

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie Sieben  
Joseph K. Sullivan  
Audrey Partridge  
Hwikwon Ham  
John Tuma

Chair  
Vice-Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

**In the Matter of the Application for a  
Certificate of Need for the Big Stone South  
to Brookings to Lakefield Junction 765 kV  
High Voltage Transmission Line Project  
(LRTP 22)**

Docket No. E002, ET6675/CN-25-117

**In the Matter of the Application for a  
Certificate of Need for the Lakefield  
Junction to East Adair, Iowa 765 kV High  
Voltage Transmission Line Project  
(LRTP 23)**

Docket No. ET6675/CN-25-118

**In the Matter of the Application for a  
Certificate of Need for the Lakefield  
Junction to Pleasant Valley to North  
Rochester 765 kV High Voltage  
Transmission Line Project (LRTP 24)**

Docket No. E002, ET2, ET6675/CN-25-119

**In the Matter of the Application for a  
Certificate of Need for the Pleasant Valley  
- North Rochester - Hampton Corner  
Second Circuit 345 kV High Voltage  
Transmission Line Project (LRTP 25)**

Docket No. E002, ET3, ET9, E299/CN-25-120

**NOTICE PLAN PETITION**

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**Public Comments on this Notice Plan Petition can be submitted to the Minnesota Public  
Utilities Commission until 4:30 P.M. October 21, 2025.**

**Replies to Comments can be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
until 4:30 P.M. November 10, 2025.**

**The Commission's address is: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place  
East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest), and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (together, Applicants), respectfully submit this Notice Plan for approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.2550.

The PowerOn Midwest Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 and is needed to maintain system reliability amid fundamental changes in demand for electricity and the type and amount of generation interconnected to the grid within the MISO footprint. In Minnesota, the PowerOn Midwest Project (Project) is proposed to include:

- A single-circuit 765 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between the following points:
  - The South Dakota/Minnesota border and the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County, Minnesota;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Minnesota/Iowa border;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, Minnesota; and
  - The Pleasant Valley Substation and the North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, Minnesota.
- A new 345 kV transmission circuit from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The existing 345 kV single-circuit structures are proposed to be removed and replaced with new double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- A new, second 345 kV transmission circuit between the North Rochester substation to the Hampton Substation, to be strung on existing double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- Expansions / improvements at the following existing substations:
  - Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County;
  - Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County;
  - North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County; and
  - Hampton Substation in Dakota County.

The Project, with the other Tranche 2.1 projects, establish a new 765 kV “backbone” across the Midwest, making Minnesota’s connection to the broader Midwest and eastern United States more robust and resilient, enabling Minnesota and the region to meet electrical demand in a more reliable and cost-effective manner.

Applicants intend to file an application for a Certificate of Need (CN Application) for the Project no later than February 6, 2026. The CN Application will include the Minnesota portions of LRTP Nos. 22, 23, 24, and 25. Applicants will submit separate route permit applications for these projects, beginning no earlier than late 2026. The initial step in the CN Application process is approval of a Notice Plan to be implemented by the Applicants. Through implementation of the Notice Plan, potentially affected persons will be notified of the opportunity to participate in the regulatory process.

## **II. REQUEST FOR CONSOLIDATION OF DOCKETS**

As discussed in Section I, the CN Application will include the Minnesota portions of LRTP Nos. 22, 23, 24, and 25. In compliance with Minn. Stat. § 216B.246, subd. 3, the Applicants filed notices on February 7, 2025, with respect to each LRTP project, and each LRTP project was assigned an individual docket name and number with the Commission, as captioned above on this filing. Because the Applicants intend to submit a joint CN Application that includes LRTP Nos. 22, 23, 24, and 25, Applicants request that the Commission require all filings regarding the CN Application to be made in Docket No. 25-117, and rename that docket as *In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project*.

## **III. DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED NOTICE AREA**

Applicants have developed a proposed Notice Area by identifying areas reasonably likely to be affected by the Project. As described in more detail below, Applicants first identified a “Study Area” and then refined the Study Area before finalizing the Notice Area proposed here.

Applicants determined that the Study Area needed to be large enough to encompass multiple potential routing corridors and enable the Project’s connections to South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Applicants gathered publicly available data within a large Study Area across southern Minnesota to identify routing constraints, municipalities, Tribal and federal land, and existing corridors consistent with the Commission’s routing criteria.

