

E-142, 124/SA-91-23 ORDER APPROVING CHANGES IN ASSIGNED SERVICE
AREAS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Patrice M. Vick	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition of
Steele-Waseca Cooperative
Electric and Minnesota Valley
Electric Cooperative to Adjust
their Mutual Service-Territory
Boundary

ISSUE DATE: June 7, 1991
DOCKET NO. E-142, 124/SA-91-23
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ASSIGNED SERVICE AREAS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 16, 1991, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (Steele-Waseca) and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Minnesota Valley) filed a joint petition with the Commission requesting a change in their mutual service area boundary. The two utilities were attempting to change an error in their service area maps filed with the Commission in 1974. Acting in reliance on the erroneous maps, Steele-Waseca had been mistakenly serving three customers in Erin Township, Rice County who are in Minnesota Valley's service territory. The utilities wished the service area maps to be brought into conformity with actual field conditions. The three customers would then be within Steele-Waseca's service territory.

On February 20, 1991, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments in favor of the utilities' proposed boundary revision.

On May 8, 1991, the Commission sent a Notice of Commission Meeting to all interested parties, including affected customers. No one opposed the utilities' petition.

The matter came before the Commission on May 21, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that it is in the best interests of the parties to allow the proposed service area revision. Minnesota service area law and Commission policy favor stability in customer service. No party will be disrupted by the change in

the service area maps, and no one opposes the revision. The utilities will gain greater accuracy in their service area representations. The Commission will approve the utilities' petition.

The Commission reminds the utilities that under Minnesota law electric utilities may only serve customers outside their assigned service areas if they have received Commission approval after notice and hearing under Minn. Stat. § 216B.39 or service by exception is consented to under Minn. Stat. § 216B.40.

ORDER

1. The assigned service area boundary change requested in the petition at issue is approved.
2. The Department of Public Service shall revise the official service area maps to reflect the boundary change approved herein.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)