



GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA DATE: August 26, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Consider a motion to approve the Amended and Restated Facility Study Agreement with Minnesota Power for the Tioga Substation Expansion Project (ELCP5038), including a \$10,000 change order to complete the final project deliverable.

PREPARED BY: Julie Kennedy, General Manager

BACKGROUND:

The original Facility Study Agreement was approved by the Commission in April 2025 to evaluate options for addressing GRPU's Tioga substation facility needs. As the study progressed, it became apparent that some aspects of the original project scope needed additional consideration and refinement. This has resulted in changes to the study approach and the need to further evaluate alternatives to ensure the recommended solution appropriately addresses GRPU's operational needs and available budget.

The proposed Amended and Restated Facility Study Agreement includes a \$10,000 change request to allow the consultant to proceed with the Option 1a assessment that provides the lowest initial cost and includes one 115kV transrupter with no circuit breakers or EEE providing up to 29MW capacity at the substation. The site would require some fence expansion and pond re-grading for the new transformer, while future expansion would require additional fence expansion and site work. Staff and MP's recommendation is to move forward with Option 1a currently and then determine whether it is necessary or beneficial to evaluate the other alternatives after we have a better understanding of how Option 1a meets GRPU's needs and budget. This approach allows the study to advance while providing an opportunity to make a more informed decision about additional alternatives before incurring further study costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Amended and Restated Facility Study Agreement with Minnesota Power for the Tioga Substation Expansion Project (ELCP5038), including a \$10,000 change order to complete the final project deliverable.