Next, Applicants refined the Study Area to exclude portions of counties where routing was unlikely—for example, areas where routing was unlikely due to the Project’s geographic requirements as described in Section I, above. This refinement reduced the size of the Study Area and resulted in the present exterior boundaries of the proposed Notice Area.

Once the exterior boundaries of the proposed Notice Area were established, the Applicants generally excluded municipalities with populations exceeding 200 persons from the proposed

Notice Area because routing the Project within such municipalities is unlikely.<sup>1</sup> There were some exceptions to this approach, which are identified in the appended Table 1.<sup>2</sup> In these areas, Applicants chose to include discrete portions of municipalities within the proposed Notice Area if there were existing road or utility corridors within those municipal boundaries, or other potential routing opportunities, that could be considered for Project routing.<sup>3</sup>

As a result of the analysis described above, the Applicants propose the Notice Area depicted on Attachment 1. Moving from west to east, the proposed Notice Area includes all or portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Waseca, Freeborn, Steele, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Goodhue, and Dakota.

For most of the Project, Applicants propose a relatively broad Notice Area that includes several large transportation corridors (US Interstate 90, US Highway 75, US Highway 59, and US Highway 14, along with multiple state highways) and existing utility corridors. For the portion of the Project that would connect the North Rochester Substation to the Hampton Substation in Dakota County, Minnesota, the proposed Notice Area was designed to include 0.5 miles on each side of the existing 345 kV centerline. The narrower proposed Notice Area along this segment is appropriate because this portion of the Project involves installation of a second circuit on the existing 345 kV structures within the existing right-of-way, rather than establishment of a new corridor.

In sum, the proposed Notice Area is broad enough to encompass potential future routing corridors, but excludes areas where future routing is unlikely, either because of the presence of routing constraints, and/or because of the Project's geographic requirements. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed Notice Area is inclusive of the area reasonably likely to be affected by the Project.

#### **IV. NOTICE PLAN PROPOSAL**

As discussed in more detail below, Applicants' Notice Plan consists of four parts:

- Direct mail notice to landowners reasonably likely to be affected by the Project;
- Direct mail notice to others with mailing addresses within the area reasonably likely to be affected by the Project;

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<sup>1</sup> As such, residents/owners within these municipalities would not receive direct mail notice. Applicants would nonetheless provide mail notice to local government officials and publish newspaper notice in these areas, as described in Section V below. This approach is generally consistent with the approved Notice Plan Petition in Docket No. E002/CN-06-1115.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, although the City of Maplevue has a population of less than 200 residents, it is excluded from the proposed direct mail notice to landowners/mailing addresses because the city is mostly surrounded by the City of Austin.

<sup>3</sup> This analysis was based on municipal boundaries as of mid-2025.

- Direct mail notice to tribal governments and to the governments of towns, cities, and counties whose jurisdictions are reasonably likely to be affected by the Project; and
- Newspaper notice to members of the public in areas reasonably likely to be affected by the Project.

Included with this filing are examples of the notices Applicants propose to mail (Attachment 2) and publish (Attachment 3).

#### **A. Proposed Notice Area**

Applicants propose to provide notice within the proposed Notice Area depicted on Attachment 1. The Applicants' development of the proposed Notice Area is discussed in Section III, above. For the reasons identified there, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed Notice Area is of an appropriate scope to provide notice to stakeholders who may be reasonably likely to be affected by the Project.

#### **B. Direct Mail Notice to Landowners**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 3(A) requires that direct mail notice be provided to "landowners reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission line." As required by Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 3(A), Applicants will review and use county tax assessment rolls where available. Applicants will also review the Minnesota Geospatial Commons administered by the State of Minnesota, as available, and/or ReportAll USA to determine the names and addresses of those landowners who own property within the proposed Notice Area. As described in Section III above, with the exceptions noted in Table 1, Applicants propose to exclude landowners within municipalities with populations exceeding 200 from this portion of the Notice Plan because routing within those municipalities is unlikely. Applicants will nonetheless provide notice to local government officials and publish newspaper notice, as described in paragraphs (D) and (E) below.

