

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONS FOR )  
THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LAND )  
TO THE CITIES OF RANIER AND ) ORDER OF CONSOLIDATION  
INTERNATIONAL FALLS PURSUANT TO )  
MINNESOTA STATUTES 414 )  
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A Joint Resolution and Annexation Agreement between the City of Ranier and Koochiching County was filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings - Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit (MBA) pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.0325 on August 7, 2009. Said joint resolution requested the designation of approximately 1,142 acres of Rainy Lake Unorganized Territory for orderly annexation; and requested a public hearing for the annexation of the entire area pursuant to Minn. Stats. §§ 414.0325 and 414.09.

The designation of the 1,142 acres identified by the Joint Resolution of the City of Ranier and Koochiching County for orderly annexation was accepted on August 20, 2009. The first hearing on the Joint Resolution was held September 11, 2009. At that hearing, the City of International Falls noted its appearance as a party with the intentions of opposing the proposed annexation.

Subsequently, on October 30, 2009, a petition from the City of International Falls requesting the annexation of certain property from Rainy Lake Unorganized Territory was filed with the MBA pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.031, Subd. 1(a)(1).

The Chief Administrative Law Judge notes that a majority of the area proposed for

annexation in the annexation petition of the City of International Falls (A-7705) is also the subject area of the orderly annexation petition of the City of Ranier and Koochiching County (OA-1449-1) previously filed with the Municipal Boundary Adjustment unit and currently pending before an administrative law judge. Since both dockets are hearing files, the hearings provided under both Minn. Stat. §§ 414.0325 and 414.031 require the presiding hearing officer to ultimately grant or deny annexations on the basis of statutory criteria set forth in Minn. Stat. § 414.031, subd. 4.

Therefore, in the interests of economy and expedience, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.01 Subd. 5, the Chief Administrative Law Judge has consolidated these proceedings **for purposes of hearing**, thereby providing all parties an opportunity to participate in the resolution of matters of conflict.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That the Municipal Boundary Adjustment Docket Nos. OA-1449-1 Ranier/Rainy Lake Unorganized Territory and A-7705 International Falls/Rainy Lake Unorganized Territory are consolidated for purposes of hearing pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.01 Subd. 5.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009.

For the Chief Administrative Law Judge  
658 Cedar Street - Room 300  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155



Christine M. Scotillo  
Executive Director  
Municipal Boundary Adjustments