23.	Continuing Cost Recovery Riders	31
24.	Rate Case Expense.....	31
25.	Revenue Budget Corrections	32
26.	Excess ADIT	32
27.	Demand Response (“DR”) Product A Reassignment	33
28.	LP Demand Response	33
29.	Boswell Inspection Costs.....	34
30.	Interest Synchronization	34
31.	Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments	35
VI.	COST RECOVERY RIDERS AND TRACKERS	35

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

	Page
A. Cost Recovery Riders	35
B. Conservation Improvement Program.....	36
C. Tax Cut Refund Rider	38
VII. OTHER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	38
A. Renewable Energy Credit (“REC”) Purchases	38
B. Thomson Hydro Investment Tax Credits (“ITCs”)	38
C. Department of Commerce Recommended Filing Requirements	39
VIII. CONCLUSION.....	41

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Amanda Turner, and my business address is 30 West Superior Street,
4 Duluth, Minnesota, 55802.

6 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what position?**

7 A. I am employed by ALLETE, Inc., doing business as Minnesota Power (“Minnesota
8 Power” or the “Company”). My current position is Costing and Pricing Analyst II.

10 **Q. Please describe your educational background and work experience with**
11 **Minnesota Power.**

12 A. I have a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the College of Saint Scholastica. I
13 have seven years of experience in revenue requirements. I am currently responsible for
14 maintaining Minnesota Power’s UIPlanner application, which includes the Company’s
15 Class Cost of Service Study (“CCOSS”) model, as well as coordinating revenue
16 requirement support for general rate cases, other financial regulatory filings, and
17 projects.

19 **Q. What is the purpose and scope of your testimony?**

20 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support Minnesota Power’s revenue requirements
21 for the test year consisting of calendar year 2022. Specifically, my testimony addresses
22 the determination of rate base and operating income. My testimony also discusses the
23 treatment of adjustments made in the Interim and Adjusted Test Year CCOSSs and
24 supports the determination of the Minnesota Jurisdictional revenue increase required
25 by Minnesota Power to earn its requested rate of return in the Adjusted Test Year and
26 the allowed rate of return in the Interim Test Year. Additionally, I explain how the
27 Company’s cost recovery riders and tracker balances bear on our 2022 test year cost of
28 service, building on the detailed testimony of Company witnesses Stewart J. Shimmin
29 and John D. Armbruster. In particular, I support the Company’s Conservation
30 Improvement Program (“CIP”) tracker and base rate totals. Finally, I address several
31 compliance items from other dockets.

1 **Q. What schedules are you sponsoring in your testimony?**

2 A. I am sponsoring the following schedules that immediately follow my testimony and are
3 identified as:

- 4 • Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 1, Summary of Proposed Increase to
5 Interim and General Rate Revenues;
- 6 • Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 2, Revenue Credits Summary (Trade
7 Secret); and
- 8 • Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 3, Rate Case Adjustments.

9
10 **II. SUMMARY OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST**

11 **Q. Please summarize Minnesota Power's proposed increase to Interim and General**
12 **Rate revenues in this proceeding.**

13 A. Minnesota Power proposes an Interim Rate increase of \$87.3 million (14.23 percent)
14 (MN Jurisdictional¹) and a General Rate increase of \$108.3 million (17.58 percent)
15 (MN Jurisdictional). The General Rate and Interim Rate revenue requirements,
16 revenue deficiency, and proposed rate increase percentage are summarized on MP
17 Exhibit ____ (Turner), Direct Schedule 1 to my testimony. Additionally, Volume 1
18 Schedule A-1 (IR) and Volume 3 Schedule A-1 summarize Minnesota Power's
19 proposed Interim Rate and General Rate revenues, respectively.

20
21 **Q. Please identify the fiscal periods for which Minnesota Power is providing financial**
22 **data in this filing.**

23 A. Financial data is provided for calendar year 2020 as the most recent fiscal year²; for

¹ A summary of allocation factors used across the Company for purposes of calculating the Minnesota Jurisdictional totals is provided in Volume 3, Direct Schedules B-16 to B-19 and C-13 to C-16.

² Minn. Rule 7825.3100, Subp. 10 defines "Most recent fiscal year" as "the utility's prior fiscal year unless notice of a change in rates is filed with the Commission within the last three months of the current fiscal year and at least nine months of historical data is available for presentation of current fiscal year financial information, in which case the most recent fiscal year is deemed to be the current fiscal year." ALLETE's 2021 Third Quarter financial results will be released on November 4, 2021, which is after the date of this filing. Therefore, 2020, the prior fiscal year, is the most recent fiscal year for which nine months of historical data is available, consistent with Minn. Rule 7825.3100, Subd. 10. If the Commission believes it is necessary to grant a variance to utilize this definition of the "most recent fiscal year," the Company requests a variance under Minn. Rule 7829.3200, because (i) it would be an excessive burden on the utility to have to wait to file a case until nine months of 2021 data is

calendar year 2021 as the projected fiscal year³; and for calendar year 2022 as the test year.⁴ Consistent with Minnesota Rules, the Company provides average rate base, operating income, overall rate of return, and the calculation of revenue deficiency for the fiscal periods as shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Fiscal Periods Included in Filing

Fiscal Period	Calendar Year	Schedule or Workpaper Reference
Most Recent Fiscal Year	2020	Volume 4 COS-4
Projected Fiscal Year	2021	Volume 4 COS-3
Unadjusted Test Year	2022	Volume 4 COS-2
Interim Test Year	2022	Volume 4 COS-1
Adjusted Test Year	2022	Volume 3 Direct Schedule E-3

Q. Why is the 2022 calendar year the appropriate test year for this proceeding?

A. The test year begins on the proposed effective date for interim rates, which is January 1, 2022. Use of this test year results in appropriate matching of Minnesota Power's costs with the revenues that are proposed to be collected under interim and final rates. Use of a budgeted test year is also consistent with what the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") approved in Minnesota Power's 2016 rate case in Docket No. E015/GR-16-664 ("2016 Rate Case"). Further, Minnesota Power has presented a projected test year in all of its prior completed retail rate cases in Minnesota, including Docket Nos. E015/GR-16-664 (calendar year 2017); E015/GR-09-1151 (calendar year 2010), E015/GR-08-415 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009), E015/GR-94-001 (calendar year 1994), E015/GR-87-223 (July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988),

available, given the amount of time required to prepare a rate case filing; (ii) the variance would not adversely affect the public interest given that the Rule contemplates using the prior calendar year as the most recent fiscal year, and this has been Minnesota Power's practice for decades; and (iii) the variance would not conflict with standards imposed by law because it is consistent with Minn. Rule 7825.3100 and with past practice.

³ Minn. Rule 7825.3100, Subp. 12 defines "Projected fiscal year" as "the fiscal year immediately following the most recent fiscal year."

⁴ Minn. Rule 7825.3100, Subp. 17 defines "Test year" as "the 12-month period selected by the utility for the purpose of expressing its need for a change in rates."

1 E015/GR-81-250 (July 1, 1981 through June 30, 1982), E015/GR-80-76 (May 1, 1980
2 through April 30, 1981), E015/GR-78-514 (July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979),
3 E015/GR-77-360 (May 1, 1977 through April 30, 1978), and E015/GR-76-408
4 (calendar year 1976).

5

6 **Q. Why is it necessary for the Company to conduct different CCOSs for the Interim**
7 **Test Year and the Adjusted Test Year?**

8 A. As explained in more detail in Section V of my testimony, there are several differences
9 between what has been previously approved by the Commission — and, therefore, the
10 basis of the Interim Test Year CCOS under Minn. Stat. §216B.16, subd. 3 — and
11 what is being proposed by the Company in this proceeding. These differences include
12 allocator methodology, return on common equity (“ROE”), and various rate case
13 adjustments.

14

15 **Q. Is Minnesota Power requesting any exceptions to the application of Interim**
16 **Rates?**

17 A. No. As described in the Company’s Petition for Interim Rates in Volume I, Minnesota
18 Power requests that the proposed interim rate increase be applied to all classes of
19 Minnesota Power’s retail electric customers, consistent with the rate design established
20 in the Company’s 2016 Rate Case and Minn. Stat. §216B.16, subd. 3. As noted in the
21 Company’s Petition for Interim Rates, however, the interim rate increase is not applied
22 to Large Power Incremental Production Service (“LP IPS”), Economy, Replacement
23 Firm Power Service (“RFPS”), and service fees. Revenue associated with these rate
24 components is not considered part of the Large Power class revenue in the CCOS, and
25 these services are priced based on Minnesota Power’s hourly incremental energy cost
26 or other separately-negotiated terms.

27

28 **III. RATE BASE**

29 **Q. Please list the major components of rate base.**

30 A. The major components of rate base are: Plant in Service, Construction Work in
31 Progress (“CWIP”), Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization, and Working

1 Capital (including Fuel Inventory, Materials and Supplies, Prepayments, and Cash
2 Working Capital). Net Plant and Cash Working Capital are discussed in more detail
3 below. In addition, rate base includes several smaller items: Workers' Compensation
4 Deposit, Unamortized Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. Energy Transmission
5 Amortization, Unamortized Upper Midwest Wind Initiative Transaction Cost,
6 Customer Advances and Deposits, Other Deferred Credits – Hibbard, Wind
7 Performance Deposit, and Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes.

8

9 **Q. Please generally discuss the development of Unadjusted Test Year rate base in this**
10 **proceeding.**

11 A. Unadjusted Test Year rate base was developed using costs from calendar year 2020 and
12 updated costs for 2021 and a forecast for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Minnesota
13 Power witness Joshua G. Rostollan explains Minnesota Power's methodology for
14 overall budget development in his Direct Testimony.

15

16 **Q. Are there rate case adjustments applicable to rate base in the test year in this**
17 **proceeding?**

18 A. Yes, all rate case adjustments are discussed in Section V of my testimony.

19

20 **A. Net Plant**

21 **Q. How was the Unadjusted Test Year net plant developed?**

22 A. Net Plant is made up of Plant in Service, CWIP, Accumulated Depreciation, and
23 Accumulated Amortization. Plant in Service is measured at original cost depreciated
24 and based on the average of beginning and ending balances of the test year. Plant in
25 Service for the test year was developed beginning with December 2020 plant balances
26 by major function. Added to these amounts were forecast additions and retirements for
27 2021 and 2022 from the 2022 construction budget to arrive at average plant balances.
28 These plant additions and retirements are also the basis for development of test year
29 depreciation expense and, therefore, the accumulated provision for depreciation and
30 amortization. CWIP was also obtained from actual December 2020 balances, adjusted

1 for additions to CWIP and transfers to plant for 2021 and 2022 from the construction
2 budget information.