#### **C. Direct Mail Notice to Mailing Addresses**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 3(B) requires that direct mail notice be provided to "all mailing addresses within the area reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission line." Applicants intend to mail notice to all mailing addresses within the proposed Notice Area. The addresses will be gathered from mailing lists maintained by the United States Post Office or from bulk mailing firms. To reduce duplication, Applicants intend to merge the landowner mailing list, as discussed in paragraph (B), and this mailing address mailing list, and will send notification letters to those persons on the resulting list.

As described in Section III above, with the exceptions noted in Table 1, Applicants propose to exclude mailing addresses within municipalities with populations exceeding 200 from this portion of the Notice Plan because routing within those municipalities is unlikely. Applicants will nonetheless provide notice to local government officials and publish newspaper notice, as described in paragraphs (D) and (E) below.

#### **D. Direct Mail Notice to Local Governments**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 3(C) requires that direct mail notice be provided to “tribal governments and to the governments of towns, statutory cities, home rule charter cities, and counties whose jurisdictions are reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission line.”

With respect to Tribal Nations, Applicants propose to provide direct mail notice to the officials of all Tribal Nations within Minnesota. In addition, Applicants propose to send notice to the officials of Tribal Nations with an interest within the proposed Notice Area, as identified in the federal government’s Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT). A mailing list is included as Attachment 4.<sup>4</sup>

With respect to local governments, Applicants propose to provide direct mail notice to all the towns, cities, and counties within the exterior boundary of the proposed Notice Area, as reflected on the mailing list included as Attachment 5. For these local governments, Applicants propose to provide direct mail notice to each member of a county board and the county clerk; city mayor and city clerk; and township chair and township clerk. This list includes all municipalities within the proposed Notice Area (even those where Applicants are not proposing to send direct mail notice to landowners or individual mailing addresses within the municipality).

#### **E. Newspaper Notice**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 3(D), requires that notice via newspapers be given to “members of the public in areas reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed transmission line.” Applicants propose to publish notice in the local newspapers identified in Attachment 6, which includes the newspaper of record in each county within the proposed Notice Area, as well as additional newspapers Applicants have identified in which publication would be useful to notify the public of the Project.

In addition to the Notice Plan newspaper notice requirement, Minn. R. 7829.2500, Subp. 5, requires that, after a Certificate of Need application is filed, an applicant publish newspaper notice of the filing in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the state. Here, Applicants propose to publish newspaper notice of the Certificate of Need proceeding shortly before the CN Application is filed in newspapers of local, regional, and statewide circulation. Because Applicants propose to publish a notice shortly before filing, Applicants request a variance of Minn. R. 7829.2500, Subp. 5, to remove the additional newspaper notice requirement to publish notice in a statewide newspaper shortly after the CN Application is submitted.

The Commission shall grant a variance pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.3200 when it determines that the following requirements are met:

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<sup>4</sup> Attachment 4 includes the contacts listed on the Commission’s “Tribal Government Contacts” and “Tribal Historic Preservation Offices” eDockets service lists, as well as the contacts identified by TDAT.

- A. enforcement of the rule would impose an excessive burden upon the applicant or others affected by the rule;
- B. granting the variance would not adversely affect the public interest; and
- C. granting the variance would not conflict with standards imposed by law.

Here, all three factors are met. The rule would be an excessive burden because it requires duplicate notice and associated expense without a corresponding benefit. The public will be notified by notices in other newspapers and therefore the public interest would not be adversely affected. Granting the variance would not conflict with any legal standards. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a variance is warranted, consistent with prior Commission decisions.<sup>5</sup>

#### **F. Notice Content**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 4, identifies the information that must be included in the notices. The Applicants have incorporated the required information into draft direct mail notice letters and a newspaper ad copy, examples of which are enclosed as Attachments 2 and 3. A copy of the map in Attachment 1 which depicts the proposed Notice Area will be provided with each direct mail notice letter and within the published notice.

#### **G. Distribution of Notice Plan Filing**

As required by Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 1, Applicants will serve copies of this notice plan filing on the Department of Commerce, the Residential and Small Business Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and all persons on the “General List of Persons Interested in Power Plants and Transmission Lines” (see enclosed Certificate of Service).

