

March 8, 2024

Senator Erin Murphy
Majority Leader
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3211
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John Marty, Chair
Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Liz Olson, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Nick Frentz, Chair
Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Patty Acomb, Chair
Climate and Energy Finance and Policy
Committee
593 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Commissioner Erin Cambell
Minnesota Management and Budget
Legislative Advisory Commission
400 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: State Competitiveness Fund Match Program: Funds allocated under the Standard Response Application Round

Dear Majority Leader Murphy, Speaker Hortman, Chair Marty, Chair Olson, Chair Frentz, Chair Acomb and Commissioner Campbell:

This letter addresses the notification requirement set forth by the Legislature in the Laws of 2023, Chapter 24, Section 2, Subd. 6(c)(2) as outlined in the language below:

[216C.391] MINNESOTA STATE COMPETITIVENESS FUND.

(c) Within ten business days of determining a grant award amount to an applicant, the commissioner must:

(1) reserve that amount for that specific grant in the state competitiveness fund account; and

(2) notify the Legislative Advisory Commission in writing of the reserved amount, the name of the applicant, the purpose of the project, and the unreserved balance of funds remaining in the account.

As stated by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$1,315.00 to prepare, including staff time.

This information is also posted on the department's website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Michelle Gransee, Deputy Commissioner of Energy Resources at (651) 539-1801 or michelle.gransee@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Grace Arnold
Commissioner



**State Competitiveness Fund Match Program:
Funds allocated under the Standard Response
Application Round**

3/8/2024

State Competitiveness Fund Match Program: Funds allocated under the Standard Response Application Round

In accordance with requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes 216C.391 State Competitiveness fund, this notification is provided to the Legislative Advisory Commission.

Program Background:

Minnesota Statutes 216C.391 established the Minnesota State Competitiveness Fund with the purpose of increasing the competitiveness of eligible Minnesota entities in the pursuit of federal funds under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The funding was appropriated to provide state match, grant development assistance, grants to reduce project costs that receive federal loans or tax credits within disadvantaged communities, and technical assistance to eligible entities.

Within the \$190M appropriation, the 2023 state legislature allocated \$100 million beginning July 1, 2023, for the funding of a State Competitiveness Match Program to assist the state and other eligible Minnesota entities seeking federal grant awards for energy projects under the IRA and IIJA.

As part of the reservation process, Minnesota Statutes 216C.391 Subd. 6 requires:

- (c) Within ten business days of determining a grant award amount to an applicant, the commissioner must:*
- (1) reserve that amount for that specific grant in the state competitiveness fund account; and*
 - (2) notify the Legislative Advisory Commission in writing of the reserved amount, the name of the applicant, the purpose of the project, and the unreserved balance of funds remaining in the account.*

Application Periods:

Commerce opened the funding application period on October 26, 2023, utilizing a two-concurrent round application process to reserve up to \$95 million in Match Program grants for non-state eligible entities. \$5 million of the appropriation was held for Priority 1 projects to meet Commerce's required 15% match for the 40101d Grid Resilience Formula grants. The remaining funds were split to allow funding allocation to each application round and subdivided into the five (5) remaining Prioritization Categories as set forth in Minnesota Statutes 216C.391.

The **Quick Response Application Round** was allocated \$70 million in funding and closed on November 27, 2023. Entities who had already submitted federal funding applications or received federal awards by November 27, 2023 were eligible to apply under this round. Any funds not reserved under this round were rolled into the Standard Response Application Round and allocated within the same Priority categories. As a result of the Quick Response Application Round, \$18,518,079 was reserved for nine awardees; the required Notification of the funds reserved under this Round was sent to the Legislative Advisory Council on January 23, 2024. The LAC Notification Report document is posted for public viewing on the Department of Commerce's [State Competitiveness Fund web page](#).

The remainder of this Notification document focuses on the details of the second application round of the State Competitiveness Fund reservation allocation process, including funds available, the number of applications, the

number of awards, the amount of SCF funds allocated under this round, remaining funds appropriated for SCF Match Program use and next steps.

