

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 20, 2025

To: Carla Vita

CC: Mike Bull, Deputy Executive Secretary

From: Sasha Bergman, Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff

RE: Dec. 1 ETAC Meeting Updates

1. On September 25 and October 3, the Commission heard from parties, deliberated and approved the acquisition of ALLETE, Inc., the company that operates Minnesota Power. As part of the acquisition, the Commission ordered a comprehensive set of conditions— including more than \$200 million in quantifiable savings, protections and benefits. The acquiring entities, Global Infrastructure Partners and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (the Partners), along with ALLETE, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and a broad coalition of organizations including labor, clean energy groups, and consumer advocates agreed to the conditions imposed by the Commission. Through this agreement and the conditions imposed, Minnesota Power customers remain protected under the full oversight and authority of the Minnesota PUC. (Docket 24-198) [News release](#).
2. On Oct 8, 2025, Chair Katie Sieben participated in the groundbreaking of the Northland Reliability Project. Approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission earlier this year, the 140-mile Northland Reliability Project, is jointly proposed by Great River Energy and Minnesota Power. This high-voltage line will enhance the reliability and capacity of Minnesota’s electric transmission infrastructure. Notably, this is the first major transmission initiative from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)’s Tranche 1 Long Range Transmission Plan to begin construction, highlighting its importance in the broader effort to modernize the regional grid.
3. On October 30, the Commission determined it has jurisdiction over the service area issues raised by the Upper Sioux Community and referred the matter to the Court of Administrative Hearings for an expedited contested case proceeding. The Commission requested a summary report within three months of the Commission’s Order. The proceeding will examine issues under Minn. Stat. §§ 216B.39, subd. 3, and 216B.42. Once the report is submitted, the Commission will issue a notice and seek public comment. (Docket 25-369)

4. On Dec 15, 2025, the Commission will decide the eligibility of fuels and technologies for compliance by electric utilities subject to the Carbon Free Standard on Dec 15, 2025. See In Matter of a Commission Investigation into a Fuel Life-Cycle Analysis Framework for Utility Compliance with Minnesota's Carbon-Free Standard, PUC Docket Number(s): E-999/CI-24-352