

ISSUE DATE: December 17, 1998

DOCKET NO. E,G-999/CI-98-1759

ORDER AFFIRMING MERGER OF INVESTIGATIONS OF DEMAND-SIDE
MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Edward A. Garvey
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayner
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation
into Demand-Side Management Financial
Incentives for Gas and Electric Utilities

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ORDER AFFIRMING MERGER OF
INVESTIGATIONS OF DEMAND-SIDE
MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In 1998, the Commission opened two investigations into demand-side management (DSM) financial incentives for utilities. The Commission assigned the investigation of financial incentives for gas utilities to Docket No. G-999/CI-98-1009 and the electric utility investigation to Docket No. E-999/CI-98-755.¹

On November 19, 1998, the Commission met to consider further proceedings in the electric utility investigation docket. The Commission determined that it would convene a Chair's Round Table to evaluate the success of recent utility DSM efforts and to re-evaluate the need for further DSM financial incentives. The Commission included both gas and electric utilities in the Chair's Round Table and in certain requirements for further filings.

On November 24, 1998, prior to the issuance of the Commission's Order resulting from the November 19 meeting, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a letter recommending that all future actions involving the gas utility investigation docket be rolled into and implemented with the electric utility investigation docket. The Department stated that the dockets are so similar that no party would be prejudiced by considering them as one, and that efficiencies would be gained by the docket merger.

On December 2, 1998, the Commission issued its ORDER CONVENING CHAIR'S ROUND TABLE AND REQUIRING FILINGS in the electric utility investigation docket. In that Order, the Commission officially established the Chair's Round Table to address gas and electric utility DSM financial incentive issues. The Commission ordered gas and electric utilities to file certain information regarding DSM issues. The Commission noted that the gas and electric investigations would henceforth be considered under the above-captioned combined gas and electric energy

¹ In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Continuation of Demand-Side Management Financial Incentives for Gas Utilities; In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Continuation of Demand-Side Management Financial Incentives for Electric Utilities.

docket.

On December 9, 1998, the Commission met to affirm its merger of the gas and electric energy DSM financial incentive investigation dockets.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission agrees with the Department that the merger of the gas and electric utility DSM financial incentive dockets will increase regulatory efficiency and advance the public interest. The Commission affirms that it will consider all issues regarding gas and electric DSM financial incentives in the current docket. The records of the gas and electric DSM investigation dockets will be merged into the current docket.

All gas and electric utilities should refer to the Commission's December 2, 1998 Order for filing requirements and information on the Chair's Round Table activities.

ORDER

1. The Commission affirms its merger of Docket Nos. G-999/CI-98-1009 and E-999/CI-98-755 into the current docket.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

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