The **Standard Response Application Round** was initially allocated \$25 million, with a close date of January 15, 2024. The Standard Response Round was for those eligible Minnesota entities who had not submitted their federal funding proposal as of November 27, 2023. Funds available but **not** utilized for reservations under the Quick Response application round totaled \$51,481,921. These funds were rolled into the Standard Response application round, in the same priority category, increasing the total funding available for reservation under the Standard Response round to \$76,481,921, as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Allocation Amounts by Priority Category for the SCF Standard Response Round

Priority Category	Entity Prioritization Order (according to Statute: Chapter 24, Sec. 2, Subd. 3)	Funding Allocation - Standard Response Round*
	<i>Funding allocated</i>	\$ 76,481,921
1	federal formula funds directed to the state that require a match**;	\$ -
2	a political subdivision or a Tribal government, for eligible funding opportunities that require a match;	\$ 24,706,920
3	an institution of higher education, a consumer-owned utility, a business, or a non-profit organization, for eligible funding opportunities that require a match;	\$ 21,575,001
4	investor-owned utilities, for funding opportunities that require a match;	\$ 9,000,000
5	an eligible entity not included in clauses (1) to (4); for funding opportunities that require a match;	\$ 13,500,000
6	eligible entities for funding opportunities not requiring a match, but for which cost-share would enhance likelihood of grant receipt or to increase the potential amount of federal funds received.	\$ 7,700,000

*\$72,880,906 designated for awards of < \$1 million, with \$3.6 million for awards of \$1 million or more.

** Priority Category 1: \$5 million set-aside for Commerce Cost-share requirement for 40101d Grid Resilience Formula Grants. Not allocated as part of SCF Match Program .

Standard Response Round Applications

Sixty-one applications were received under the Standard Response Round, with the original requests for funding at a total of \$122,279,545. After clarification of project details and alignment with maximum statutory funding allowances, the total amount of **Eligible** funding requests in the Standard Response round was \$93,097,098.

Limited fund availability for grants > \$1Million

The Match Program statute requires at least \$75 million of the Match Program funding be awarded in grants of < \$1 million. The Quick Response Application Round had two grants funded at \$1 million or more, for a total of

\$16,398,985. With the \$5 million set-aside for Commerce’s 40101d Grid Resilience Formula Grant requirement, a maximum of \$3,601,015 was available in the Standard Response application round for grants of \$1 million or more. (Details of the Quick Response Round reservation awards for grants of \$1 million or more may be found in the [Quick Response round LAC Notification report](#) mentioned above.)

Of the \$93 million in Eligible requests, 11 applicants requested a total of \$65,751,518, or 71% of the Eligible requests, for grant awards of more than \$1 million (called “large grants” within this document). Thirteen other applications asked for SCF funding of \$1 million dollars; these requests were considered (and funded) at \$999,999 (a reduction of \$1.00 each) allowing them to be placed in the “small grant” category of “less than \$1 million”. One applicant, requesting \$975,549, was not eligible on either a project or applicant basis for federal funding in the program under which they reported they were planning on applying, and subsequently removed from consideration for SCF award reservation. The remaining 36 applicants requested a total of \$27,345,580 in grant requests of less than \$1 million each.

Standard Response Round Award Reservations

Table 2 provides information on Standard Response round applications which asked for grants of “large grants” of more than \$1 million, clustered by entity priority category. Commerce considered various options to use in dividing up the \$3.6 million available for “large grant” requests. The approach selected: **1)** concentrates on funding large grant requests in priority category two, the highest priority category of applicants; **2)** awards as much as possible to the application which scored the highest on consideration points (Impact to Disadvantaged Communities, Geographic Spread within MN, Support for Legislative and Climate Action Framework goals, and Readiness to Implement); and **3)** ensures that all funded applications across all priority categories in the Standard Response round received at least 10% of their eligible ask.

The application which scored the highest on Consideration Points was submitted by the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe. The only application (across all priority categories) which would not receive at least 10% of eligible ask, if funded at \$999,999 was the application from Western MN Municipal Power Agency. The award reservation to WMMPA was increased from \$999,999 to \$1.4 million, to bring their reservation award to at least 10% of their Eligible ask and to ensure parity with the other SCF reservation awardees under this round. After determining how much was needed to bring WMMPA to the 10% parity number, the remaining funds available for large grants were then assigned to the highest scorer in priority category two - the Grand Portage Band application.

