



Owned by 12 Minnesota electric cooperatives:

BENCO Electric Cooperative
Brown County Rural Electrical Association
Federated Rural Electric Association
Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
Nobles Cooperative Electric
People's Energy Cooperative
Redwood Electric Cooperative
Sioux Valley Energy
South Central Electric Association
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
Tri-County Electric Cooperative

JUNE 2014

June 19 marked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (MPUC) first hearing on the April 15 filing by Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) and Alliant Energy of an application with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission seeking approval of the proposed sale of Alliant Energy's Minnesota electric distribution territory.

In the hearing, the MPUC passed a motion for an "additional/alternative" process that will include a series of discussions/meetings with any interested parties. The commission also proposed that SMEC and Alliant Energy respond to any additional questions posed by the MPUC, the office of the Minnesota Attorney General (OAG) or other interested parties with those questions required to be filed on the matter by July 7. SMEC and Alliant Energy have until August 8 to file their responses. Any additional comments in response to SMEC's and Alliant Energy's replies must be filed by August 29. The Executive Secretary of the Commission was given the authority to extend these dates, if necessary.

The MPUC then will make a decision as to whether to refer the matter for contested case proceedings and public hearings.

On May 9, comments on the application were filed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, OAG and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association. The comments focused on the regulatory process as well as questions on the application itself and were responded to by both SMEC and Alliant Energy in a filing with the MPUC on May 23.

While this all sounds very technical and process-y, the main takeaway from what has thus far transpired is the care the MPUC is taking to ensure this proposed acquisition by the 12 member electric cooperatives of SMEC of Alliant Energy territory in southern Minnesota is the right thing for customers.

Announced in September 2013, SMEC transition committees – Billing & Finance; Communications; Engineering, Operation and Safety; Human Relations; Load Management and AMI; and Regulatory – have been hard at work to assure a smooth transition for its new member-owners after the acquisition receives approval. SMEC cooperatives have requested approval by yearend 2014.

As SMEC works with the MPUC and interested parties to advance the regulatory process in the halls of state government, hundreds of the cooperatives' professional staff in your community and across Minnesota's southern border continue their work to be ready for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.