

NOTICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) RETIREMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY OBJECTIVES AND GREEN PRICING PROGRAMS

Issued: March 13, 2024

In the Matter of Commission Consideration and Determination of Compliance with Minnesota’s Renewable Energy Objectives for Year 2023

In the Matter of the Green Pricing and Verification Filing Process

PUC Docket Number(s): E-999/PR-24-12
E-999/PR-02-1240

All electric utilities subject to [Minn. Stat. §216B.1691](#),¹ as well as those with Green Pricing Programs, must retire Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and file annual verification reports for the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), and Green Pricing Programs. Public utilities must also retire sufficient RECs to satisfy solar energy standard (SES) requirements. These retirements must be completed by May 1 of the year following the compliance year. For example, RECs for compliance (calendar) year 2023 must be transferred and retired by May 1, 2024. Additionally, utilities must provide the information requested in the reporting template below and file it no later than **June 1, 2023**. The reporting template may be found here:

[Reporting Template](#) (.xlsx)²

With its December 6, 2023, Order in Docket E-999/CI-23-151,³ the Commission published a list of utilities newly subject to Minn. Stat. §216B.1691. This list is included at the end of this notice as Table 1. Of note, electric utilities that provide power to distribution utilities are allowed to report on behalf of each electric utility they serve.⁴

PLEASE NOTE: Utilities should have received an invitation to retire RECs in the M-RETS dashboard under the program titled ‘Minnesota RES 2023 Compliance,’ and if applicable,

¹ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216b.1691>

² See “Filing Template” under “Renewable Energy Certificate Retirement Report for Renewable Energy Standards and Green Pricing Programs” on the Department of Commerce’s website: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/industry-government/utilities/annual-reporting.jsp>

³ *In the Matter of an Investigation into Implementing Changes to the Renewable Energy Standard and the Newly Created Carbon Free Standard under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691:* <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showPopup&documentId={F0ED408C-0000-C41E-916D-35E67056F047}&documentTitle=202312-201019-01>

⁴ Id. Order Paragraph 3.

‘Minnesota SES 2023 Compliance’ and ‘Minnesota SES Small Scale 2023 Compliance.’ For questions regarding the platform or invitations, please contact systemadmin@mrets.org. If your utility did not receive an invitation and believe you should have, please contact Commission Staff using the contact information provided at the end of this notice.

In accordance with Minn. Stat. §216B.1691 subd. 2a, all electric utilities covered under Minn. Stat. §216B.1691 must retire RECs representing **20 percent** of annual retail sales for calendar year 2023.⁵

Compliance will also be reviewed for Minnesota’s Solar Energy Standard under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691, subd. 2f, which requires a public utility to generate or procure enough solar energy to supply at least 1.5% of its retail electric sales in Minnesota with solar energy by the end of 2020. Of the 1.5% solar, at least 10% must come from solar photovoltaic devices with 40-kilowatt (kW) capacity or less. Public utilities with 50,000 to 200,000 retail electric customers may count individual customers’ community-solar garden subscriptions of 40 kW or less toward the 10% small-scale carveout.

Compliance is measured on a calendar year basis. The Commission will consider utility compliance with the RES based on the Department’s report to the legislature on utility RES compliance due on Jan. 15, 2025, under [Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691; Subd. 3\(b\)](#). Parties will have the opportunity to comment consistent with Minn. R. 7829.1400 in February 2025.

Updates to Reporting Template: Pursuant to the Commission’s December 6, 2023, Order in Docket E-999/CI-23-151, Commission Staff worked with the Department of Commerce to incorporate new reporting requirements into the current reporting template. These new reporting requirements come from modifications made to Minn. Stat. §216B.1691 by House File 7, signed into law on February 7, 2023. A draft of the updated reporting template was sent to electric utilities prior to the filing of this notice.

