

E-002/RP-93-630 ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm  
Tom Burton  
Marshall Johnson  
Cynthia A. Kitlinski  
Dee Knaak

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Northern States Power Company  
for Approval of its Resource  
Plan

ISSUE DATE: October 26, 1993

DOCKET NO. E-002/RP-93-630

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INTERVENE

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On July 1, 1993, Northern States Power (NSP) filed its resource plan pursuant to Minn. Rules, parts 7843.0100 to 7843.0600.

On July 23, 1993, the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) petitioned to intervene in this proceeding.

On August 4, 1993, the Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3) petitioned to intervene in this proceeding.

On August 23, 1993, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) petitioned to intervene in this proceeding.

On August 27, 1993, the Mankato Area Environmentalists (MAE) petitioned to intervene in this proceeding.

On September 27, 1993, Northern Natural Power, Inc. petitioned to intervene in this proceeding.

No objection to any of these five petitions to intervene has been filed.

On October 14, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Minn. Rules, part 7843.0400, subpart 7 provides that the deadline for petitions to intervene in resource plan proceedings is November 1 of the year the utility's proposed resource plan is filed. Since NSP filed its resource plan on July 1, 1993, the deadline for filing petitions to intervene is November 1, 1993. All five of the petitions to intervene considered in this Order, then, have been timely filed.

None of these petitioners are intervenors of right in this matter. Each must show that it is an "interested person" within the meaning of Minn. Rules, part 7843.0300, subpart 7.

In support of its petition, IWLA stated that its members have an interest in the wise use and conservation of electric power to help preserve the State's natural environment. ME3 indicated an interest in a number of issues related to resource planning, including dispersed generation, competitive bidding, and demand-side management strategies. UCS expressed interest in several issues related to NSP's integrated resource plan, including renewable energy resources, the application of the Distributed Utility Concept including targeted demand-side management (DSM) and distributed storage technologies. MAE maintained that its members have an interest in preserving and protecting the State's environmental resources. Northern Natural Power stated that it is directly affected by a number of issues raised in the resource plan such as the generic Request for Proposals which may serve as the basis for NSP's future solicitation and evaluation of purchase power proposals.

The Commission notes that ILWA, ME3, and UCS were intervenors and active participants in NSP's last resource plan proceeding (Docket No. E-002/RP-91-682) and that MAE has participated in the last two NSP rate cases. Each of the petitioners is likely to be able to provide unique perspective on the appropriate resources to meet NSP's needs.

Accordingly, the Commission finds that each petitioner is an "interested person" within the meaning of the rule and will grant party status to each petitioner. The Commission does so in the belief that encouraging participation by a broad array of groups with different interests benefits the process.

#### **ORDER**

1. The petitions to intervene filed by the Izaak Walton League of America (ILWA), Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3), the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the Mankato Area Environmentalists (MAE), and Northern Natural Power, Inc. are granted. Each of the petitioners is hereby granted party status in this matter.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Susan Mackenzie  
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)