3
4 **B. Cash Working Capital**

5 **Q. How have you defined Cash Working Capital?**

6 A. Cash Working capital, for purposes of this proceeding, is defined as the amount of
7 capital investors must provide to the Company, in addition to their investment in utility
8 rate base, to meet cash payment requirements during the period after expenditures are
9 made to provide service and before the collection of revenues for that service. Thus,
10 Cash Working Capital represents the amount of money needed to meet current
11 operating expenses incurred prior to collecting revenues for the service provided.

12
13 When investors supply these funds, they are entitled to a return on these advances. To
14 the extent these funds are supplied by customers, customers are entitled to have their
15 contribution recognized as a rate base deduction. This is accomplished by including
16 an appropriate Cash Working Capital requirement in rate base. The elements of Cash
17 Working Capital included in this proceeding are consistent with those allowed by the
18 Commission in each of the Company's most recent retail rate cases. As stated in its
19 June 14, 1982 Statement of Policy on Cash Working Capital, the Commission
20 recognizes that the most precise method of determining the Cash Working Capital
21 requirements is to perform a lead-lag study.

22
23 **Q. What procedures were followed in the preparation of the lead-lag study used in**
24 **this proceeding?**

25 A. The procedures used in the lead-lag study were initially developed to support the
26 Company's request for a Cash Working Capital allowance in Docket No. E015/GR-78-
27 514, which the Commission approved. The same lead-lag study methodology, adjusted
28 to reflect various minor changes in procedures such as required payment due dates, was
29 also the basis for the determination of Cash Working Capital in Docket Nos. E015/GR-
30 80-76, E015/GR-81-250, E015/GR-87-223, E015/GR-94-001, E015/GR-08-415,

1 E015/GR-09-1151, and E015/GR-16-664. The Cash Working Capital allowances were
2 approved in these seven dockets with minor or no adjustments.

3
4 For this proceeding, the established lead-lag periods were determined based on a
5 detailed study of the actual lead days and lag days experienced by the Company during
6 calendar year 2019. Patterns in the payment of expenses and receipt of revenues do
7 not vary significantly from one year to another. In 2018, the Company changed its
8 standard payment terms from Net 30 to Net 60 in order to improve the Company's cash
9 flow and Cash Working Capital. This change in standard payment terms pertains to
10 accounts payable from the Company to its vendors, rather than payments from
11 customers to the Company. Not all current vendors have been put on or have agreed
12 to move to the new standard payment terms, and they have the ability to negotiate other
13 payment terms if the new terms are not agreeable to them. However, new vendors
14 and/or new contracts are being moved to the Company's new payment terms. The
15 Company reviewed procedures currently in effect and identified no significant changes
16 in policies or procedures that would affect the validity of the lead-lag periods
17 experienced during or anticipated for 2020, 2021, or the 2022 test year.

18
19 Overall, the 2019 lead-lag study and resulting Cash Working Capital calculation are
20 consistent with the approach and methodology approved by the Commission in the
21 2016 Rate Case, which was based on a 2012 lead-lag study. The details of the 2019
22 lead-lag study are included in Volume 4, Workpaper OS – 2.

23
24 **Q. How have the results of the Company's lead-lag study been used in this**
25 **proceeding?**

26 **A.** The results of this study have been applied to data in the CCOSS for each fiscal year to
27 determine the Cash Working Capital components of rate base.

1 **Q. Do you anticipate any changes to the Cash Working Capital calculation during**
2 **the course of the rate case proceeding?**

3 A. Yes. As in Minnesota Power's previous retail rate cases, Cash Working Capital will
4 need to be recalculated to reflect any changes in the Company's request during the
5 course of the case, as well as for the Commission-approved financial adjustments that
6 impact operations and maintenance ("O&M") expenses, rate base, and/or capital
7 structure. As such, Cash Working Capital is likely to change over the course of this
8 proceeding.
9

10 **IV. OPERATING INCOME**

11 **A. Test Year Revenue and Expense**

12 **Q. Please explain the basis for Unadjusted Test Year revenues and expenses.**

13 A. The 2022 Operating Budget provides the basis for energy sales, revenues, O&M
14 expenses, depreciation expense, amortization expense, property taxes, payroll taxes,
15 environmental taxes, investment tax credit, and allowance for funds used during
16 construction ("AFUDC"). Retail revenues from electricity sales used in the Unadjusted
17 Test Year CCOSS reflect the final rates ordered in the Company's most recent rate case
18 in Docket No. E015/GR-16-664 and as amended by the resolution of the Company's
19 2019 Rate Case in Docket Nos. E015/M-20-429 and E015/GR-19-442. These sales
20 were developed based on budgeted sales of electricity in the 2022 Revenue Budget, as
21 discussed in more detail by Company witness Benjamin S. Levine. Income taxes are
22 calculated based on operating revenues and expenses, plus necessary adjustments to
23 pretax income. The adjustments to pretax income, along with deferred income taxes
24 and the tax credits, were developed by the Company's Tax Department based on budget
25 data reflected in the CCOSS. AFUDC reflects interest charged on CWIP projects
26 during the test year.
27

28 **Q. How are Wheeling Revenues handled in the CCOSS?**

29 A. Wheeling revenues from Minnesota Power's wholesale transmission customers
30 Staples, Wadena, and Great River Energy are included in the FERC Jurisdiction for
31 CCOSS purposes.

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Q. Are there rate case adjustments applicable to operating income in the test year in this proceeding?

A. Yes, all rate case adjustments are discussed in Section V of my testimony.

B. Revenue Credits

Q. Please summarize the revenue credits that are included in the cost-of-service study.

A. The revenue credits for the 2022 test year are summarized in Exhibit ____ (Turner), Direct Schedule 2. There are several major categories of revenue credits, including:

- 1) Retail Non-firm and Other Industrial;
 - 1. Residential and Commercial/Industrial Dual Fuel;
 - 2. LP Intersystem Sales (LP IPS, Economy, RFPS);
- 2) Sales for Resale (Off-System);
- 3) Other Operating Revenue;
 - 1. Production;
 - 2. Transmission;
 - 3. Distribution;
 - 4. General Plant;
 - 5. Conservation Improvement Program; and
 - 6. Cost Recovery Riders.

Retail Non-firm and Other Industrial and Sales for Resale (Off-System) are discussed below. Additional detail for all revenue credits is shown on Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 2.

1. Retail Non-firm and Other Industrial

Q. What types of sales are included in the revenue credits for retail non-firm and other industrial power sales?

A. The total revenue credits on lines 1 and 2 of Exhibit ____ (Turner), Direct Schedule 2, Page 1 include revenues from interruptible sales to Minnesota Power's Residential and Commercial/Industrial Dual Fuel customers and LP IPS, RFPS, Economy sales, and

1 RFPS Service Fees for customers who own generation that is capable of serving part
2 of their electric needs.

3
4 **Q. Why are the Large Power products treated as revenue credits rather than Large**
5 **Power revenue?**

6 A. The Large Power Intersystem Sales products are separate from the Large Power
7 customer class revenue because these revenues are not associated with providing
8 service under the Large Power Service Schedule or any other retail rate schedule. The
9 Economy and RFPS customers have their own generation, which they use to serve a
10 portion of their load. Minnesota Power accredits this generation with the Midcontinent
11 Independent System Operator (“MISO”) under the requirements of MISO’s Module E
12 Resource Adequacy Program. This is similar to Minnesota Power’s own generation
13 accreditation with MISO and enables Minnesota Power to include the generation to
14 meet system capacity reserve requirements even when it is not operating. This allows
15 the customers to avoid buying standby service from Minnesota Power to cover
16 generating unit outages, and it also allows Minnesota Power to use the customer
17 generating capability to cover general system load when the large industrial customer’s
18 load is reduced. Customers with their own generation can also buy Economy/Non-firm
19 energy from Minnesota Power in lieu of operating their own generation when it is cost-
20 effective to do so (i.e., when the Economy energy price is lower than the customer’s
21 generation operating cost).

22
23 **Q. Please describe LP IPS, Economy, non-Firm, and RFPS.**

24 A. LP IPS is an interruptible energy product that is priced at Minnesota Power’s
25 incremental cost plus \$10 per megawatt-hour (“MWh”). Large Power customers may
26 utilize IPS for a small portion of their load (currently less than 10 percent of the
27 customer’s total load) that exceeds the firm service requirement. Because LP IPS is a
28 non-firm incremental-cost based energy, it has historically been excluded from the
29 Large Power customer class in the CCOSS. Similarly, customers with generation who
30 have entered into Power Purchase Agreements with Minnesota Power are able to buy
31 economy Energy/Non-Firm energy, which is priced at Minnesota Power’s incremental

1 cost plus an energy surcharge. Customers may purchase Economy/Non-Firm energy
2 up to the available unused capacity of the units less reserves. If the units are
3 unavailable, the customer may purchase RFPS, which is priced at the greater of 120
4 percent of Minnesota Power's incremental cost or \$30/MWh.

5
6 **2. Sales for Resale (Off-System)**

7 **Q. What are Minnesota Power's projected revenues from off-system wholesale**
8 **power sales (non-requirements capacity and energy sales revenue) in the**
9 **Unadjusted Test Year?**

10 A. Budgeted capacity and energy revenues from sales to various counterparties and the
11 wholesale market are shown on Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 2, page 2 and
12 summarized on page 1, line 3. The capacity revenue comes from off-system sales to
13 Minnkota, Oconto, Basin, NextEra, MISO, and Other. The energy revenue comes from
14 a combination of specifically-identified bilateral sales and sales to the MISO market,
15 including sales to AEP Energy Partners, Basin, Minnkota Power Liquidation, Market
16 Sales, NextEra, Oconto, and Non-Minnesota Power Station Service. As a result of the
17 Company's resolution of its 2019 rate case in Docket No. E015/M-20-429, any margins
18 associated with these sales are accounted for through a credit in the annual Petition for
19 Approval of the Annual Forecast of Automatic Adjustment Charges submitted on May
20 3 and have no direct impact on base rates in the test year.⁵ Additional information
21 regarding the base cost of fuel is provided in the Direct Testimony of Company witness
22 Leah N. Peterson.

23
24 **V. RATE CASE ADJUSTMENTS**

25 **Q. Please provide a summary of all rate case adjustments applied to the Unadjusted**
26 **Test Year in this proceeding.**

27 A. All rate case adjustments applying to rate base and operating income are included in
28 Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 3. Each adjustment is identified by name,

⁵ *In the Matter of Minn. Power's Petition for Approval of the Annual Forecast of Automatic Adjustment Charges for the period of January 2022 through December 2022*, Docket No. E015/AA-21-312, ANNUAL FILING (May 3, 2021).

