MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Subject	Energy
Authors	Stephenson
Analyst	Bob Eleff
Date	February 14, 2020

Overview

The increasing share of renewable electric generating facilities in Minnesota utilities' portfolios, coupled with their lower operating costs, may create a situation in which, by operating nonrenewable facilities during only certain portions of the year, a utility can reduce both customer costs and greenhouse gas emissions. H.F. 3209 requires utilities to analyze this possibility as part of their Integrated Resource Plan and establishes a process under which a utility may submit a pilot project for seasonal operation to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

Summary

Section	Description
1	**[216B.2422] Nonrenewable seasonal operations analysis.**
	Requires a utility to file as part of its Integrated Resource Plan an analysis of the costs and benefits of operating its nonrenewable electric generating plants on a seasonal basis. Describes the elements the analysis must include.
2	**[216B.2427] Seasonal operations plan.**
	Authorizes a utility to submit a plan for the commission's review and approval to implement a pilot project to operate one or more of its nonrenewable electric generating units on a seasonal basis. The plan must include the analysis required in section 1, and the details of the proposed pilot project, including its duration and the data that will be collected and evaluated under its operation.
	The commission may approve a plan it finds will produce useful information on the costs and benefits of seasonal operation without jeopardizing the reliability of service or unreasonably increasing electric rates. The commission may also reject or modify a proposed plan.