

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Interstate Power Company for Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: July 21, 1988

DOCKET NO. E-001/GR-86-384

ORDER GRANTING ADDITIONAL TIME
EXTENSION FOR COMMENTS ON
REVISED COMPLIANCE FILING

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 15, 1988, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) issued its ORDER DIRECTING RECALCULATION OF COMPLIANCE RATES AND SETTING COMMENT PERIOD in this proceeding. That Order required Interstate Power Company (Interstate or the Company) to recalculate revenue requirements and rates for its general service and large power and lighting classes.

On May 13, 1988 the Company filed revised rates in compliance with the April 15, 1988 Order. Under these tariffs some customers would experience large increases (up to 519% over interim rates).

The April 15 Order established a ten-day period for interested parties to review and comment on Interstate's filing. On May 23, 1988 the Commission granted a request from the Department of Public Service (Department) for an additional ten days to file its comments.

On June 1, 1988 the Department filed a request an additional 30 days for the Department, the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and the Company to further investigate the revised compliance filing, analyze its rate-design, and make recommendations on it. On June 17, 1988, the Commission granted the Department's request.

On July 18, 1988, Interstate filed a Status Report and Motion for Extension of Time, requesting an additional 30 days to develop the data necessary for the Commission to determine the optimal value for a cap on General Service Billing demand. This information is necessary to analyze possible solutions offered by the parties to the issues raised by the compliance filing's rate design.

The Department and the RUD-AG filed comments on Interstate's revised compliance filing on July 18, 1988 and supported the Company's request for a time extension.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Ordering Paragraph 10 of the Commission's Order Accepting Filing and Suspending Rates (August 12, 1986) in this matter delegates to the Commission's Executive Secretary the authority to vary the deadlines for filings and pleadings in this case.

The DPS, the RUD-AG, and the Company agree that an additional 30 days is necessary to examine load data before proposing a cap on general service billing. The parties agree that the additional time and analysis will provide information that is necessary for the Commission's evaluation of the Company's compliance filing.

The Executive Secretary notes that the rates are proposed to take effect July 1, 1987. Judicial review and subsequent filings, review, and requests for refiling have delayed approval of rates until now. An additional 30 days is insignificant relative to the time already passed. Moreover, the nature of the problems which apparently exist in determining rates for the General Service and Large Power customers make it critical that the rates and rate design be reviewed thoroughly. Therefore the Executive Secretary concludes that the time extension should be granted.

ORDER

1. The extension requested by the Company is granted. Interstate, the Department, and the RUD-AG shall have thirty days from the issuance of this Order to submit comments and recommendations on the May 13, 1988 filing.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)