RFP Questions & Answers

Gas Engineering Consultant to Evaluate Prudency of Capital Investments of Great Plains Natural Gas Company in Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket No. G004/GR-26-335

COMM-ERP01-20261109

#	Question	Response	Posted
1.	Is panel testimony (a single set of testimony developed by two witnesses) acceptable to the Department of Commerce (Department) and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)?	The Department is unaware of panel testimony ever having been filed in a proceeding before the Minnesota PUC and is not aware of any statute or rule that would authorize it. However, it is common practice for a testifying witness to note that his/her analysis and testimony was prepared by himself/herself or under his/her supervision. As long as the witness can swear to the content, the witness can have the assistance of colleagues in preparing his/her testimony.	11/16/2026
2.	To reduce costs, our witnesses prefer to appear at hearing remotely. How common is this at the PUC, and are remote appearances acceptable to the Department?	A large majority of witnesses appear at hearings in person, but remote appearances are permitted at the discretion of the presiding Administrative Law Judge and witnesses do occasionally testify remotely. The Department strongly prefers witnesses to appear in person but is willing to consider remote testimony based on budgetary or logistical/scheduling concerns.	11/16/2026
3.	Given that GPE's last gas rate case was in 2019, the amount of infrastructure placed into service is likely to be extensive, and will require multiple rounds of discovery to properly evaluate. Please provide the typical data request response time (in business days or calendar days) the Department expects the PUC to specify in the procedural schedule the PUC is likely to Order.	The data request response time in a contested case (*e.g.*, a general rate case) is set by the presiding Administrative Law Judge in a prehearing order and is usually set at 8 business days. However, the prehearing order setting the data request response time for this rate case is not expected to be issued until late January or early February. Prior to issuance of the prehearing order, the response period is 10 calendar days.	11/16/2026

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4.	Review of the filing finds little detail on infrastructure improvements. Are there other regulatory proceedings in which Great Plains requested approval prior to implementation of capital improvements?	Certain capital improvements are recovered via a Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost (GUIC) Rider. Great Plains' GUIC Rider proposals have been addressed in the following dockets before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission: G004/M-26-175 G004/M-25-200 G004/M-24-170 G004/M-22-183 G004/M-20-422 G004/M-19-273 G004/M-18-282 G004/M-17-858 G004/M-16-1066	11/23/2026
5.	Would it be possible to have the discovery response period shortened or the testimony due date extended? The discovery process of obtaining technical details of capital investments, their purpose, and costs, may require more than two rounds of discovery.	No. The discovery response period is defined in Minnesota administrative rules, and the preliminary schedule for this rate case has been agreed to by the parties involved and is largely a function of statutory requirements that cannot be modified.	11/23/2026
6.	Is the Department seeking example testimony as work samples or are they seeking other types of work samples?	Example testimony is preferable but other types of work examples demonstrating relevant engineering expertise and writing and communication skills are acceptable.	11/23/2026
7.	If the respondent has previously provided testimony on behalf of MDOC, can the proposal reference previous testimony or does the Department want copies of the testimony included in the proposal?	References to previous testimony prepared on behalf of the MDOC will suffice.	11/23/2026