Table 2: Standard Response Round Eligible SCF Grant requests of >\$1Million and recommended awards

Priority Category	Organization Name	Total Project Cost	SCF Ask	Consideration Points	Recom'd awards	Award : % of Eligible Ask	Award: % of TPC
2	Blue Earth Light and Water	\$ 6,864,705	\$ 3,432,352	26	\$ 999,999	29%	15%
2	Brainerd Public Utilities	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 1,175,000	26	\$ 999,999	85%	43%
2	Grand Portage Band of Lake Super	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	29	\$ 2,200,000	18%	9%
2	Grand Meadow Public School	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,150,000	16	\$ 999,999	87%	43%
2	Western MN Municipal Power Agency	\$ 54,600,000	\$ 13,650,000	26	\$ 1,401,015	10%	3%
3	Connexus Energy	\$ 26,350,000	\$ 8,783,333	25	\$ 999,999	11%	4%
3	Connexus Energy	\$ 31,000,000	\$ 10,333,333	25	\$ 999,999	10%	3%
3	University of Minnesota	\$ 9,455,000	\$ 4,727,500	27	\$ 999,999	21%	11%
4	Otter Tail Power Company	\$ 125,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	26	\$ 999,999	20%	1%
4	Otter Tail Power Company	\$ 38,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	25	\$ 999,999	50%	3%
6	R W Recycling and Energy Board	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	13	\$ 999,999	29%	1%
			\$ 65,751,518.00				4

The funding to be allocated under the SCF Match Program was divided among the statutorily set entity priority categories, with the largest share of funding (for the SCF Match Program overall, both rounds together) allocated to priority Category 2 and with decreasing amounts allocated to Categories 3 through 6¹. While the entire remaining SCF appropriation was not utilized during this application round, due to the restriction on the amount of funding that could be allocated to grants of \$1 million or more, priority categories two and three were over-subscribed while priority categories 4 and 6 were under-subscribed in comparison to available funding. Once the Recommended Award amounts were set as described above, the allocations in priority categories 2, 4, and 6 were sufficient to cover the recommended awards in each of those categories. Unreserved funds in those priority categories were moved to priority category 3 to cover the remainder of the Eligible funding asks received from applicants in that category. Table 3 below shows the final split of reserved funding to award reservations by priority category, along with the allocated funding that was not reserved in the Standard Response application round.

Table 3: By priority category: Standard Response Eligible Grant requests, recommended awards, un-reserved funds available for a future application round

Award Synopsis

Priority Category	Funds Available for Award	# of Funded Apps	Total Eligible Ask	Recommended awards	Total Funds available for New Round Grants (< \$1Million)
2	\$ 24,706,920	7	\$ 32,776,102	\$ 7,969,762	\$ 30,161,784
3	\$ 21,575,001	48	\$ 48,842,945	\$ 34,372,326	
4	\$ 9,000,000	2	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 1,999,998	
5	\$ 13,500,000	0	\$ -	\$ -	
6	\$ 7,700,000	3	\$ 4,478,051	\$ 1,978,050	
Totals	\$ 76,481,921	60	\$ 93,097,098	\$ 46,320,136	

Note: Category 5 application received - Project and Entity not eligible under named federal funding program rules

The funds reserved in the Standard Response Round total \$46,320,136 for 60 Minnesota entities/projects. \$30,161,784.45 of the funds available for reservation in the Standard Response Round were not utilized for award reservation due to the Statute stipulation that at least \$75 million of the funding be allocated to grant awards of less than \$1 million. Remaining un-reserved SCF funds will be allocated to additional SCF applicants in a future Round 3 application round.