#### **H. Notice Timing**

Minn. R. 7829.2550, Subp. 6, requires the applicant to implement the Notice Plan within 30 days of its approval by the Commission. Applicants request that the Commission vary the Notice Plan implementation rule requirement to allow Applicants to provide the notices identified in this Notice Plan no more than 60 days and no less than one week prior to the filing of the CN Application. The three requirements for a rule variance under Minn. R. 7829.3200, Subp. 1 are met: (1) enforcement of the rule would impose an excessive burden upon the applicant or others affected by the rule; (2) granting the variance would not adversely affect the public interest; and (3) granting the variance would not conflict with standards imposed by law. Applicants respectfully submit that these requirements are met here. First, the mailing lists related to this Notice Plan will be extensive, and varying this timing requirement ensures that Applicants have sufficient time to complete the notice after the Notice Plan Petition is approved. Similarly, varying

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<sup>5</sup> *In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for A Certificate of Need for Two Gen-Tie Lines from Sherburne County to Lyon County, Minnesota*, Docket No. E-002/CN-22-131, ORDER APPROVING THE NOTICE PLAN AND CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXEMPTIONS (June 28, 2022).

the timing requirement ensures that members of the public will receive notice relatively close in time to the filing of the CN Application, which should reduce confusion and enhance public participation. Further, varying this timing requirement does not conflict with any other law. The Commission has previously granted the same requested variance in other Certificate of Need dockets.<sup>6</sup>

## **I. Compliance Filing**

After implementing the Notice Plan, Applicants will then prepare and submit to the Commission a filing showing compliance with the Notice Plan. The compliance filing will provide sample copies of the materials distributed, copies of Affidavits of Publication, and copies of Affidavits of Service with accompanying lists of landowners/residents and local officials receiving direct mail notice letters.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request that the Commission approve this Notice Plan submitted in preparation for filing a Certificate of Need Application for the Project.

Dated: October 1, 2025

/s/ Lisa M. Agrimonti

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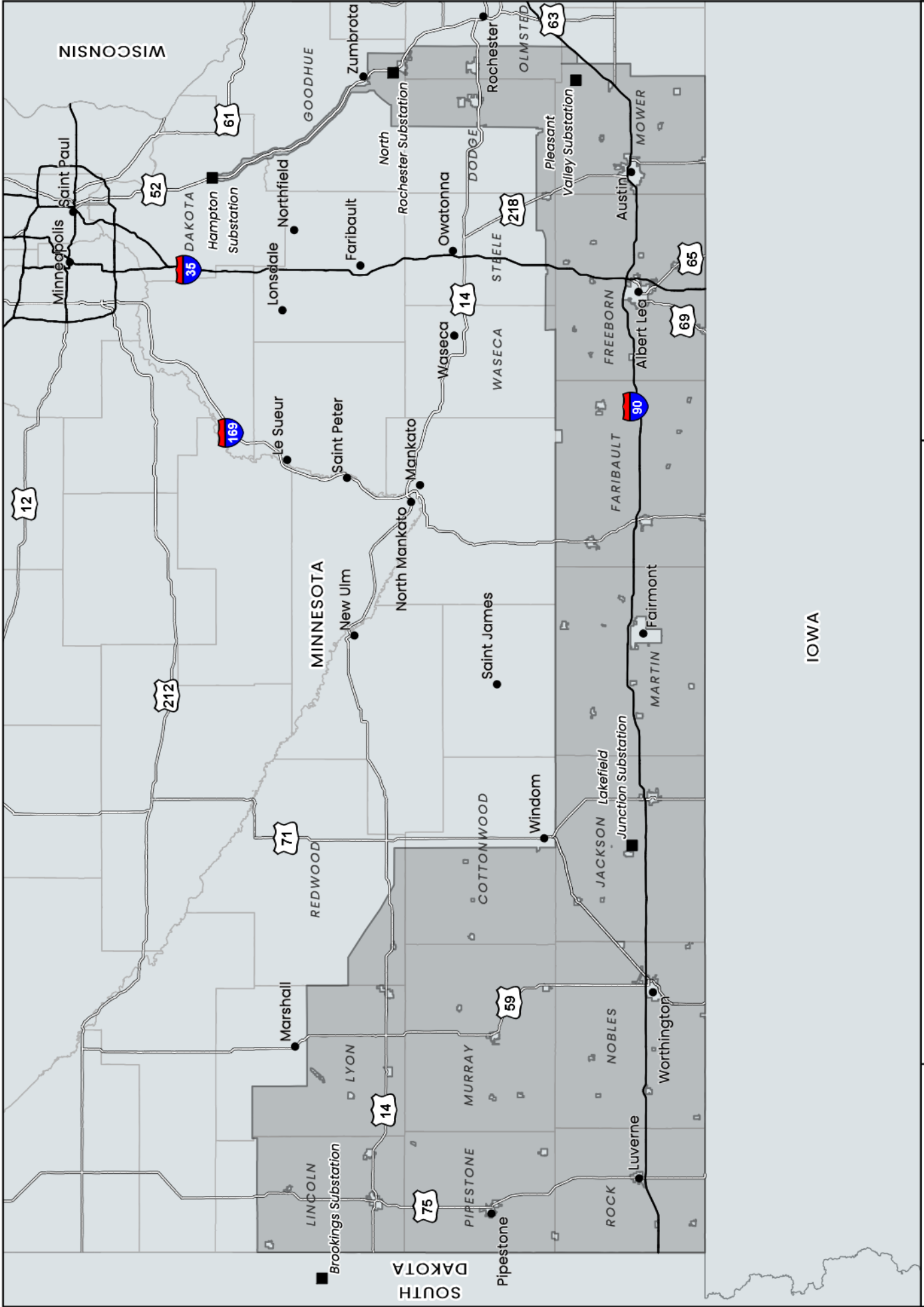
<sup>6</sup> *In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Big Stone South – Alexandria – Big Oaks Transmission Project*, Docket No. E-017, ET-2, E-002, ET-10, E-015/CN-22-538, ORDER APPROVING THE REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS AND THE NOTICE PLAN (April 19, 2023).