1 categorized by whether it applies to the Interim Test Year and/or the Adjusted Test
2 Year, and given an adjustment type. The adjustment type indicates whether the
3 adjustment is required by prior Commission Order, is Customary or Voluntary based
4 on the nature of the item, or Requested in this rate case specifically. Each adjustment
5 is discussed in detail below. The Total Company amounts for each rate base adjustment
6 are shown on Volume 1 Direct Schedule B-4 (IR) for the Interim Test Year and on
7 Volume 3 Direct Schedule B-6 for the Adjusted Test Year. The Total Company
8 amounts for each operating income adjustment are shown on Volume 1 Direct Schedule
9 B-8 (IR) for Interim Test Year and on Volume 3 Direct Schedule C-10 for the Adjusted
10 Test Year.

11
12 **Q. Do any of the adjustments get handled differently in the Interim Test Year than**
13 **they do in the Adjusted Test Year?**

14 A. Yes, as indicated in Exhibit ____ (Turner) Direct Schedule 3, while most adjustments
15 are made in both the Interim Test Year and the Adjusted Test Year, there are a few
16 adjustments that are made in one and not the other.

17
18 **Q. Are there any other differences in allocations for the Interim Test Year and the**
19 **Adjusted Test Year?**

20 A. As Company witness Mr. Shimmin explains in his Direct Testimony, the Company's
21 Adjusted Test Year CCOSS includes proposed new allocation methodologies for
22 Production demand-related costs and Transmission costs. However, consistent with
23 prior rate cases, the Company's Interim Test Year CCOSS uses previously-approved
24 allocation methodologies.

25
26 Additionally, the Company uses a different ROE in the Interim Test Year than in the
27 Adjusted Test Year. The Commission authorized Minnesota Power to earn a 9.25
28 percent ROE in the 2016 Rate Case. Under Minnesota Statute §216B.16, subd. 3,
29 unless the Commission finds that exigent circumstances exist, the utility shall include
30 in Interim Rates a rate of ROE equal to that authorized by the Commission in the
31 utility's most recent rate proceeding.

1
2 The Company is requesting Commission approval of an ROE of 10.25 percent in this
3 proceeding, as supported by the Direct Testimony of Company witness Ann E. Bulkley.
4 Because the requested ROE is higher than that authorized in Minnesota Power's most
5 recent rate case proceeding, the Company uses the previously authorized, lower ROE
6 of 9.25 percent in the Interim Test Year and the requested ROE of 10.25 percent in the
7 Adjusted Test Year.

8
9 The Company's cost of capital is included on Volume 1, Schedule C-6 (IR) for the
10 Interim Test Year and Volume 3, Direct Schedule D-1 for the Adjusted Test Year.

11
12 **A. Rate Base Adjustments**

13 1. Asset Retirement Obligation ("ARO")

14 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the ARO adjustment.**

15 A. In Minnesota Power's 2008 rate case (Docket No. E015/GR-08-415), the Commission
16 rejected Minnesota Power's proposed use of the ARO method for ratemaking purposes.
17 In accordance with the Commission's decision and consistent with handling in
18 subsequent Company rate cases, this adjustment removes ARO related to the
19 decommissioning of certain long-lived assets from rate base. Details of this adjustment
20 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-1.

21
22 2. Cost to Retire

23 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Cost to Retire adjustment.**

24 A. Related to the ARO adjustment above, in Minnesota Power's 2008 rate case (Docket
25 No. E015/GR-08-415), the Commission rejected Minnesota Power's proposed use of
26 the ARO method for ratemaking purposes. In accordance with the Commission's
27 decision and consistent with handling in subsequent Company rate cases, this
28 adjustment also reflects incorporation of decommissioning treatment instead of ARO.
29 The cost to retire in accumulated depreciation on non-legal obligations is moved to a
30 regulated liability under ARO. This adjustment puts it back into accumulated

1 depreciation in rate base to reflect decommissioning treatment. Details of this
2 adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-2.

3
4 3. Decommissioning

5 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Decommissioning adjustment.**

6 A. Related to the ARO and Cost to Retire adjustments above, in Minnesota Power's 2008
7 rate case (Docket No. E015/GR-08-415), the Commission rejected Minnesota Power's
8 proposed use of the ARO method for ratemaking purposes. In accordance with the
9 Commission's decision and consistent with handling in subsequent Company rate
10 cases, this adjustment reflects incorporation of decommissioning treatment instead of
11 ARO by including decommissioning accumulated depreciation in rate base. Details of
12 this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-3.

13
14 4. Boswell 1 and 2 ("BEC 1 and 2") Regulated Asset

15 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Boswell 1 and 2 Regulated Asset adjustment.**

16 A. In Minnesota Power's 2009 rate case (Docket No. E015/GR-09-1151) and in
17 Minnesota Power's 2018 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition (Docket No. E015/D-
18 18-544), the Commission approved an end of life of 2022 for BEC 1 and 2. When
19 Minnesota Power retired BEC 1 and 2 in December 2018 (earlier than required), a
20 regulated asset was set up to reflect this continued cost recovery, with amortization
21 through 2022. Minnesota Power is proposing the final year of amortization in 2022 be
22 amortized over three years in the rate case test year to avoid over-collection in future
23 rates. Three years is the amount of time until the Company plans to file its next retail
24 rate case and matches the amortization period for Credit Card Fees, Service Center
25 Sales, and Rate Case Expense adjustments, as described in Sections V.B.8, V.B.14, and
26 V.B.24 of my testimony. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
27 Workpaper ADJ-RB-4.

1 5. Boswell 3 Environmental Project

2 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Boswell 3 Environmental Project adjustment.**

3 A. In Minnesota Power’s 2009 rate case, the Commission approved a settlement which
4 provided that Minnesota Power may recover \$223 million of Total Company costs
5 associated with the Boswell 3 (“BEC 3”) environmental retrofit for regulatory
6 purposes. Total BEC 3 environmental retrofit project capital additions were \$238.2
7 million Total Company (\$209.5 million MN Jurisdictional), requiring this adjustment
8 reducing rate base. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper
9 ADJ-RB-5.

10
11 6. Electric Vehicle Program (“EV Program”)

12 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the EV Program adjustment.**

13 A. The Commission Order in Docket No. E015/M-20-638 stated, “Minnesota Power is
14 welcome to request deferred accounting for its EV program costs; if the Company does
15 so the Commission will consider the request on its merits at the appropriate time.” The
16 Company submitted its proposal in Docket No. E015/M-21-349 and is awaiting a
17 Commission decision at the time this testimony is being completed. Therefore, the
18 deferred program expenses recorded in Other Deferred Debits account are removed
19 from rate base. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-
20 RB-6.

21
22 7. Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Project (“EVSE Project”)

23 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the EVSE Project adjustment.**

24 A. In Docket No. E015/M-21-257, the Company requested deferred accounting of the its
25 proposed EVSE Project costs and expenses for consideration in a subsequent rate case.
26 The Commission approved the request for deferred accounting in its October 22, 2021
27 order. The capital costs related to the EVSE Project chargers and its corresponding
28 line extensions are removed from plant in service, accumulated depreciation, and
29 ADIT. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-7.

1 8. Pro Rata ADIT

2 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Pro Rata ADIT adjustment.**

3 A. As Company witness Mr. Armbruster describes in his Direct Testimony, an IRS
4 normalization requirement governs utilities that use forecasted test years for
5 determination of rates, which requires calculation of average ADIT using a pro rata
6 method. In the Company's 2016 Rate Case, the application of this normalization
7 requirement was clarified as applying to Interim Rates but not to General Rates.
8 Minnesota Power intends to adopt this methodology for recurring rate case proceedings
9 — including this one. Thus, the pro rata ADIT methodology is reflected in the Interim
10 Rate calculations but not in the General Rate calculations. Details of this adjustment
11 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-8.

12
13 9. Aircraft Hangar

14 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Aircraft Hangar adjustment.**

15 A. As Company witness Mr. Rostollan explains in his Direct Testimony, Minnesota Power
16 has decided to forego recovery of any costs associated with the corporate aircraft and
17 hangar in this rate case. The corporate aircraft that was previously owned by Minnesota
18 Power was retired, and the new corporate aircraft is owned by ALLETE Enterprises as
19 a non-regulated asset. The aircraft hangar is the only asset related to the aircraft still
20 included in the Company's regulated plant balance and, thus, is adjusted out of the test
21 year. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-9.

22
23 10. Continuing Cost Recovery Riders

24 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Continuing Cost Recovery Riders**
25 **adjustment.**

26 A. As Company witness Mr. Shimmin explains in his Direct Testimony, several projects
27 in the unadjusted test year budget will remain in cost recovery riders and thus are
28 adjusted out of the test year. Additional detail for these riders is included in the Direct
29 Testimony of Mr. Shimmin and in Section VI of my testimony. Details of this
30 adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-10.

11. DC Line Addition

Q. Please provide an explanation of the DC Line Addition adjustment.

A. After the test year budget was initially completed, the Company determined an increase to Materials and Supplies was warranted due to a Major Supply Agreement in place with Meyer Utility Structures, LLC. This inventory was not included in the test year budget initially, but the balance is expected to continue for the foreseeable future; therefore, Materials and Supplies has been adjusted to include this amount. Details of this adjustment are provided in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-11.

12. Prepaid Other Post Employment Benefit (“OPEB”) Asset

Q. Please provide an explanation of the Prepaid OPEB Asset adjustment.

A. As Company witness Patrick L. Cutshall explains in his Direct Testimony, Minnesota Power is proposing to include the OPEB accumulated contributions in excess of net periodic benefit cost (or prepaid OPEB asset) in rate base. Minnesota Power’s estimated test year prepaid OPEB asset is included in the Unadjusted Test Year CCROSS, represented as a 13-month average amount. Because the Company’s prepaid OPEB asset was not previously included in rate base, the adjustment to remove the asset and associated ADIT is reflected in the Interim Rate calculations but not in the General Rate calculations. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-12.