NOTE: After Notice of Intent to Award letters were sent out to successful SCF Standard Response awardees on February 20 & 21, 2024, some of the awardees holding fund reservation learned their project would not receive funding from the federal program under which they also applied for SCF Match Program funds. The reserved SCF funds for these projects unsuccessful in receiving federal grant funding will be rolled back into the SCF Match Program for re-assignment to other eligible entities/projects under a future Round 3 Application Round. As of

¹ No priority category 5 award reservations were made under the Quick Response round. Quick Response round category 5 allocations joined the Standard Response round category 5 allocations, resulting in a category 5 available funds amount that was higher than the Standard Round category 4 available funds.

March 8, 2024, the re-absorption of these funds brings the total SCF funding available for Round 3 to \$34,562,796.

Funding Award by Entity

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 216C.375, the following allocation reservations, as provided in Table 4: Standard Response Round Reservations have been reserved as of 02/21/2024. A map showing the geographic dispersion of these projects within Minnesota is on page 9.

Table 4: Standard Response Round Reservations

	Awardee	SCF Match Program Reserved Funds	Project Purpose
1	Austin Utilities **	\$ 500,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
2	Aerinet Solutions Corp.	\$ 666,666	Purpose: Modernize rural co-ops via AI. Creation of ARC (Artificial Intelligence Rescuing Rural Cooperatives) initiative, using cutting-edge & market-ready tech to help predict and prepare before, during, and after power outages.
3	Agralite Electric Cooperative **	\$ 450,000	Purpose: Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. To support work in two pillars of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events (Assess pillar). AEC will also deploy advanced electronic reclosers through the distribution system to increase system adaptability (Intelligence pillar).
4	Arrowhead Electric Cooperative ***	\$ 841,079	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
5	Blue Earth Light and Water *	\$ 999,999	Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities. Purpose: To install 2.5 MW of battery storage for four hours assist with storage of solar and wind production within the City of Blue Earth MN. This project will assist BELW to meet Minnesota's Climate Action Framework this is central to our transition to 100% carbon free goal. Grid resiliency and clean energy integration. Add energy efficient transformers with smart gauges, smart switches on power lines, undergrounding, Load Control and Advance Metering Control. City of Blue Earth is adding 4MW solar generation.
6	Brainerd Public Utilities *	\$ 999,999	Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities. Purpose: A battery storage system for the solar array and load control related to air conditioning units and water heaters, enabling members of the community to achieve CAF goals. The battery storage project and load control projects are both designed and would be utilized to manage demand of purchased power to manage and keep costs low for the three census tracts affected by the project.
7	Brown County Rural Electric Association ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan. Purpose: The project highlights two strategic pillars: coordinate member renewable energy resource deployment (solar), and advance smart grid load control receivers to enable a virtual power plant.
8	City of Windom	\$ 848,051	Purpose: To support a complete utility distribution system enhancement including replacing traditional 3 phase to energy efficient 3 phase transformers, smart switches, loop switching and boring distribution lines. A voluntary, community oriented load control incentive program will also be implemented, along with a 1 MW community solar array on a previous landfill site.
9	Clearwater-Polk Electric Coop **	\$ 121,500	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project: Purpose: To support work in the Assess pillar of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events.
10	Connexus Energy	\$ 999,999	Climate Shield Cooperative Network. Purpose: To deploy modern hardware on both transmission and distribution systems to modernize the grid & benchmark improvement using reliability as baseline metrics. Project includes technology overhaul prioritizing rebuilding T&D lines, replacing conductors, poles & crossarms, upgrading tie-lines and addressing defective equipment. Future-proofs the system for future growth (due electrification efforts) of demand, and increases resilience.
11	Connexus Energy *	\$ 999,999	Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities.
12	Connexus Energy	\$ 999,999	Multi-Region Investments for Resilience At-Scale (MIRA). Purpose: To deploy foundational operations and planning technologies across multiple service territories, share lessons learned to enable future utility deployments, and develop local workforce skills. These technologies include 4-DMS/DERMS, 4-Distribution Automation (DA), 4-Model Management, 4-Forecasting, 3-Sensing, 1-Grid-edge computing, 1-Fiber technologies
13	Connexus Energy	\$ 666,666	Guardians of the Grid. Purpose: To reduce the effects of catastrophic climate disaster that lead to energy injustice in the heartland by implementing innovative fiber-optic sensors, data analytics with Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML), and co-op community connections with regional statewide authorities.
14	Connexus Energy **	\$ 999,999	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
15	Connexus Energy	\$ 999,999	Northern Gale Grid Defense. Purpose: Four distribution co-ops will implement resilience efforts through conversion of overhead to underground lines, monitoring and control technologies, adaptive modeling and vegetation management, lateral protection strategy, backlot underground replacement, reconductoring, and substation hardening projects.
16	Dakota Electric Association ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
17	East Central Energy ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
18	Goodhue County Co-op Electric Association ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
19	Grand Meadow Public School	\$ 999,999	To update the geothermal HVAC systems to be more efficient and economical. The newer system will replace the current system which is over 20 years old.

* Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 3 Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities. Supporting a generational opportunity to transform how rural utilities and communities work together to transition the power system and the workforce that serves it while creating benefits for DACs and tribal nations. The utilities in this program spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually maintaining over 20,000 miles of transmission lines and hundreds of thousands of miles of distribution lines serving MN, WI, IL, IA, ND and SD. Project not encourages to apply for federal funding. SCF funding reservation will be released.

** Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 1: Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Three pillars of the project include: Assess - consortium of 62 utilities will jointly demonstrate an increase in reliability and resilience with the innovative use of traditional tools paired with the creation of new technology. Harden - addressing physical, electronic and software components of transmission and distribution substations to increase the substation's resiliency. Intelligence - builds upon the Assess GIS tool and the substation hardening methods to implement advanced sectionalizing approaches to the distribution and transmission systems for improved system adaptability.

*** Part of Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan. Project will advance a coordinated Portfolio of Actions across the generation and transmission and distribution levels to implement comprehensive, strategic system-wide decarbonization. Portfolio of Actions will be rooted in the seven Cooperative Principles; coordinated activities will implement measures enabling the deepest practical GHG emission reductions while reflecting the common and unique priorities and characteristics of member utilities..

	Awardee	SCF Match Program Reserved Funds	Project Purpose
20	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$ 2,200,000	To conduct feasibility studies for an Energy Office and Tribal Utility Authority, as well as proper placement of a 4MW microgrid with uninterrupted power supply, back up generators, and solar charging capacity. The more than 24 power outages and power surges annually is causing undue financial hardships and safety concerns for the Tribe, and Grand Portage will complete the project utilizing Federal funding from GRIP and BRIC and the State Competitiveness Fund for the match.
21	Great River Energy on behalf of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
22	Itasca-Mantrap Electrical Cooperative **	\$ 270,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in the Harden pillar of this project, including increasing resiliency in 11 substation sites. The project will address physical, electronic and software components to increase substation resiliency.
23	Kandiyohi Power Cooperative ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan. Purpose: To help fulfill 10% renewable self generation option from Great River Energy. Project 1 is the development of a Solar Array within KPC's territory that will bring down the cost of energy to its members, provide more local and reliable power, and reduce emissions from generation using fossil fuel. Project 1 is planned to be a 5 megawatt system, set up in the North half of the county. The second project is supporting the interconnection cost of the solar array to the substation so that this power generation will safely be tied to KPC's grid system.
24	Kandiyohi Power Cooperative **	\$ 144,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in the Intelligence pillar of this project, thus project includes deploying advanced electronic reclosers through the distribution system to increase system adaptability.
25	Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association **	\$ 198,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in three pillars of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events (Assess pillar). Five substation sites will be targeted to receive measures to address physical, electronic and software components to increase the substation's resiliency (Harden pillar), and advanced electronic reclosers, motor-operated switchgear, and sensors will be deployed through the distribution system to increase system adaptability (Intelligence pillar).
26	MIEnergy Cooperative **	\$ 600,000	To support work in the Intelligence pillar of this project, thus project includes deploying advanced electronic reclosers through the distribution system to increase system adaptability.
27	Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative**	\$ 300,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in the Assess pillar of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events. The tool will identify priority lines to target with resilience efforts.
28	Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association **	\$ 450,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To serve as an overall project coordinator for the 20 municipal utilities, two power agencies and the University of Minnesota, responsible for ensuring participating municipal utilities, power agencies, and the University of Minnesota comply with all DOE grant requirements. MMUA will also play an integral role in the evolution of the community benefits plan and will engage community stakeholders to achieve targeted outcomes.
29	Minnesota Rural Electric Association **	\$ 450,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To serve as project coordinator for 39 electric cooperative associations and three generation and transmission cooperatives, ensuring participating electric cooperative associations and cooperative generation and transmission companies comply with all DOE grant requirements. MREA will also play an integral role in the evolution of the community benefits plan and will engage community stakeholders to achieve targeted outcomes
30	Moorhead Public Service **	\$ 868,750	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
31	Natel Energy	\$ 130,000	Stakeholder Outreach for Fish-Safe Hydropower. Purpose: To develop a community education experience focused on communicating and soliciting feedback on advancements in turbine design that reduce environmental tradeoffs for clean, renewable hydropower. The experience will be located at the Coon Rapids hydroelectric project
32	Nobles Cooperative Electric **	\$ 688,400	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
33	North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc.**	\$ 350,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
34	North Star Electric Cooperative **	\$ 221,250	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
35	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Ag Plus Cooperative ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
36	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Ashby Equity Association****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
37	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Donnelly Co-op ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
38	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Glacial Plains Co-op ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
39	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Hancock Coop ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
40	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Leaf River Cooperative ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
41	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Meadowland Farmers Coop ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
42	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Morris Coop ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.

* Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 3 Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities. Supporting a generational opportunity to transform how rural utilities and communities work together to transition the power system and the workforce that serves it while creating benefits for DACs and tribal nations. The utilities in this program spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually maintaining over 20,000 miles of transmission lines and hundreds of thousands of miles of distribution lines serving MN, WI, IL, IA, ND and SD. Project not encourages to apply for federal funding. SCF funding reservation will be released.

** Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 1: Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Three pillars of the project include: Assess - consortium of 62 utilities will jointly demonstrate an increase in reliability and resilience with the innovative use of traditional tools paired with the creation of new technology. Harden - addressing physical, electronic and software components of transmission and distribution substations to increase the substation's resiliency. Intelligence - builds upon the Assess GIS tool and the substation hardening methods to implement advanced sectionalizing approaches to the distribution and transmission systems for improved system adaptability.

*** Part of Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan. Project will advance a coordinated Portfolio of Actions across the generation and transmission and distribution levels to implement comprehensive, strategic system-wide decarbonization. Portfolio of Actions will be rooted in the seven Cooperative Principles; coordinated activities will implement measures enabling the deepest practical GHG emission reductions while reflecting the common and unique priorities and characteristics of member utilities..

**** Agricultural Cooperative involved as sub/sub/sub-recipient of EERC Hydrogen Hub project. Supports the building of domestic Minnesota supply of green urea, to replace international sourcing of the needed supply.