**Table 1**  
**Municipalities with Populations Exceeding 200 where Portions of the Municipality**  
**are Included in Proposed Notice Area**

City	County	Reason for Inclusion in Notice Area
Storden	Cottonwood	Including parcels on the east side of Storden incorporates currently undeveloped parcels within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Hampton	Dakota	Including parcels along the east side of the municipality that are included within a 0.5-mile-wide corridor on either side of the existing double-circuit-capable 345 kV structures.
Blooming Prairie	Dodge/ Steele	Including noncontiguous parcels to the south of the city to allow for greater routing flexibility in this area.
Kasson	Dodge	Including parcels along the east side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Albert Lea	Freeborn	Including parcels along the north side of US Interstate 90 as well as parcels along the south side the municipality to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Blue Earth	Faribault	Including parcels along the north side of the municipality along US Interstate 90.
Freeborn	Faribault	Non-municipal parcels north of State Street and south of 655 <sup>th</sup> Avenue were excluded from the notice area because of multiple routing options north of the city.
Frost	Faribault	Including parcels along the south side of the municipality along the railway.
Kiester	Faribault	Including parcels south of the railroad to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Alden	Freeborn	Including parcels along the south side of the municipality along US Interstate 90.
Clarks Grove	Freeborn	Including parcels on the east side of the municipality along US Interstate 35.
Glenville	Freeborn	Including generally undeveloped parcels along the north side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Hayward	Freeborn	Including parcels along the north side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Cannon Falls	Goodhue	Including parcels along the west side of the municipality that are included within a 0.5-mile-wide corridor on either side of the existing double-circuit-capable 345 kV structures.
Pine Island	Goodhue/ Olmsted	Including parcels along the west side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Heron Lake	Jackson	Including noncontiguous parcels within the municipality along State Highway 60.

City	County	Reason for Inclusion in Notice Area
Lakefield	Jackson	Including generally undeveloped parcels on the east side of Lakefield to provide greater routing flexibility near the Lakefield Junction Substation.
Jackson	Jackson	Including parcels along the north side of the municipality along US Interstate 90 and south side of Jackson to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Russell	Lyon	Including currently undeveloped parcels within the municipality along State Highway 23.
Tracy	Lyon	Including parcels associated with the Tracy compost site to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Fairmont	Martin	Including parcels along the north side of the municipality along US Interstate 90.
Granada	Martin	Including parcels along the south side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in the vicinity of US Interstate 90.
Sherburn	Martin	Including non-municipal parcels along the north side of the municipality along US Interstate 90.
Welcome	Martin	Including municipal parcels outside of concentrated residential development provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Dexter	Mower	Including parcels on the south side of the municipality along US Interstate 90 and generally undeveloped parcels on the north side to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Chandler	Murray	Including mostly undeveloped parcels on the west side of Chandler within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Lake Wilson	Murray	Including currently undeveloped parcels on the north side of Lake Wilson within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Slayton	Murray	Non-municipal parcels along the north and south side of 111 <sup>th</sup> Street were excluded from the notice area because of multiple routing options north of the city.
Adrian	Nobles	Including parcels within the municipality along US Interstate 90.
Brewster	Nobles	Including parcels within the municipality along State Highway 60.
Ellsworth	Nobles	Including currently undeveloped parcels on the northern side of Ellsworth within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Round Lake	Nobles	Including currently undeveloped parcels on the eastern and western sides of Round Lake within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.