13. Prepaid Pension Asset

Q. Please provide an explanation of the Prepaid Pension Asset adjustment.

A. As Company witness Mr. Cutshall explains in his Direct Testimony, Minnesota Power is proposing to include the pension plan accumulated contributions in excess of net periodic benefit cost (or prepaid pension asset) in rate base. Minnesota Power’s estimated test year prepaid pension asset is included in the Unadjusted Test Year CCROSS, represented as a 13-month average amount. Because the Company’s prepaid pension asset was not previously included in rate base, the adjustment to remove the asset and associated ADIT is reflected in the Interim Rate calculations but not in the

1 General Rate calculations. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
2 Workpaper ADJ-RB-13.

3
4 14. Cash Working Capital

5 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Cash Working Capital adjustment.**

6 A. Cash Working Capital is adjusted to reflect the impact of the various Operating Income
7 adjustments, including those required by Commission policies for advertising expense,
8 economic development, charitable contributions, and organizational dues, and other
9 expense adjustments. In addition, state and federal income taxes in Cash Working
10 Capital reflect interest synchronization and the tax impact of the revenue deficiency.
11 Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-14.
12

13 15. Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments

14 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Change in Allocations due to Adjustments**
15 **adjustment.**

16 A. When bridging from the unadjusted test year CCOSS to the adjusted test year CCOSS,
17 a difference in allocation factors used between the two causes minor rate base
18 component amount variances that need to be accounted for. Details of this adjustment
19 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-RB-15.
20

21 **B. Operating Income Adjustments**

22 1. Advertising Expense

23 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Advertising Expense adjustment.**

24 A. In compliance with Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 8 and the Commission's June 14, 1982
25 Statement of Policy on Advertising, and to be consistent with the treatment allowed in
26 the Company's 2016 Rate Case, certain advertising expenses are adjusted out of the
27 test year. Recovery is allowed only for advertising designed to: (1) encourage energy
28 conservation; (2) promote safety; (3) inform and educate consumers on the utility's
29 financial services; and (4) disseminate information on a utility's corporate affairs to its
30 owners.
31

1 In previous rate cases, the Company analyzed the most recent completed fiscal year,
2 identified the adjustments, and applied the adjustments to the test year. The COVID-
3 19 pandemic had an impact on the way Minnesota Power conducted its business in
4 regards to advertising. In 2020, the Company modified its advertising campaign to
5 respond to the pandemic. For example, advertising associated with school programs
6 and sporting events was all rescinded. This resulted in the fiscal year 2020 not being
7 representative of the normal level of business.

8
9 To determine the adjustment for test year 2022, the Company used the detailed analysis
10 of 2018 advertising expenses performed for the initial filing of Minnesota Power's rate
11 case in Docket No. E015/GR-19-442, which was the basis for its proposed adjustment
12 to the 2020 test year in that proceeding. The 2018 analysis was revised to include
13 advertising expenses identified in the Company's response to OAG-IR-1146 (Docket
14 No. E015/GR-19-442). The ratios developed for 2018 were applied to the 2020
15 advertising expenses to determine the adjustment amount. The Company believes that
16 2018 represents a typical year and provides a reasonable basis for calculating the 2022
17 test year adjustment. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 3 Direct
18 Schedule G-1 and Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-1.

19
20 2. Charitable Contributions

21 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Charitable Contributions adjustment.**

22 A. In compliance with Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 9, the Commission's June 14, 1982
23 Statement of Policy on Charitable Contributions, and to be consistent with the treatment
24 allowed in the Company's 2016 Rate Case, 50 percent of qualifying contributions have
25 been adjusted out of the test year. The Commission's Policy Statement requires that a
26 qualifying charitable contribution: (1) serve the utility's Minnesota service area; (2) be
27 nondiscriminatory in the selection of recipients; and (3) not promote a political or
28 special interest group. A detailed listing of qualifying 2020 charitable contributions is
29 provided in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-2.

1 Based on the Commission's March 12, 2018 Order in Minnesota Power's 2016 Rate
2 Case, which allowed rate recovery based on 50 percent of the Company's actual
3 charitable giving for the previous three years and disallowed recovery of administrative
4 costs, Minnesota Power has excluded administrative costs and calculated its charitable
5 contributions based on 50 percent of average actual expense for the three years 2018-
6 2020. Details regarding the excluded administrative expense and three-year average of
7 charitable contributions are provided in Volume 3 Direct Schedule G-2.

8
9 Minnesota Power reports its donations to the Minnesota Power Foundation ("MP
10 Foundation") in account 426.1 on FERC Form 1 for each respective prior year 2018-
11 2020. Each yearly amount includes Minnesota Power's lump sum contributions to the
12 MP Foundation plus some smaller direct donations by Minnesota Power. The account
13 also includes Minnesota Power sponsorships, donation expenses, and donations outside
14 of Minnesota Power's territory. For this reason, donation amounts in FERC Form 1
15 will not equal the exact amounts of MP Foundation donations. The detailed listing of
16 donations included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-2 is provided as an example of the
17 types of organizations, amounts, and service territory locations to which the MP
18 Foundation typically makes contributions and shows Minnesota Power's compliance
19 with the Commission's Statement of Policy on Charitable Contributions.

20
21 3. Economic Development

22 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Economic Development adjustment.**

23 A. In Minnesota Power's three most recent rate cases (2008, 2009, and 2016), the
24 Commission allowed recovery of 50 percent of Economic Development and
25 Community Relations costs. Consistent with this treatment, the Company has adjusted
26 out 50 percent of its Economic Development and Community Relations costs in the
27 Interim Test Year. However, the Company is requesting recovery of 100 percent of its
28 Economic Development and Community Relations in the Adjusted Test Year.
29 Therefore, the adjustment to remove 50 percent of the costs is reflected in the Interim
30 Rate calculations but not in the General Rate calculations. Company witness Frank L.
31 Frederickson discusses the benefits of the Company's Economic Development and

1 Community Relations efforts, which are especially significant to host communities as
2 the energy system continues its transformation. Volume 3 Direct Schedule G-5
3 provides details regarding the Company's Economic Development and Community
4 Relations costs. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-
5 IS-3.

6
7 **4. Organizational Dues**

8 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Organizational Dues adjustment.**

9 A. In compliance with the Commission's Statement of Policy on Organizational Dues
10 issued June 14, 1982 and consistent with the treatment allowed in the Company's 2016
11 Rate Case, certain organizations' dues related to lobbying are adjusted out of the test
12 year. A detailed listing of organizational dues and the calculation of the excluded
13 amount, which consists of lobbying expenses that were billed along with other
14 organizational dues, is provided in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-4.

15
16 **5. Employee Expenses**

17 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Employee Expenses adjustment.**

18 A. Similar to the description provided for the Advertising Expense adjustment above, the
19 COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the way Minnesota Power conducted its
20 business in regards to Employee Expenses. This adjustment removes certain Board of
21 Directors and employee expenses from the test year. The methodology for determining
22 items to be excluded and the calculation of the adjustment is provided in the Direct
23 Testimony of Company witness Mr. Rostollan and shown in detail on Volume 3 Direct
24 Schedule H-1. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-
25 IS-5.

26
27 Consistent with the Commission's decision in the Company's 2016 Rate Case,
28 Minnesota Power has excluded all legislative lobbying expenses from its test year.
29 Most lobbying expenses are recorded in Account 426.4, which is not a part of regulated
30 expense. However, as described in the Direct Testimony of Company witness Mr.
31 Rostollan, the Company's analysis determined that some indirectly-related lobbying

1 expenses were included in other employee expense accounts. Therefore, an additional
2 adjustment was made to exclude those lobbying expenses from the test year. This is
3 included in the Employee Expenses adjustment.
4

5 **6. Incentive Compensation**

6 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Incentive Compensation adjustment.**

7 A. Based on prior Commission practice and Orders in Minnesota Power's previous rate
8 cases and other utility rate cases, Minnesota Power has made adjustments to exclude a
9 portion of the budgeted expense for its Annual Incentive Plan ("AIP") and all of the
10 budgeted expense for its Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP"), Supplemental Executive
11 Retirement Plan ("SERP"), and Executive Deferral Plan. The incentive compensation
12 plans are described in the Direct Testimony of Company witness Laura E. Krollman.
13 Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-6.
14

15 **Q. Please describe the adjustment for the Company's AIP.**

16 A. Consistent with the Commission-ordered treatment for incentive compensation in the
17 Company's 2009 and 2016 rate cases, Minnesota Power has adjusted out the budgeted
18 amount of compensation expense for the AIP that exceeds 20 percent of base pay for
19 Interim Rates and for General Rates.
20

21 **Q. Please describe the adjustment for the Company's LTIP.**

22 A. Consistent with prior Commission practice and orders, Minnesota Power has adjusted
23 out the entire budgeted amount of regulated expense associated with its LTIP for
24 Interim Rates and for General Rates.
25

26 **Q. Please describe the adjustment for the Company's SERP.**

27 A. Consistent with prior Commission practice and orders, Minnesota Power has adjusted
28 out the entire budgeted amount of regulated expense associated with its SERP
29 retirement and annual restoration plans for Interim Rates and for General Rates.
30

1 **Q. Please describe the adjustment for the Company's Executive Deferral Plan.**

2 A. Consistent with prior Commission practice and orders, Minnesota Power has adjusted
3 out the entire budgeted amount of regulated expense associated with its Executive
4 Deferral Plan for Interim Rates and for General Rates.

5
6 7. Investor Relations

7 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Investor Relations adjustment.**

8 A. As Company witness Mr. Rostollan explains in his Direct Testimony, consistent with
9 recent Commission decisions, Minnesota Power has adjusted out 50 percent of investor
10 relations expense from the test year. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume
11 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-7.

12
13 8. Credit Card Fees

14 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Credit Card Fees adjustment.**

15 A. In the Company's 2016 Rate Case, the Commission approved the Company's proposed
16 removal of the per-transaction fee each customer incurred when making bill payments
17 by credit or debit card and allowed the Company to instead include the costs of
18 accepting card payments in Minnesota Power's overall operating expense. The
19 Company's estimated annual increase in costs incurred for credit card processing fees
20 was \$350,000 (Total Company and MN Jurisdictional).

21
22 Recognizing the uncertainty in the amount of actual credit or debit card processing fees,
23 since Minnesota Power had never before offered customers the option to pay their bills
24 via credit card without incurring a fee, the Commission required the Company to track
25 over- or under-collections for true-up in a future rate case.

26
27 After October 2018, when Minnesota Power implemented the no-fee credit or debit
28 card payment option for retail customers following Commission approval, Minnesota
29 Power began tracking the difference between the amount collected in rates and the
30 actual expenses paid by Minnesota Power. The net difference is currently an over-

1 recovery. The projected balance of the over-recovery on the proposed interim rate
2 effective date of January 1, 2022, is \$167,448.

3
4 Minnesota Power proposes that the accumulated over-recovery for credit or debit card
5 processing fees be returned to customers in this rate case as a negative expense
6 amortized over three years. Three years is the amount of time until the Company plans
7 to file its next retail rate case and matches the amortization period for the BEC 1 and 2
8 Regulated Asset, Service Center Sales, and Rate Case Expense adjustments, as
9 described in Sections V.B.11, V.B.14, and V.B.24 of my testimony. Details of this
10 adjustment are included on Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-8.