	Awardee	SCF Match Program Reserved Funds	Project Purpose
43	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Pro-Ag Farmers' Cooperative ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
44	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of West Central Ag Services ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
45	One Earth Renewables LLC (OER LLC) on behalf of Western Consolidated Co-op ****	\$ 999,999	Purpose: Support MN agriculture cooperative participation in Heartland Hydrogen Hub. Builds MN supply pipeline of green urea.
46	Otter Tail Power Company	\$ 999,999	Mitigating Effects of Extreme Weather. Purpose: Strengthen grid resiliency and unlock insights through five elements: Dynamic Line Ratings (DLR), Drone and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enhanced Transmission Line Inspections/Repairs, Preventative Vegetation Management (VM) and Intelligent VM systems (IVMS), Electronic Reclosers/Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS), and Strategic Overhead to Underground Replacement.
47	Otter Tail Power Company	\$ 999,999	Innovative Distributed Energy Automation (IDEA). Purpose: To optimize our rural tri-state service area's access to an abundance of regional renewable energy. Through Electric Vehicle (EV) fast-charging infrastructure, electric school buses, battery storage, and our foundational Grid-Edge Management System (GEMS), IDEA removes barriers for our rural customers while enabling local renewable generation and increased Distributed Energy Resource (DER) adoption.
48	Peoples Energy Cooperative **	\$ 303,118	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in three pillars of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events (Assess pillar). Five substation sites will be targeted to address physical, electronic and software components to increase the substation's resiliency (Harden pillar), and advanced electronic reclosers, motor-operated switchgear, and sensors will be deployed through the distribution system to increase system adaptability (Intelligence pillar).
49	Ramsey and Washington County Recycling and Energy Board	\$ 999,999	Renewable Energy Anaerobic Digestion Project. Purpose: To implement an innovative renewable energy project with substantial clean energy, environmental and community benefits for the next generation. The facility is an anaerobic digester and gasifier that creates renewable natural gas (RNG) and biochar, in collaboration with Dem-Con Companies and the tribal nation of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.
50	Runestone Electric Cooperative ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
51	South Central Electric Association **	\$ 190,800	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in the Harden pillar of this project, including increasing resiliency in 11 substation sites. The project will address physical, electronic and software components to increase substation resiliency.
52	Stearns Electric Association ***	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
53	Stearns Electric Association **	\$ 650,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
54	Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric ****	\$ 999,999	Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan.
55	The Cooperative Light and Power Association of Lake County **	\$ 300,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
56	Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. **	\$ 50,000	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: To support work in the Assess pillar of this project, including development of a GIS tool to predict power lines by susceptible to severe wind and tornadic events. The tool will identify priority lines to target with resilience efforts.
57	University of Minnesota **	\$ 999,999	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project. Purpose: UM project work is under the Intelligence Pillar: U will develop a new GIS tool that will strategically identify single-phase distribution lines with the highest potential of being damaged by the next severe wind or tornadic event. Once developed, this tool will have the ability to predict improvement in reliability depending on the method of reconstruction of the power line.
58	Western MN Municipal Power Agency *	\$ 1,401,015	Purpose: To build Battery Storage Facilities in Willmar, Detroit Lakes and Worthington, MN all of which are designated as disadvantaged communities. 5MW (20 MWhr) of Battery Storage to Willmar, MN; 5MW (20 MWhr) of Battery Storage to Detroit Lakes, MN; and 5MW (20 MWhr) of battery storage to Worthington, MN.
59	Whispering Pines Lodge LLC	\$ 108,373	Solar Energy Project. Purpose: To support a solar array designed with 27 kW of solar, 3 x 8kW 240V AC/48 V DC inverters and a battery bank of 82kWh of usable energy.
60	Wild Rice Electric Cooperative **	\$ 352,500	Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project.
		Total \$ 46,320,136	

