

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON APPLICATION COMPLETENESS

Issued: April 8, 2024

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Mankato – Mississippi 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Southeast Minnesota

Docket Numbers: E002/CN-22-532 (Certificate of Need), E002/TL-23-157 (Route Permit)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is accepting comments on the application of Xcel Energy for a certificate of need and a route permit for its proposed Mankato—Mississippi 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project consists of (1) a new, approximately 130-mile 345-kV transmission line between the existing Wilmarth Substation in Mankato to the Mississippi River near Kellogg; and (2) a new, approximately 20 mile 161-kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester. The Project may cross portions of Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Waseca, Rice, Dodge, Olmstead, Goodhue, Winona, and Wabasha counties and is divided into the four segments described below.

- Segment 1: a new 48- to 54-mile 345-kV transmission line between the Wilmarth Substation and a point near the West Faribault Substation;
- Segment 2: a new 34- to 42-mile 345-kV transmission line from a point near the existing West Faribault Substation to the existing North Rochester Substation;
- Segment 3: conversion of 27 miles of existing 161/345-kV transmission line to 345/345-kV operation and installation of a new 16-mile 345-kV circuit on the existing 345/345-kV double-circuit capable structures between the existing North Rochester Substation and the Mississippi River; and
- Segment 4: a new 19.6-to 23.7-mile 161-kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation and the existing 161-kV Chester Line northeast of Rochester.

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes **April 22, 2024**, at 4:30 p.m.
Reply comment period closes **April 29, 2024**, at 4:30 p.m.
Supplemental comment period closes **May 6, 2024**, at 4:30 p.m.

Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Topics for Comment

- Does the joint certificate of need and route permit application contain the information required under Minn. R. 7849.0220, subp. 2, and Minn. R. 7850.3100?
- Should the certificate of need be evaluated using the Commission's informal process or referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing?
- Should the certificate of need and route permit proceedings be combined (*i.e.*, joint public information meetings, joint environmental review, and joint public hearings)?
- Are there any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the application?
- Should an advisory task force be appointed?
- Should the Commission direct the Executive Secretary to issue an authorization to the applicant to initiate consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (see link below)?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Submit Comments

Online: mn.gov/puc/get-involved/public-comments

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Permit Review Process. Information on the state's permit review processes for certificates of need and site and route permits for large electric power facilities is available on the Commission's website at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/>

SHPO Coordination. A copy of the SHPO consultation authorization letter is available on the Commission's website at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/shpo-coordination/>

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter the year (22) and the docket number (532) for the certificate of need; or year (23) and docket number (157) for the route permit, and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (22-532 or 23-157), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait at Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Project Overview Map