City	County	Reason for Inclusion in Notice Area
Wilmont	Nobles	Including currently undeveloped parcels on the northern side of Wilmont within city limits to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Worthington	Nobles	Including parcels within the municipality along the northern side of US Interstate 90 but excluding the airport.
Byron	Olmsted/ Dodge	Including parcels along the west side of the municipality provides greater routing flexibility in this area.
Ruthton	Pipestone	Including parcels within the municipality outside of concentrated residential development along railroad and State Highway 23.
Walnut Grove	Redwood	Including generally undeveloped parcels within the municipality to provide greater routing flexibility in this area.
Luverne	Rock	Including parcels within municipality along US Interstate 90.



For Environmental Review Purposes Only

## Attachment 1

### Proposed Notice Area

### PowerOn Midwest Project

- City
- Substation
- Interstate
- US Highway
- Proposed Notice Area

**Attachment 2**

**RE: Notice of Certificate of Need Application for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project  
MPUC Docket No. 25-117**

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest), and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (together, Applicants) are proposing the PowerOn Midwest High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Minnesota (Project). You are receiving this notice because you are: a landowner with property in the notice area; a resident within the notice area; a local unit of government within the notice area; or a Tribal official. This notice provides information about the Project and the state of Minnesota's permitting process.

Applicants are providing this notice of the Project at an early stage of the development process. We want to provide those who may be affected with every opportunity to participate in future meetings and hearings. At this stage of Project development, routes have not been identified for the Project. Instead, Applicants are providing broader notice to stakeholders within all or portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Waseca, Freeborn, Steele, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Goodhue, and Dakota. In the end, many of those receiving this notice will not be directly affected. Nonetheless, we hope that you will take the time to participate in the regulatory process.

**Project Description**

The Project includes:

- A single-circuit 765 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between the following points:
  - The South Dakota/Minnesota border and the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County, Minnesota;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Minnesota/Iowa border;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, Minnesota; and
  - The Pleasant Valley Substation and the North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, Minnesota.
- A new 345 kV transmission circuit from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The existing 345 kV single-circuit structures are proposed to be removed and replaced with new double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.

- A new, second 345 kV transmission circuit between the North Rochester substation to the Hampton Substation, to be strung on existing double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- Expansions of the following existing substations:
  - Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County;
  - Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County;
  - North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County; and
  - Hampton Substation in Dakota County.

Before beginning construction, Applicants will acquire property rights for the Project, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel, and purchases in fee for any substations. For this Project, Applicants anticipate acquiring easements with a right-of-way of approximately 250 feet wide for 765 kV facilities and approximately 150 feet wide for 345 kV facilities.

### **Project Need**

The Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 set of transmission line projects, and is needed to maintain system reliability amid fundamental changes in demand for electricity and the type and amount of generation interconnected to the grid within the MISO footprint. The Project in combination with the other Tranche 2.1 projects will create a backbone connection in Minnesota that will ultimately be interconnected with the existing 765 kV network in the eastern United States. This network will make Minnesota's connection to the broader Midwest and eastern United States more robust and resilient, enabling Minnesota and the region to meet electrical demand in a more reliable and cost-effective manner. The Project is needed to continue to serve customer demand every minute of every day and to ensure a strong foundation that supports the resiliency of the grid.

### **Regulatory Process**

The Project requires two types of approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC or Commission): a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. Applicants will submit a Certificate of Need Application for the Project to the Commission in February 2026. Separately, Applicants will also submit Route Permit applications that cover these projects to the Commission no earlier than late 2026. The Project cannot be constructed unless the Commission determines that it is needed in the Certificate of Need proceeding. In the separate Route Permit proceedings which will follow the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will decide where the transmission line and other associated facilities will be located.