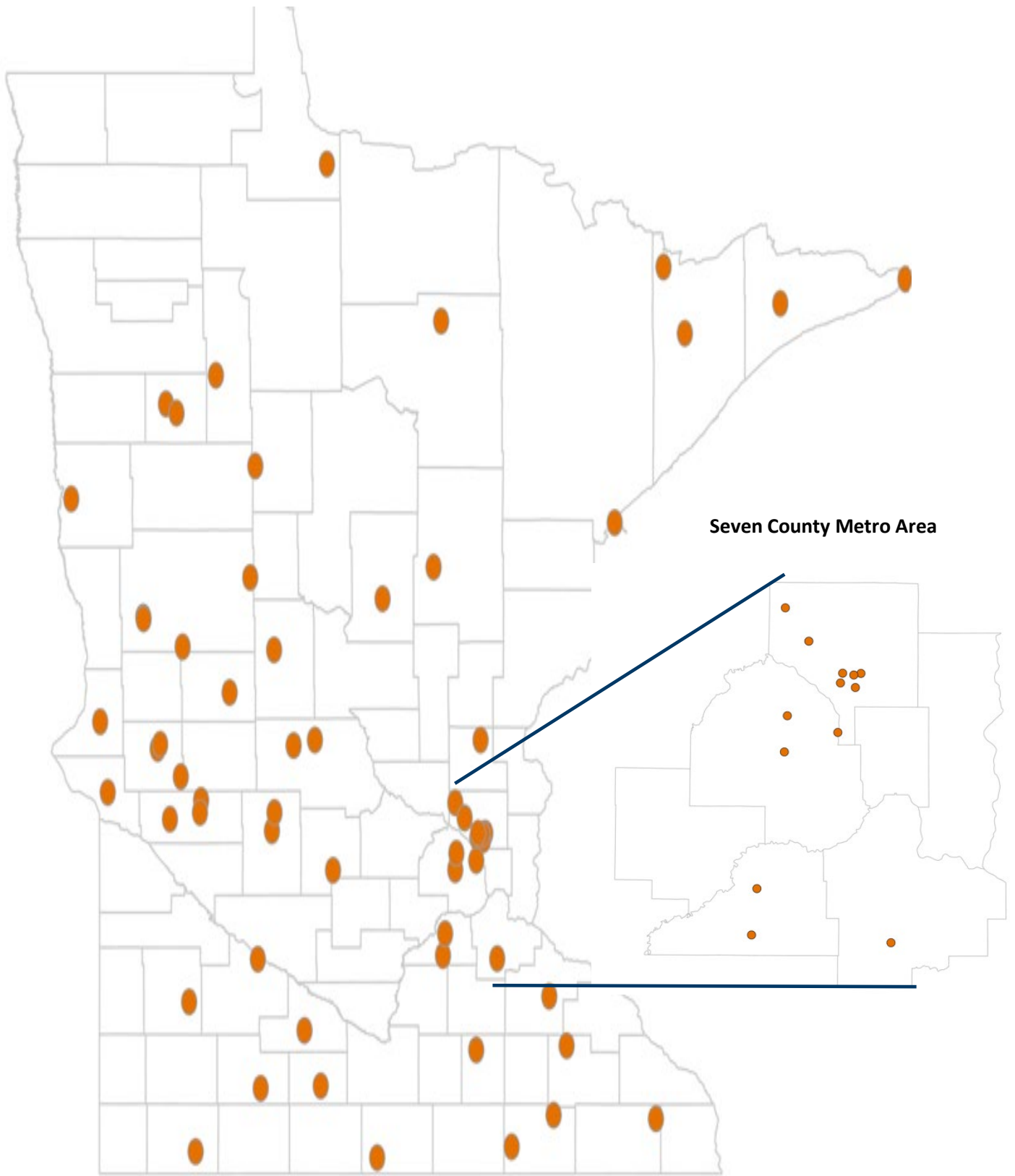
* Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 3 Decarbonizing the Heartland: Regional Transformation for Rural Communities. Supporting a generational opportunity to transform how rural utilities and communities work together to transition the power system and the workforce that serves it while creating benefits for DACs and tribal nations. The utilities in this program spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually maintaining over 20,000 miles of transmission lines and hundreds of thousands of miles of distribution lines serving MN, WI, IL, IA, ND and SD. Project not encourages to apply for federal funding. SCF funding reservation will be released.

** Part of MREA/MMUA GRIP Topic 1: **Midwest Assess, Harden and Intelligence Project**. Three pillars of the project include: **Assess** - consortium of 62 utilities will jointly demonstrate an increase in reliability and resilience with the innovative use of traditional tools paired with the creation of new technology. **Harden** - addressing physical, electronic and software components of transmission and distribution substations to increase the substation's resiliency. **Intelligence** - builds upon the Assess GIS tool and the substation hardening methods to implement advanced sectionalizing approaches to the distribution and transmission systems for improved system adaptability.

*** Part of **Great River Energy's Employment of New ERA Renewables (GREENER) Plan**. Project will advance a coordinated Portfolio of Actions across the generation and transmission and distribution levels to implement comprehensive, strategic system-wide decarbonization. Portfolio of Actions will be rooted in the seven Cooperative Principles; coordinated activities will implement measures enabling the deepest practical GHG emission reductions while reflecting the common and unique priorities and characteristics of member utilities..

**** Agricultural Cooperative involved as sub/sub/sub-recipient of EERC Hydrogen Hub project. Supports the building of domestic Minnesota supply of green urea, to replace international sourcing of the needed supply.

Geographic dispersion of Standard Response Round selectees*.



**Project Locations are Approximate*