Utility Information Request

Docket Number: E015/RP-21-33
Date of Request: August 2, 2022

Requested From: Minnesota Power
Response Due: August 12, 2022

By: Large Power Intervenors (Andrew P. Moratzka and Riley A. Conlin)

Information Request No. 41

Please refer to the Minnesota Star Tribune Article titled “EPA challenges environmental review for proposed $700M Minnesota Power gas plant” and respond to the following:

a. Please provide any and all documentation, discovery, or information directed to the Company by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or pertaining to the EPA’s challenge to the Nemadji Trail Energy Center ("NTEC").

b. Please explain if/how the Company’s Preferred Plan in this proceeding would change under the following scenarios:
   (i) NTEC’s in-service date is delayed by more than one year;
   (ii) the NTEC project is never built; and
   (iii) the Company never utilizes NTEC to provide retail electric service to customers in Minnesota.

RESPONSE:

a. Minnesota Power has not provided EPA any information in the EPA’s challenge of NTEC.

b. i. Prior to 2030, Minnesota Power doesn’t anticipate any material impacts to the 2021 Plan with NTEC’s in-service date delayed by more than one-year. If the delay goes beyond 2030, after Boswell unit 3 is retired, there could be energy and capacity needs that will need to be addressed depending on a number of factors. The Company would then expect to provide a detailed replacement plan in its next IRP.
   (ii – iii.) If the company does not build or utilize NTEC to retail customers, the situation is similar as described in the response to (i.). Prior to 2030, Minnesota Power doesn’t anticipate any material impacts to the 2021 Plan with NTEC’s not moving forward. Beyond 2030, after Boswell...
unit 3 is retired, there could be energy and capacity needs that will need to be addressed depending on a number of factors. The Company would then expect to provide a detailed replacement plan in its next IRP.