11
12 9. ARO

13 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the ARO adjustment.**

14 A. In accordance with the Commission's May 4, 2009 Order in Minnesota Power's 2008
15 rate case, as described in Section V.A.1 of my testimony, Minnesota Power has
16 adjusted depreciation and amortization expense and accretion expense to remove ARO.
17 Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-9.

18
19 10. Decommissioning

20 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Decommissioning adjustment.**

21 A. Related to the ARO adjustment above and in accordance with the Commission's May
22 4, 2009 Order in Minnesota Power's 2008 rate case, as described in Section V.A.3 of
23 my testimony, Minnesota Power has adjusted depreciation expense to include
24 decommissioning. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper
25 ADJ-IS-10.

26
27 11. Boswell 1 and 2 Regulated Asset

28 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the BEC 1 and 2 Regulated Asset adjustment.**

29 A. Along with the rate base adjustments described in Section V.A.4 of my testimony, there
30 is an associated adjustment to amortization expense. This adjustment is proposed to be
31 amortized over three years. Three years is the amount of time until the Company plans

1 to file its next retail rate case and matches the amortization period for Credit Card Fees,
2 Service Center Sales, and Rate Case Expense adjustments as described in Sections
3 V.B.8, V.B.14, and V.B.24 of my testimony. Details of this adjustment are included in
4 Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-11.

5
6 12. Boswell 3 Environmental Project

7 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the BEC 3 Environmental Project adjustment.**

8 A. Along with the rate base adjustments described in Section V.A.5 of my testimony, there
9 is an associated adjustment to reduce depreciation expense. Details of this adjustment
10 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-12.

11
12 13. EVSE Project

13 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the EVSE Project adjustment.**

14 A. Along with the rate base adjustments described in Section V.A.7 of my testimony, this
15 is an associated adjustment to reduce depreciation expense. Details of this adjustment
16 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-13.

17
18 14. Service Center Sales

19 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Service Center Sales adjustment.**

20 A. This adjustment combines adjustments for the sales of three service centers, land, and
21 buildings near Boswell Energy Center, as well as the transfer of a loader to non-
22 regulated operations. On June 1, 2017, Minnesota Power filed a request for approval
23 of four transactions, including the sale of its Aurora Service Center to Lakehead
24 Constructors, Inc., the sale of its Chisholm Service Center to the United Way of
25 Northeastern Minnesota, Inc., and the sale of land and buildings near the Boswell
26 Energy Center to Airmark, Inc. d/b/a Nelson, Wood Shims. In its February 8, 2018
27 Order Approving Purchases and Sales with Conditions,⁶ the Commission approved the

⁶ *In the Matter of the Petition of Minn. Power for Approval of a Purchase Agreement for the Sale of the Aurora Serv. Center to Lakehead Constructors, Inc.*, Docket No. E-015/PA-17-457, ORDER APPROVING PURCHASES AND SALES WITH CONDITIONS (Feb. 8, 2018); *In the Matter of the Petition of Minn. Power for Approval of a Purchase Agreement for the Sale of the Chisolm Serv. Center to United Way of N. Minn., Inc.* Docket No. E-015/PA-17-

1 transactions and required that Minnesota Power use deferred accounting to create
2 regulatory liabilities for these transactions as recommended by the Minnesota
3 Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources (“Department”). On
4 November 23, 2020, Minnesota Power filed a request for approval of the sale of its
5 Crosby Service Center to Spalj Real Estate, LLC. In its January 25, 2021 Order,⁷ the
6 Commission approved the sale of the Crosby Service Center and required that
7 Minnesota Power use deferred accounting to create a regulatory liability for the
8 transaction as recommended by the Department. In the Commission’s April 6, 2020
9 Order approving Minnesota Power’s 2019 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition,⁸
10 Minnesota Power was ordered to establish a regulatory liability for the loader transfer
11 from Laskin Energy Center to non-regulated Rapids Energy Center.

12
13 The Commission also required the Company to submit a compliance filing within 60
14 days of closing each transaction that included a detailed explanation and schedules for
15 the regulatory liabilities established in connection to these four transactions and
16 appropriate journal entries. The Aurora Service Center sale closed on December 27,
17 2017, and Minnesota Power submitted its compliance filing on February 26, 2018. The
18 regulatory liability through December 2021 is \$0.4 million Total Company. The
19 Chisholm Service Center sale closed on January 17, 2018, and Minnesota Power
20 submitted its compliance filing on March 9, 2018. The regulatory liability through
21 December 2021 is \$0.5 million Total Company. The sale of land and buildings near
22 the Boswell Energy Center closed on November 26, 2019, and Minnesota Power
23 submitted its compliance filing on January 24, 2020. The regulatory liability through

459, ORDER APPROVING PURCHASES AND SALES WITH CONDITIONS (Feb. 8, 2018); *In the Matter of the Petition of Minn. Power for Approval of a Purchase Agreement for the Sale of Land and Bldg. near the Boswell Energy Center to Airmark, Inc. d/b/a Nelson Wood Shims*, Docket No. E-015/PA-17-460, ORDER APPROVING PURCHASES AND SALES WITH CONDITIONS (Feb. 8, 2018); *In the Matter of the Petition of Minn. Power for Approval of a Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of the Long Prairie Serv. Center from the State of Minn. Dept. of Military Affairs*, Docket No. E-015/PA-17-461, ORDER APPROVING PURCHASES AND SALES WITH CONDITIONS (Feb. 8, 2018).

⁷ *In the Matter of Minn. Power’s Approval of a Purchase Agreement with Spalj Real Estate, LLC*, Docket No. E-015/PA-20-839, ORDER (Jan. 25, 2021).

⁸ *In the Matter of Minn. Power’s 2019 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition*, Docket No. E-015/D-19-534, ORDER APPROVING REMAINING LIVES AND SALVAGE RATES, REQUIRING REGULATORY LIABILITY, AND REQUIRING COMPLIANCE FILING at 7 (Apr. 6, 2020).

1 December 2021 is \$0.1 million Total Company. The Crosby Service Center sale closed
2 on March 8, 2021, and Minnesota Power submitted its compliance filing on April 26,
3 2021. The regulatory liability through December 2021 is \$0.3 million Total Company.
4 In the Commission's April 6, 2020 Order Approving Minnesota Power's 2019
5 Remaining Life Depreciation Petition, Minnesota Power was also ordered to submit a
6 compliance filing within ten days of that order showing the Company's finalized
7 calculation of any journal entries for the relevant regulatory accounts. Minnesota
8 Power submitted its compliance filing on April 16, 2020 and sent a supplemental
9 compliance filing on April 21, 2020 pursuant to an informal information request from
10 the Department. The regulatory liability through December 2021 is \$0.1 million Total
11 Company.

12
13 Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-14.
14

15 **Q. What treatment does the Company propose for the regulatory liability?**

16 A. Minnesota Power proposes to amortize the regulatory liability balances over three years
17 beginning January 1, 2022 and return to customers as a credit to Other Operating
18 Revenue. Three years is the amount of time until the Company plans to file its next
19 retail rate case and matches the amortization period for Credit Card Fees, BEC 1 and 2
20 Regulated Asset amortization expense, and Rate Case Expense adjustments, as
21 described in Sections V.B.8, V. B.11, and V.B.24 of my testimony. The total combined
22 regulatory liability balance for sales of service centers and land and buildings near
23 Boswell Energy Center and transfer of a loader out of regulated is \$1.4 million Total
24 Company.

25
26 15. Conservation Expense

27 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Conservation Expense adjustment.**

28 A. For accounting purposes, Minnesota Power records conservation expense (Account
29 908) each month as its conservation expenditures and charges that are accumulated in
30 the Conservation Cost Tracker Account ("CIP Tracker Account") are recovered from
31 customers. Cost recovery is achieved through a combination of the Conservation Cost

1 Recovery Charge (“CCRC”) in base rates and the Conservation Program Adjustment
2 (“CPA”). The CCRC and CPA are discussed further in Sections V.B.22 and V.B.21 of
3 my testimony. The CPA is modified each year as part of Minnesota Power’s CIP
4 Consolidated Filing. The modified CPA is based on projected CIP spending levels, the
5 amount recovered through base rates, carrying charges, financial incentives, and the
6 CIP Tracker Account balance at the end of the prior year. Minnesota Power’s 2022
7 budgeted conservation expense of \$11.9 million (Total Company and MN
8 Jurisdictional) in Account 908 and thus includes recovery of conservation expenditures
9 that are not limited to what Minnesota Power expects to spend on conservation
10 programs during the test year.

11
12 Consistent with how conservation expenses were handled in Minnesota Power’s 2008,
13 2009, and 2016 rate cases, it is appropriate to include the projected conservation
14 expenditures for CIP programs in the test year based on approved annual CIP budgets
15 filed with and approved by the Department. Test year conservation expense has been
16 adjusted to remove the \$11.9 million in Minnesota Power’s 2022 budget for Account
17 908 and instead include projected 2022 expenditures of \$10.7 million based on
18 Minnesota Power’s 2021-2023 CIP Triennial plan as approved by the Department of
19 Commerce on November 24, 2020 in Docket No. E015/CIP-20-476. Details of this
20 adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-15. For Interim and General
21 Rates, an updated CCRC was calculated based on the 2022 CIP Budget and test year
22 retail energy sales excluding CIP-exempt customers. This calculation is shown in
23 Volume 3, Direct Schedule I-1.

24
25 **16. Aircraft Hangar**

26 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Aircraft Hangar adjustment.**

27 A. As described in Section V.A.9 of my testimony, Minnesota Power is not seeking
28 recovery of any costs associated with the corporate aircraft. No corporate aircraft
29 expense was included in the test year regulated administrative and general expense, so
30 no adjustment is required. However, depreciation expense related to the aircraft hangar

1 is included in the test year and is adjusted out by means of this adjustment. Details of
2 this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-16.

3
4 17. Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (“CARE”)

5 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CARE adjustment.**

6 A. Minnesota Power’s Rider for Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity
7 (“CARE Rider”) provides discounted rates to qualified low-income Residential
8 customers and is funded by an Affordability Surcharge assessed to other customers.
9 The CARE Rider discounts and surcharge collections are accumulated in a tracker and
10 adjusted as necessary between rate cases. Therefore, the Residential customer class
11 discount and surcharge revenue from all customer classes are adjusted out of sales of
12 electricity for CCOSS purposes. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
13 Workpaper ADJ-IS-17.

14
15 18. CIP Incentive

16 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CIP Incentive adjustment.**

17 A. In Minnesota Power’s annual CIP Consolidated Filings, the Commission has permitted
18 Minnesota Power to collect financial incentives for its CIP achievements and also to
19 collect a carrying charge on its CIP tracker account balance. Because these revenues
20 are intended to provide an incentive to the Company and to provide a return on
21 outstanding tracker account balances, they are adjusted out of Other Operating Revenue
22 for ratemaking purposes. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
23 Workpaper ADJ-IS-18.

