



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CENTRAL OFFICE
500 LAFAYETTE ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55155
651-296-6157
888-646-6367

July 17, 2015

Christopher Moseng
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Utility Proceeding, Practice, and Procedure,
Minnesota Rules Chapter 7829, excluding part 7829.2550

Dear Mr. Moseng:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed proposed changes to Minnesota Rules Chapter 7829, excluding part 7829.2550, and has reviewed the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR).

Minnesota Rules Chapter 7829.0800 includes rules regarding intervention in proceedings and party status. The DNR recommends that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) consider a change to these rules that would create a specific status for state agencies other than the Department of Commerce. We believe that neither the commenter nor the party status is particularly well-suited for agencies like the DNR to convey technical information and agency perspectives to the PUC. We further believe the special agency status would better facilitate interagency coordination on permitting and other key considerations. We would be pleased to work with the PUC to identify a mechanism in rule to formalize an interagency coordination role in proceedings.

Thank you for your consideration of this potential change to your draft rule. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randall Doneen', is written over a horizontal line.

Randall Doneen
Environmental Review Unit

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