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Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Citizens with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

Alliant Energy

alliantenergy.com/minnesota or 1-800-ALLIANT (800-255-4268)

Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative

smenergy.coop

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7900 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print) by calling 1-800-ALLIANT (800-255-4268).

December 30, 2014

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Alliant Energy Proposes to sell its Minnesota electric system to Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC)

Alliant Energy – Interstate Power and Light Co. (Alliant Energy) proposes to sell its Minnesota electric distribution system to Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC). Alliant Energy and SMEC have asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to approve the sale.

If the Commission approves the sale, Alliant Energy will no longer provide retail electric service in Minnesota. Alliant Energy's Minnesota customers will be transferred to SMEC and the respective electric cooperatives. If the sale is approved by the Commission, one of these electric cooperatives would be your new electric service provider.

SMEC is a partnership of twelve rural electric cooperatives currently providing electric service near Alliant Energy's Minnesota electric service area. All together, the SMEC member cooperatives provide electric service to about 135,000 members in Minnesota.

Public hearings are scheduled to give customers an opportunity to present their views and ask questions about the proposed sale.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, January 15, 2015	2:00 pm	Storden Civic Center 312 America Street Storden, MN 56174
Wednesday, January 21, 2015	2:00 pm	Stewartville Civic Center 120 City Center Stewartville, MN 55976
Wednesday, January 21, 2015	7:00 pm	Albert Lea High School Auditorium 2000 Tiger Lane Albert Lea, MN 56007

- Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Effect on rates

IPL has not filed a rate case since 2010. IPL has indicated that it will need to file a case if it continues to serve the electric service territory in Minnesota. Typically a rate case results in increased rates. This topic will be one of the topics discussed at the public hearings.

SMEC expects typical customer bills will increase by about 6-7 percent in the first year, 3-4 percent in the second year and 7-8 percent in the third year after SMEC takes over the electric service. Included in these increases is the pass through of the actual cost of power and its transmission service charged to the cooperative by the wholesaler.

In the fourth and fifth years after SMEC takes over the service, current Alliant Energy customers' rates may be merged with the electric rates of existing SMEC cooperative members.

Public hearing information

- Public hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick will preside over the public hearings.
- Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Alliant Energy and SMEC representatives will be available to answer questions about the Commission's review process and the sale.
- Citizens will be able to add oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Learn more about participating at a public hearing at mn.gov/puc/aboutus/index.html.

Submit written comments

The Commission wants to hear from you. If you would like to comment, but cannot attend one of the public hearings, you are invited to submit your comments in writing.

Topics for Public Comment

- Is the sale consistent with the public interest?
- The adequacy and quality of Alliant Energy's and SMEC's service and any differences in their service quality.
- Alliant Energy's and SMEC's rates and any differences in their rates.
- Any other related matter.

Comment Period Deadline for written comments is February 2, 2015 at 4:30 pm. Comments must be received by 4:30 pm on the close date. Comments received after the comment period closes will not be accepted.

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select Comment on an Issue, find this docket (14-322), and add your comments to the discussion.

U.S. Mail Persons without Internet access may send comments by U.S. mail to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101.

Please include the Commission's docket number (14-322) in all communications.

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Process information

Before the sale can be completed, it must be approved by the Commission.

Once concluded, Judge Mihalchick will forward a transcript of the public hearings to the Commission. The Commission will review all the information in the record, including public comments, and is expected to make a decision in 2015.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This request is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216B.50 and Minnesota Rules Part 7825.1800, available at revisor.mn.gov.