24
25 19. CIP Carrying Charge

26 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CIP Carrying Charge adjustment.**

27 A. In Minnesota Power’s annual CIP Consolidated Filings, the Commission has permitted
28 Minnesota Power to collect financial incentives for its CIP achievements and also
29 collect a carrying charge on its CIP tracker account balance. Because these revenues
30 are intended to provide an incentive to the Company and to provide a return on
31 outstanding tracker account balances, they are adjusted out of Other Operating Revenue

1 for ratemaking purposes. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
2 Workpaper ADJ-IS-19.

3
4 20. CPA Incentive

5 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CPA Incentive adjustment.**

6 A. The CPA Incentive revenue is the portion of revenue for the CIP incentive that is
7 included in the CPA on customer bills. This is recovered over two years and represents
8 the average of 2021 and 2022 CIP Incentive revenue. CPA Incentive revenue is
9 adjusted out of Operating Revenue. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume
10 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-20.

11
12 21. CPA

13 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CPA adjustment.**

14 A. This is a second piece of the CPA Incentive adjustment described above. This consists
15 of the total revenue received from customers for the CPA within the CIP Rider. The
16 Total CPA revenue is adjusted out of Operating Revenue because the CIP Rider will
17 continue on customer bills outside of base rates. Details of this adjustment are included
18 in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-21.

19
20 22. CCRC

21 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the CCRC adjustment.**

22 A. The CCRC credit amount related to the CIP-exempt Large Light and Power customers
23 included in the test year budget is adjusted out of Operating Revenue because the
24 CCRC credit amount is contained in the CIP Tracker and corresponding rates are
25 adjusted outside of base rates. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4
26 Workpaper ADJ-IS-22.

1 23. Continuing Cost Recovery Riders

2 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Continuing Cost Recovery Riders**
3 **adjustment.**

4 A. Along with the rate base adjustment described in Section V.A.10 of my testimony, there
5 are associated adjustments to operating expense, depreciation expense, and taxes. This
6 adjustment removes: Solar O&M expense and Great Northern Transmission Line
7 O&M expense, Multi-Value Project transmission credits, MISO Regional Expansion
8 Criteria and Benefits expense from Transmission expense, Depreciation Expense for
9 projects with costs recovered in riders, MN Solar Production Tax expense, and Property
10 Tax expense with costs recovered in riders. Details of this adjustment are included in
11 Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-23.

12
13 24. Rate Case Expense

14 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Rate Case Expense adjustment.**

15 A. The Company included in rate case expense projections the directly-assignable costs
16 associated with preparing and filing the rate case, including outside legal fees, expert
17 witnesses and consultants, state agency fees, and administrative costs. Rate case
18 expense does not include any Company labor and overheads, consistent with previous
19 filings, and a portion of the total cost is allocated to non-regulated activities, consistent
20 with the methodology approved by the Commission in Minnesota Power's previous
21 rate cases. A summary of the projected rate case expenses compared to actual expenses
22 for Minnesota Power's 2016 Rate Case, and details of this adjustment are included in
23 Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-24.

24
25 Projected rate case expenses were based on examining actual expenditures in the
26 Company's 2016 Rate Case and updated for current expectations. Projections for
27 contract and professional services expenses were based on estimates of the fees for
28 expert witnesses, consultants, and outside legal counsel who are anticipated to be used
29 in this proceeding. Similarly, Commission regulatory assessments are projected based
30 on actual assessments for the 2016 Rate Case. Additionally, "other costs" were
31 projected, including employee-related expenses associated with the rate case and

1 expenses such as printing/copying charges and preparation and mailing of notices to
2 customers.

3
4 A portion of “Contract and Professional Services” costs includes amortized costs that
5 were incurred in the development of the Company’s 2019 rate case (Docket No.
6 E015/GR-19-442), which was withdrawn. These costs are for outside legal and
7 consultant services, which were incurred for work related to the 2019 rate case that was
8 used in the development of this rate case.

9
10 Total projected rate case expenses have been amortized for a period of three years.
11 Three years is the amount of time until the Company plans to file its next retail rate
12 case and matches the amortization period for Credit Card Fees, BEC 1 and 2 Regulated
13 Asset amortization expense, and Service Center Sales, as described in Sections V.B.8,
14 V.B.11, and V.B.14 of my testimony.

15
16 25. Revenue Budget Corrections

17 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Revenue Budget Corrections adjustment.**

18 A. When comparing unadjusted revenue in the test year to the revenue calculated in
19 Volume 3 Direct Schedules E-1 and E-2, the Company calculated minor differences
20 due to the build-up of revenue in the test year budget. These differences are accounted
21 for as an adjustment to budgeted Operating Revenue to ensure the correct revenue
22 amounts are used in the CCOSS. This allows present rate revenues to reconcile in the
23 CCOSS and Volume 3 Direct Schedules E-1 and E-2. Details of this adjustment are
24 included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-25.

25
26 26. Excess ADIT

27 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Excess ADIT adjustment.**

28 A. In the Commission’s December 5, 2018 Order in Docket No. E, G-999/CI-17-895, the
29 Commission established methods for rate-regulated utilities to incorporate into rates
30 the tax cost savings resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Minnesota Power’s
31 Rider for 2017 Federal Tax Cut Refund (“Tax Cut Refund Rider”) returns to customers

1 the protected Excess ADIT, amortized using Average Rate Assumption Method as
2 early as Internal Revenue Service provisions allow, plus unprotected Excess ADIT,
3 amortized over ten years. It was approved by the Commission in Docket No. E,
4 G999/CI-17-895, with an effective date of January 1, 2019. The Excess ADIT refund
5 factor is applied as a percent of customer bills.

6
7 Minnesota Power is proposing to include the Excess ADIT credit in base rates and
8 cancel the Tax Cut Refund Rider effective with interim rates. The 2022 amortization
9 amounts related to including the Excess ADIT in base rates are explained in Company
10 witness Mr. Armbruster's testimony. This adjustment removes the Excess ADIT credit
11 from total revenue. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper
12 ADJ-IS-26.

13
14 27. Demand Response ("DR") Product A Reassignment

15 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the DR Product A Reassignment adjustment.**

16 A. In the Company's previous rate cases, DR Product A and curtailable credit revenue was
17 included in the CCOSS in a way that allocated the revenues only to the Large Power
18 customer class. Because customers taking DR Product A benefit all other customers
19 as well, the Company proposes to reassign DR Product A revenues in a way that will
20 allocate to all customers. To achieve this, DR Product A revenues have been reassigned
21 out of Sales by Rate Class revenue and into LP Demand Response revenue. Thus, the
22 proposed treatment for this revenue will perform similarly to a revenue credit.
23 Consistent with treatment in previous rate cases, this adjustment is not reflected in the
24 Interim Rate calculations, but is reflected in the General Rate calculations. Additional
25 detail for this adjustment is provided in the Direct Testimony of Company witness Ms.
26 Peterson and is included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-27.

27
28 28. LP Demand Response

29 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the LP Demand Response adjustment.**

30 A. This adjustment accounts for a reflection of the full year of lower DR Product A and
31 other LP Demand Response with the implementation of Product C. This adjustment is

1 not reflected in the Interim Rate calculations but is reflected in the General Rate
2 calculations. Additional detail for this adjustment is provided in the Direct Testimony
3 of Company witness Ms. Peterson and is included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-28.
4

5 29. Boswell Inspection Costs

6 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Boswell Inspection Costs adjustment.**

7 A. In Docket No. E999/AA-20-171, the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) suggested that
8 the Company did not follow good utility practice surrounding inspections frequency on
9 the high energy piping, specifically the hot reheat piping at Boswell Energy Center.
10 BEC 3 has 180 linear feet of hot reheat piping to be inspected in 2022 that fall within
11 the five-year Electric Power Research Institute recommended inspection guideline.
12 The costs included in this adjustment are a result of this ALJ recommendation.
13 Additional costs for subscribing to utility user groups in which the site did not
14 previously participate are included in this adjustment as these are fee-based annual
15 memberships. Details of this adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-
16 IS-29.
17

18 30. Interest Synchronization

19 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Interest Synchronization adjustment.**

20 A. The interest deduction applicable to the income tax calculation is the result of a
21 calculation commonly referred to as “interest synchronization.” The amount of interest
22 deducted for income tax purposes is the weighted cost of debt multiplied by the average
23 rate base. This calculation must be updated whenever a change in rate base, weighted
24 cost of debt, or operating income occurs. Minnesota Power will therefore recalculate
25 the interest synchronization expense after the final adjustments to rate base, weighted
26 cost of debt, and operating income are determined in this case. Details of this
27 adjustment are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-30.
28

1 31. Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments

2 **Q. Please provide an explanation of the Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments**
3 **adjustment.**

4 A. When bridging from the unadjusted test year CCOSS to the adjusted test year CCOSS,
5 a difference in allocation factors used between the two causes minor income statement
6 component amount variances that need to be accounted for. Details of this adjustment
7 are included in Volume 4 Workpaper ADJ-IS-31.

8
9 **VI. COST RECOVERY RIDERS AND TRACKERS**

10 **A. Cost Recovery Riders**

11 **Q. Please explain how Minnesota Power's cost recovery riders are handled in this**
12 **rate case.**

13 A. As Company witness Mr. Shimmin describes in his Direct Testimony, Minnesota
14 Power currently recovers the costs of several transmission and renewable resource
15 projects through riders whose rates were determined in separate dockets based on
16 individual project revenue requirement calculations. The proposed rate case treatment
17 of rider projects is explained in Mr. Shimmin's testimony.

18
19 By way of summary, projects moving to base rates will be rolled in beginning January
20 1, 2022 and, as such, their revenue requirements will be included in the test year and
21 excluded from rider recovery effective at the same time. For projects that will remain
22 in the riders, cost recovery will continue through the applicable rider. Appropriate rate
23 base and income statement adjustments have been made to exclude projects remaining
24 in riders from rate base and their associated expenses from test year expenses, so no
25 double-recovery of costs takes place. Revenue to be collected through the continuing
26 riders has also been excluded from total revenues for cost-of-service purposes. This is
27 discussed in more detail in Section V.B.23 of my testimony.

1 **B. Conservation Improvement Program**

2 **Q. How has the Company historically treated CIP costs?**

3 A. The Commission approved a deferred debit accounting mechanism and established a
4 CIP Tracker Account in the Company's 1987 general rate case (Docket No. E015/GR-
5 87-223). Conservation expenditures and costs are entered into the CIP Tracker
6 Account. These charges are recovered through a combination of base rates and the
7 CPA. Funds in the CIP Tracker Account are subject to a carrying charge utilizing the
8 rate from Minnesota Power's multi-year credit facility. The Commission approves the
9 rate of recovery of the CIP Tracker Account balances in the Company's annual CIP
10 filings, the latest of which was filed on April 1, 2021 (Docket No. E015/M-21-199).