Summary of changes:

- Slight modifications made to Worksheet 1 to ensure utilities know where to identify the electric utilities they are reporting on behalf of.
- New biennial reporting requirements [subd. 3(5)-(8)] were added to Worksheet 6.
- New reporting requirement [subd. 3(9)(iii)] was added to Worksheet 5.
- Worksheet 8 was added to fulfill remaining subd. 3(9) reporting requirements. This new tab includes directions for utilities to provide M-RETS REC retirement data in a separate filing intended to accompany this report.

⁵ The Commission provided guidance on how utilities should measure compliance for the compliance years listed in the statute and for the years between those identified in statute through its March 19, 2010 Order in Docket No. E-999/CI-03-869:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showPoup&documentId={FBCB2EB0-203F-414A-8CB5-5CE832E884F7}&documentTitle=20103-48177-01>

Biennial Reporting: Please note, worksheet 6 of the reporting template addresses the filing requirements for the RES biennial reporting obligation and is only included in years in which the biennial report requirement applies, as it does this year. Utilities are required to file this information pursuant to the Commission's [Order Finding Utilities In Compliance With Minn. Stat. §216B.1691 And Modifying Biennial Reporting Procedures](#),⁶ in Docket No. E-999/M-12-958, issued May 28, 2013.

Solar Energy Standard (SES): Please note worksheet 4 of the spreadsheet addresses the filing requirements for the SES reporting obligation per the [January 29, 2021 Order](#) and Attachment 1 in Docket No. E-999/M-20-464. Only public utilities subject to this subdivision need to report.

Eligible energy facilities: RECs retired for RES compliance must originate from eligible energy technology as defined by Minn. Stat. §216B.1691, subd. 1.

REC shelf life: Only RECs retired before the end of their Commission-designated shelf life (the year of generation plus four years) will be counted towards either the RES requirement or a utility's Green Pricing Program. Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for the SES also have a four-year shelf life, but SRECs generated before 2020 were granted longer eligibility per the Commission's April 25, 2014 order in Docket No. E-999/CI-13-542.⁷

M-RETS REC retirement platform: Utilities should have been invited to the Minnesota RPS 2021 Compliance program and, for certain public utilities, the Minnesota Small Solar program via M-RETS account holders. Questions regarding the online retirement process or the generation of M-RETS reports may be directed to systemadmin@mrets.org.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to efile documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this matter on the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets Project Database*, enter the year (24) and the docket number (12), and select *Search*.

Subscribe: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

6

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showPoup&documentId=%7b6B777982-DAEA-42F7-BD9A-D5DFE3CEC189%7d&documentTitle=20135-87456-03>

⁷ Please see Order Points 1 and 2 on page 5 of the April 25, 2014 order from Docket No. E-999/CI-13-542, *In the Matter of the Implementation of Solar Energy Standards Pursuant to 2013 Amendments to Minnesota Statutes, Section 216B.1691*:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showPoup&documentId=%7b62D03883-7065-4180-80EE-5150C330AC33%7d&documentTitle=20144-98715-01>

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Trey Harsch, at trey.harsch@state.mn.us or (651) 201-2232.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Consumers with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Table 1

<u>Previously Defined as “Electric Utility”</u>	<u>Added to Definition after H.F. 7</u>
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	Ada
Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	Alvarado
Dairyland Power Cooperative	Alpha
East River Electric Power Cooperative	Brewster
Great River Energy	Caledonia
Heartland Power Cooperative	Ceylon
L&O Power Cooperative	Connexus Cooperative
Minnesota Power	Dundee
Minnkota Power Cooperative	Eitzen
Minnesta Municipal Power Agency	Harmony
Missouri River Energy Services	Kasota
Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company	Lanesboro
Otter Tail Power	Mabel
Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative	Moose Lake
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	Newfolden
Xcel Energy	Nielsville
	Peterson
	Round Lake
	Rushford
	Rushmore
	Shelly
	Spring Grove
	St. Charles
	Whalan