

May 28, 2025

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: EL24-021 – In the Matter of the Filing by Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, through its agent Missouri River Energy Services, regarding its Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA), through its agent Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), filed a Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility (Notice of Intent) for the proposed Toronto Power Plant (Project) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on June 3, 2024. MRES is filing this letter in the above-referenced docket to notify the Commission that WMMPA has decided to change generation technologies associated with the Project. At the time of the filing of the Notice of Intent, the design of the Project included seven or eight reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE). Upon conducting additional cost analysis and engineering evaluations, it was determined that combustion turbine (CT) generator sets (genset) would more effectively minimize costs of the Project while ensuring the delivery of reliable and dispatchable energy for MRES members and their customers.

The change to the CT genset will result in a smaller footprint of the building housing this equipment and significantly reduce the low frequency noise mitigation that would otherwise be required for the RICE gensets. A stand-alone building structure housing a water cooling system with external supporting equipment would be required for the CT genset. No other significant community impacts are expected to result from the change to the CT genset.

Also, MRES is notifying the Commission that WMMPA and MRES will be submitting the permit application as co-applicants on the Project. MRES performs all required administrative services on behalf of WMMPA and will be responsible for the overall construction, operation, maintenance, and management of the Project. MRES and WMMPA anticipate filing the permit application with the Commission in July 2025. Following permit issuance, construction is expected to start in second quarter of 2027. It is anticipated that the Project will reach commercial operation by the end of 2029.

Enclosed is a letter from the Local Review Committee chair indicating that the Committee is comfortable with studying the change in generation technology under the current timeline.

Please contact me at 605-330-6969 or brent.moeller@mrenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,



Brent A. Moeller, P.E.
Director of Generation Resources

Enc. Local Review Committee Letter
Cc: Service List

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Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

The Local Review Committee (Committee) for the Toronto Power Plant (Project) has been notified by Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) that Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) intends to change the generation technology proposed for the Project. Specifically, WMMPA now proposes to utilize combustion turbines in lieu of the originally proposed reciprocating internal combustion engines.

The Committee is planning to convene a meeting later in June to receive an update from MRES regarding this proposed change.

The Committee has met four times since the issuance of the Amended Order Designating Affected Area and Designating Local Review Committee by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on July 9, 2024. Based on the information received to date, and recognizing that WMMPA has not yet submitted a permit application, the Committee believes it is adequately prepared and has sufficient time to evaluate and study the proposed change in generation technology.

Sincerely,



Jay Grabow
Chairman, Toronto Power Plant Local Review Committee
Chairman, Deuel County Commission