11
12 **Q. What is the current and future status of the CIP Tracker Account?**

13 A. The CIP Tracker Account balance was \$380,310⁹ as of December 31, 2020. It is
14 anticipated that the CIP Tracker Account will continue to be used in a manner
15 consistent with recent years in that the entry of CIP-related charges and cost recovery
16 amounts will be made to this account and reported in annual CIP filings.

17
18 **Q. Please describe the existing conservation recovery mechanism.**

19 A. Minnesota Power's conservation costs are recovered through a combination of the per-
20 kWh CCRC included in base rates and the CPA adder on customer bills. The current
21 CCRC that was determined in Minnesota Power's 2016 Rate Case is \$0.003299105 per
22 kWh. In a Commission Order dated September 7, 2021 (Docket No. E015/M-21-199),
23 the Commission approved Minnesota Power's revised CPA charge of \$0.002015 per
24 kWh, effective October 1, 2021, based on projected conservation spending levels, the
25 amount recovered through base rates, carrying charges, financial incentives, and the
26 CIP Tracker account balance at the end of the prior year.

27

⁹ *In the Matter of Minn. Power's 2020 Conservation Improvement Program Consolidated Filing*, Docket E015/M-21-199, REPORTING ON CIP TRACKER ACCT. ACTIVITY, FINANCIAL INCENTIVES REPORT, PROPOSED CPA FACTORS AND 2020 PROJECT EVALUATIONS at 5 (Apr. 1, 2021).

1 **Q. What is the CIP expense level included in the test year?**

2 A. The CIP expense level for the 2022 test year is \$10,714,344. This expense level is
3 based on approved 2022 CIP spending from Minnesota Power's 2021-2023 CIP
4 Triennial filing (Docket No. E015/CIP-20-476).

5
6 The Company plans to continue utilizing the Conservation Tracker Account and CPA
7 mechanism to correct for over- and under-collections through base rates. Pursuant to
8 the Commission's decision in Docket No. E015/GR-94-001, no prior tracker balances
9 are included in the test year for recovery in base rates.

10
11 **Q. What is the proposed revised CCRC to be included in base rates?**

12 A. Based on test year conservation expenses and energy sales subject to the CCRC,
13 Minnesota Power proposes a revised CCRC of \$0.00413317 per kWh. The calculation
14 of the revised CCRC is shown in Volume 3 Direct Schedule I-1.

15
16 **Q. Will the CCRC be applied to customers who are exempt from the CIP
17 requirements?**

18 A. No, it will not. Consistent with currently authorized treatment, the CCRC will not
19 apply to several large customers who have been granted exemptions from participation
20 in CIP, Economy energy, or customers taking service under the Company's
21 Competitive Rate Schedules. In the 2008 rate case (Docket E015/GR-08-415),
22 Minnesota Power revised the CCRC methodology so that it is not built into Large
23 Power rates as they are CIP-exempt. The same methodology for Large Power
24 customers continues to be followed here. For other customers with CIP exemptions,
25 the CCRC amount is refunded to them because it is built into their base rates. The test
26 year conservation expense is allocated to retail rate classes based on each class's MWh
27 of energy subject to the CCRC.

28

1 **C. Tax Cut Refund Rider**

2 **Q. What change does Minnesota Power propose to the Tax Cut Refund Rider in this**
3 **rate case?**

4 A. As described in Section V.B.26 of my testimony, Minnesota Power proposes to include
5 the Excess ADIT credit in base rates and cancel the Tax Cut Refund Rider effective
6 with interim rates.

7
8 **VII. OTHER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

9 **A. Renewable Energy Credit (“REC”) Purchases**

10 **Q. What was the compliance requirement related to REC purchases?**

11 A. In its December 18, 2007 Order Establishing Initial Protocols for Trading Renewable
12 Energy Credits (Docket Nos. E999/CI-03-869 and E999/CI-04-1616), the Commission
13 required utilities seeking recovery of prudent costs related to registration, annual fees,
14 and transaction costs related to renewable energy credit purchases to file specific
15 proposals for cost recovery.

16
17 **Q. Is Minnesota Power proposing recovery of costs related to registration, annual**
18 **fees, or transaction costs related to renewable energy credit purchases?**

19 A. No. Minnesota Power has not included any REC purchases or related costs in the
20 proposed 2022 test year.

21
22 **B. Thomson Hydro Investment Tax Credits (“ITCs”)**

23 **Q. What was the compliance requirement related to Thomson Hydro ITCs?**

24 A. In its November 8, 2017 Order on Minnesota Power’s 2017 Renewable Resources
25 Rider (“RRR”) Rate Factor Filing, the Commission required that the Company “return
26 any amortized federal investment tax credits associated with Thomson Hydro to
27 customers through future RRR filings until they can be included in base rates in a
28 subsequent rate case.”

1 **Q. What is the status of Minnesota Power’s ITCs related to Thomson Hydro?**

2 A. The Company is not utilizing any new Thomson Hydro ITCs at this time and doesn’t
3 expect to do so until approximately 2023, as it has been in a federal net operating loss
4 (“NOL”) position or using a federal NOL carryforward in each year since 2010.
5

6 Although no new ITCs have been utilized, consistent with the discussion in the
7 Company’s 2016 Rate Case, ITCs earned prior to 2010 continue to be amortized and
8 are reflected in the Company’s CCROSS. Minnesota Power also earned a federal ITC
9 for Thomson Hydro Dam in 2015 and claimed the ITC on its federal income tax return.
10 However, due to NOL carryforwards, Minnesota Power was not able to utilize the ITC
11 on its return, and the ITC became an ITC carryforward. To reflect that the ITC has not
12 been utilized but has become a carryforward, the ITC is recorded as a carryforward tax
13 asset — in this case — a deferred tax asset. As Company witness Mr. Armbruster
14 describes in his Direct Testimony, Minnesota Power is following the normalization
15 requirements, both by beginning the amortization period once the credit is used to
16 reduce federal tax liability and by amortizing the credit over the remaining book life of
17 the underlying asset.
18

19 **C. Department of Commerce Recommended Filing Requirements**

20 **Q. What were the Department’s recommended filing requirements for Minnesota**
21 **Power’s next rate case?**

22 A. In Surrebuttal Testimony in the 2016 Rate Case,¹⁰ DOC witness Nancy Campbell
23 recommended that the Commission require Minnesota Power to provide the following
24 in Minnesota Power’s next rate case before the Commission determines that the
25 Company’s rate case petition is complete:

- 26 • All Minnesota Power financial witnesses will need to tie out their numbers to the
27 overall revenue requirements witness;

¹⁰ *In the Matter of the Application of Minn. Power for Auth. to Increase Rates for Elec. Util. Serv. in Minn.*, Docket No. E015/GR-16-664, SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF NANCY CAMPBELL at 70-71 and 81 (July 21, 2017).

- 1 • Minnesota Power may use their Responsibility Center¹¹ information and numbers,
2 but Minnesota Power must also include all additional information and numbers
3 (such as overheads, allocations, third-party costs and revenues) that ties out to the
4 FERC accounts;
- 5 • All numbers should be provided on a Total Company basis, and Minnesota
6 Jurisdictional basis, with reference and support for allocators used;
- 7 • Financial schedules should fully support the test year revenue requirement; for
8 example, while transmission expenditures by year can be helpful information, the
9 Company needs also to provide the actual plant in-service and retirement amounts
10 that support the Company's test year;
- 11 • All schedules should be clearly labeled to reflect, for example, whether the schedule
12 shows capital expenditures, capital additions and retirements, expenses, and the
13 basis (Total Company or Minnesota Jurisdictional); and
- 14 • All schedules in a rate case should breakout the rider recovery and rate case
15 recovery.

16
17 **Q. How did Minnesota Power address the Department's recommendations?**

18 A. Although the Commission did not specifically order Minnesota Power to follow these
19 recommendations, at the 2016 Rate Case evidentiary hearing, the Company agreed that
20 it would follow them to the extent possible. In the planning and preparation of this rate
21 case, Minnesota Power made all witnesses and other staff working on the rate case
22 aware of these expectations and has made a good faith effort to follow them. The
23 Company put in place a detailed review process with documentation to assure that the
24 numbers in all financial witnesses' testimony and schedules tie to the overall revenue
25 requirements witness. More detailed test year information has been provided by FERC
26 accounts in the filing to enable comparisons with historical information. For capital
27 projects, Plant in Service and retirement amounts have been provided, and extra care
28 was taken to be precise and accurate with terminology and labeling. Additionally, more

¹¹ At the evidentiary hearing, Minnesota Power clarified that, while the Department referenced "reliability centers," this was intended to more correctly reference Company "Responsibility Centers."

1 detailed information for the test year and historical years has been provided for
2 transmission revenues and expenses to make it easier to analyze and reconcile.

3
4 The Company has also attempted to provide consistent numbers for all years and to
5 include Minnesota Jurisdictional numbers throughout the case wherever reasonable and
6 practical, particularly in the financial witnesses' testimony. Where numbers are
7 included in non-financial witness testimony to show historical trends for certain items,
8 Minnesota Jurisdictional amounts are provided wherever possible. When it wasn't
9 practical to provide both Total Company and Minnesota Jurisdictional numbers, clear
10 designations are made on what is provided. And the Company is, of course, open to
11 working with the parties if any questions should arise.

