

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Executive Department



## Governor Tim Walz

### Executive Order 19-26; Rescinding Executive Order 11-14

#### **Continuing the Office of Energy Security as the Division of Energy Resources within the Department of Commerce**

**I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Minnesotans are affected by issues relating to the generation, transmission, distribution, and consumption of energy—including cost, efficiency, reliability, and environmental impact. Energy production and energy use create air pollutants like mercury and particulates that contribute to public health impacts, and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. These issues need to be managed through a dedicated, comprehensive, and cross-agency approach.

The Division of Energy Resources (“DER”), formerly known as the Office of Energy Security, was created under Executive Order 08-03 and continued under Executive Order 11-14. It is beneficial to Minnesotans to continue to have a single, easily identifiable entity within state government to coordinate state policy, programs, and information on energy and climate change. Additionally, DER provides greater visibility to the importance of these issues.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. The Commissioner of Commerce will maintain DER within the Department of Commerce. The Commissioner of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor, will appoint a Director of DER.
2. The Director of DER will implement the Commissioner of Commerce’s statutory powers and duties over energy, climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions, including those provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 216A, 216B, 216C, 216E, 216F, and 216H. Consistent with state law, the Commissioner will execute the appropriate delegation of authority documents to provide the Director of DER the authority to carry out the Commissioner’s powers and duties related to energy, climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The DER will serve as the lead entity to coordinate cooperation, resources, and information between state agencies that have responsibilities for matters relating to

energy, climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions. The DER will also coordinate public information from state government on energy issues as they relate to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

4. In relation to the Public Utilities Commission, the role of the DER will be limited to carrying out the responsibilities assigned to the Commissioner of Commerce under Minnesota Statutes, chapters 216A, 216B, 216C, 216E, 216F, 216G, and 216H.
5. The Commissioners of Natural Resources, Transportation, Agriculture, Labor and Industry, Employment and Economic Development, Administration, the Pollution Control Agency, and the Housing Finance Agency, and the Chair of the Metropolitan Council, will work cooperatively with the Director of DER to implement this order. This executive order does not limit or restrict the statutory powers, duties or responsibilities of any of the agencies and governmental units referenced in this Paragraph 5.
6. To ensure efficient use of resources and staff and the continuity of programs, the Director of DER may also serve as a deputy or an assistant commissioner for the Department of Commerce and perform other responsibilities as directed by the Commissioner of Commerce.
7. Executive Order 11-14 is rescinded.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on April 4, 2019.



**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