12
13 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

14 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

15 **A. Yes.**

Line No.	Calculation Note	Interim Rates				General Rates		
		COSS	Summary of Revenue	Difference		COSS	Summary of Revenue	Difference
		(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Present Rates Sales by Rate Class and Dual Fuel	\$ 613,659,194	\$ 613,659,226	\$ 32		\$ 615,949,394	\$ 615,949,426	\$ 32
2	Calculated Revenue Deficiency/Revenue Increase	\$ 87,341,793	\$ 87,323,708	\$ (18,085)		\$ 108,314,136	\$ 108,314,041	\$ (95)
3	Requested Rate Increase Percentage	line 2 / line 1	14.23%	14.23%		17.58%	17.58%	
4	Total Proposed Revenues	line 1 + line 2	\$ 701,000,987	\$ 700,982,934	\$ (18,053)	\$ 724,263,530	\$ 724,263,467	\$ (63)

(1) Volume 4, COS-1, Part 1, Page 1

(2) Volume 4, IR-1, Page 2

(4) Volume 3, Direct Schedule E-3, Part 1, Page 1

(5) Volume 3, Direct Schedule E-1, page 2

Note

- a) All numbers shown are Minnesota Jurisdiction.
- b) Minor differences shown in columns (3) and (6) are due to rounding in calculations.
- c) Revenue Increase in Columns (2) and (5) includes Large Power (Other) revenues to be consistent with presentation

Line No.	Revenue Credit	Unadjusted Test Year 2022	
		Total Company	Minnesota Jurisdiction
		(1)	(2)
1	Dual Fuel	\$ 10,231,437	\$ 10,231,437
2	LP Intersystem Sales	\$ 38,067,674	\$ 32,671,926
3	Sales for Resale (Off-System)	\$ 115,185,926	\$ 99,659,035
4	Other Operating Revenue		
5	Production	\$ 1,990,996	\$ 1,721,499
6	Transmission	\$ 87,742,901	\$ 71,968,071
7	Distribution	\$ 1,220,915	\$ 1,160,931
8	General Plant	\$ 756,992	\$ 672,901
9	Conservation Improvement Program	\$ 1,750,087	\$ 1,750,087
10	Solar Renewable Resources Rider	\$ 2,029,674	\$ 2,029,674
11	Transmission Cost Recovery Rider	\$ 28,815,878	\$ 28,815,878
12	Total Other Operating Revenue	\$ 124,307,443	\$ 108,119,041
13	Total Revenue Credits	\$ 287,792,480	\$ 250,681,439

(1) Volume 4, COS-2, Part 4b, column (1)

(2) Volume 4, COS-2, Part 4b, column (3)

Line		January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	Total 2022
No.	Sales for Resale (Off-System)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1	Capacity	[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS]												
2	Aitkin Public Utilities													
3	Biwabik Public Utilities													
4	Buhl													
5	Ely													
6	Gilbert													
7	Keewatin													
8	Mountain Iron													
9	Pierz													
10	Proctor													
11	Randall													
12	Two Harbors													
13	Virginia													
14	Grand Rapids													
15	Excess Capacity													
16	GRE Capacity (Excess)													
17	Minnkota Power - Capacity													
18	Oconto - Capacity													
		[TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]												
19	Total Capacity	\$ 3,542,073	\$ 3,500,148	\$ 3,347,039	\$ 3,381,917	\$ 3,386,236	\$ 3,505,584	\$ 3,561,242	\$ 3,534,268	\$ 3,470,718	\$ 3,534,036	\$ 3,627,051	\$ 3,662,769	\$ 42,053,081
20	Energy	[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS]												
21	Aitkin Public Utilities													
22	Biwabik Public Utilities													
23	Buhl													
24	Ely													
25	Gilbert													
26	Keewatin													
27	Mountain Iron													
28	Pierz													
29	Proctor													
30	Randall													
31	Two Harbors													
32	Virginia													
33	Grand Rapids													
34	Liquidation - Minnkota Power													
35	Liquidation Sales													
36	Market Sales													
37	Non-MP Station Service													
38	Oconto - Energy													
		[TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]												
39	Total Energy	\$ 9,056,993	\$ 6,932,907	\$ 6,998,340	\$ 5,607,610	\$ 6,184,999	\$ 5,650,178	\$ 8,333,957	\$ 6,882,245	\$ 2,764,346	\$ 2,914,984	\$ 3,595,660	\$ 6,869,956	\$ 71,792,175
40	Other	[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS]												
41	Oconto Transmission													
		[TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]												
42	Total Other	\$ 117,301	\$ 105,680	\$ 113,934	\$ 108,160	\$ 110,601	\$ 108,482	\$ 114,537	\$ 113,693	\$ 108,074	\$ 111,769	\$ 111,091	\$ 117,348	\$ 1,340,670
43	Total Sales for Resale (Off-System)	\$ 12,716,367	\$ 10,538,735	\$ 10,459,313	\$ 9,097,687	\$ 9,681,836	\$ 9,264,244	\$ 12,009,736	\$ 10,530,206	\$ 6,343,138	\$ 6,560,789	\$ 7,333,802	\$ 10,650,073	\$ 115,185,926

Line No.	Other Operating Revenue	Unadjusted Test Year 2022	
		Total Company (1)	Rider Recoverable (2)
1	Production		
2	Production-Demand		
3	CenturyLink (Rents Hydro Land for Building)	45400 \$ 650	\$ -
4	Recreation Leases	45610 \$ 678,665	\$ -
5	Timber Sales	45640 \$ 6,000	\$ -
6	Total Production-Demand	\$ 685,315	\$ -
7	Production-Energy		
8	Blandin Coal Shed Revenue	45690 \$ 137,784	\$ -
9	Blandin Coal Shed Revenue - WPPI	45690 \$ (14,412)	\$ -
10	Fly Ash Sales	45690 \$ 1,058,313	\$ -
11	ND ITC Used	45690 \$ 106,694	\$ -
12	Oconto - Renewable Resource Energy Credits - Offset in RRR	45690 \$ 17,302	\$ 17,302
13	Total Production-Energy	\$ 1,305,681	\$ 17,302
14	Total Production	\$ 1,990,996	\$ 17,302
15	Transmission		
16	GRE Communication	45400 \$ 393,517	\$ -
17	Hibbtac Transformer Rental	45400 \$ 468	\$ -
18	USS Fiber Rental	45400 \$ 14,880	\$ -
19	GRE (MISO Revenue Sharing)	45620 \$ (692,297)	\$ -
20	GRE JPZ	45620 \$ 14,756	\$ -
21	Manitoba Must Take Fee	45620 \$ 20,860,385	\$ 20,860,385
22	MISO	45620 \$ 17,598,277	\$ -
23	MISO Attachment O, GG, ZZ True Up - Accrual	45620 \$ 308,700	\$ -
24	MISO Sch 2 Transfer to Acc 55600 RC 0548	45620 \$ (2,975,409)	\$ -
25	MISO Sch2/3 Transfer to Acc 45660	45620 \$ (1,115,275)	\$ -
26	MP/Square Butte - DC Line	45620 \$ 14,236,200	\$ -
27	NERC Alert Projects - Schedule 45 (AC)	45620 \$ 6,553,226	\$ -
28	NERC Alert Projects - Schedule 45 (DC)	45620 \$ 1,131,760	\$ -
29	RECB Sch 26 (regional Expansion Cost & Benefit)	45620 \$ 18,499,223	\$ 18,499,223
30	RECB Schedule 37	45620 \$ 202,320	\$ 202,320
31	RECB Schedule 38	45620 \$ 253,932	\$ 253,932
32	WPPI	45620 \$ 416,538	\$ -
33	MISO Reactive Supp -transferred from 45620	45660 \$ 1,115,275	\$ -
34	ACE O&M Payment LGIA (Easement)	45690 \$ 166,494	\$ -
35	MH Joint Operating Expense Payments	45690 \$ 10,759,932	\$ 10,759,932
36	Total Transmission	\$ 87,742,901	\$ 50,575,792
37	Distribution		
38	Late Fees-CSA	45000 \$ 645,000	\$ -
39	Misc Serv Rev	45100 \$ 90,000	\$ -
40	AEP - Meter Data Management Service Charge	45690 \$ 4,368	\$ -
41	Brainerd - Metering Services Fee	45690 \$ 4,800	\$ -
42	Joint Use/Pole Att	45400 \$ 391,090	\$ -
43	Nashwauk/Essar Billing & Maint Fee	45690 \$ 24,480	\$ -
44	SWL&P TALA Lease Payment	45690 \$ 39,529	\$ -
45	Oconto - Meter Data Management Service Charge	45690 \$ 21,649	\$ -
46	Total Distribution	\$ 1,220,915	\$ -
47	General Plant		
48	Enventis Rents	45400 \$ 406,700	\$ -
49	Xcel	45400 \$ 9,313	\$ -
50	Misc Bldg Mtc Revenue	45690 \$ 146,326	\$ -
51	Tower Leasing	45690 \$ 194,654	\$ -
52	Total General Plant	\$ 756,992	\$ -
53	Cost Recovery Riders		
54	Conservation Improvement Program	45690 \$ 1,750,087	\$ 1,750,087
55	Solar Renewable Resources Rider	45690 \$ 2,029,674	\$ 2,029,674
56	Transmission Cost Recovery Rider	45690 \$ 28,815,878	\$ 28,815,878
57	Total Cost Recovery Riders	\$ 32,595,639	\$ 32,595,639
58	Total Other Operating Revenue	\$ 124,307,444	\$ 83,188,733

Adjustment	Interim	General	Required	Customary/ Voluntary	Requested	Workpaper Reference
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Rate Base

Asset Retirement Obligation	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-01
Cost to Retire	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-02
Decommissioning	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-03
Boswell 1 and 2 Regulated Asset	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-04
Boswell 3 Environmental Project	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-05
EV Program	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-06
EVSE Project	yes	yes	x			ADJ-RB-07
Pro Rata ADIT	yes	no	x			ADJ-RB-08
Aircraft Hangar	yes	yes		x		ADJ-RB-09
Continuing Cost Recovery Riders	yes	yes		x		ADJ-RB-10
DC Line Addition	yes	yes		x		ADJ-RB-11
OPEB	yes	no			x	ADJ-RB-12
Prepaid Pension	yes	no			x	ADJ-RB-13
Cash Working Capital	yes	yes		x		ADJ-RB-14
Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments	yes	yes		x		ADJ-RB-15

Income Statement

Advertising Expense	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-01
Charitable Contributions	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-02
Economic Development	yes	no	x		x	ADJ-IS-03
Organizational Dues	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-04
Employee Expenses	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-05
Incentive Compensation	yes	yes	x	x		ADJ-IS-06
Investor Relations	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-07
Credit Card Fees	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-08
Asset Retirement Obligation	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-09
Decommissioning	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-10
Boswell 1 & 2 Regulated Asset	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-11
Boswell 3 Environmental Project	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-12
EVSE Project	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-13
Service Center Sales	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-14
Conservation Expense	yes	yes	x			ADJ-IS-15
Aircraft Hangar	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-16
CARE	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-17
CIP Incentive	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-18
CIP Carrying Charge	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-19
CPA Incentive	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-20
CPA	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-21
CCRC	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-22
Continuing Cost Recovery Riders	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-23
Rate Case Expense	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-24
Revenue Budget Corrections	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-25
Excess ADIT	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-26
DR Product A Reassign	no	yes			x	ADJ-IS-27
LP Demand Response	no	yes			x	ADJ-IS-28
Boswell Inspection Costs	yes	yes			x	ADJ-IS-29
Interest Synchronization	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-30
Changes in Allocations due to Adjustments	yes	yes		x		ADJ-IS-31