Applicants are currently seeking a Certificate of Need from the Commission. The Certificate of Need process is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, and

Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849, specifically Rules parts 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.1000 to 7849.2100. A copy of the Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at [www.mn.gov/puc/](http://www.mn.gov/puc/) in Docket No. 25-117. The Commission will not make its determination on the Certificate of Need until it has completed a thorough review process that encourages public involvement and analyzes the need for the Project. This process includes the preparation of an Environmental Report for the Project by the Commission's Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff.

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit comments and participate in the Certificate of Need process. You can get involved by submitting comments or attending public meetings and hearings. Please keep in mind that "need" issues should be raised in the Certificate of Need process, and issues concerning the location of the transmission line should be raised during the forthcoming Route Permit processes. The table below provides a high-level summary of the major steps in the Certificate of Need process and Applicants' estimated dates for each step.

Action	Approximate Date
Pre-Application outreach	Fall 2025
Certificate of Need Application Filed	February 2026
Informational and Scoping Meetings ( <i>opportunity for public comment</i> )	April 2026
Environmental Report Issued	August 2026
Public Hearings ( <i>opportunity for public comment</i> )	September 2026
Commission Decision	February 2027

There will be separate processes for the Route Permit proceedings, and you will receive notices of those proceedings if you may be impacted by a proposed route.

### **Additional Information and Mailing Lists**

To learn how to subscribe to the Project's Certificate of Need docket and to receive email notifications when information is filed in that docket, please visit [www.mn.gov/puc/edockets/how-to/](http://www.mn.gov/puc/edockets/how-to/). To subscribe to this docket, follow those instructions and enter Docket Number 25-117.

To be placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list, email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail. If you have questions about the state regulatory process, you may contact the Minnesota state regulatory staff listed below:

[*To be identified*]

Also, please feel free to contact the PowerOn Midwest Project with any questions. Questions can be sent to:

PowerOn Midwest

Email: [Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com](mailto:Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com)

Phone: 888.283.4678

Information regarding the Project is also available at [PowerOnMidwest.com](http://PowerOnMidwest.com).

**Transmission Planning Process in Minnesota**

Minnesota Statutes section 216B.2425 requires that each electric transmission-owning utility in the state file a biennial transmission planning report with the Commission in the fall of each odd-numbered year. These reports provide information on the transmission planning process used by utilities in the state of Minnesota and information about other transmission line projects. The 2023 Biennial Transmission Planning Report is available at: [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com). The 2023 Biennial Transmission Planning Report was submitted on November 1, 2023. An updated report will be submitted later in 2025.

We encourage you to get involved in this process and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dan Leshner  
Manager, Transmission  
Permitting & Land Rights  
**Great River Energy**

Tim Rogers  
Senior Manager, Siting &  
Permitting  
**Xcel Energy**

Mark Rothfork  
Manager, Environmental  
Permitting  
**ITC Midwest LLC**

Enclosure

**Attachment 3**

**Notice of Certificate of Need Application for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV  
High Voltage Transmission Line Project  
MPUC Docket No. 25-117**

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest), and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (together, Applicants) are proposing the PowerOn Midwest High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Minnesota (Project). This notice provides information about the Project and the state of Minnesota's permitting process.

Applicants are providing this notice of the Project at a early stage of the development process. We want to provide those who may be affected with every opportunity to participate in future meetings and hearings. At this stage of Project development, routes have not been identified for the Project. Instead, as shown on the map included with this notice, Applicants are providing broader notice to stakeholders within all or portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Waseca, Freeborn, Steele, Mower, Dodge, Olmsted, Goodhue, and Dakota. In the end, many of those receiving this notice will not be directly affected. Nonetheless, we hope that you will take the time to participate in the regulatory process.

**Project Description**

The Project includes:

- A single-circuit 765 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line between the following points:
  - The South Dakota/Minnesota border and the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County, Minnesota;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Minnesota/Iowa border;
  - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, Minnesota; and
  - The Pleasant Valley Substation and the North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, Minnesota.
- A new 345 kV transmission circuit from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The existing 345 kV single-circuit structures are proposed to be removed and replaced with new double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- A new, second 345 kV transmission circuit between the North Rochester substation to the Hampton Substation, to be strung on existing double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.

- Expansions of the following existing substations:
  - Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County;
  - Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County;
  - North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County; and
  - Hampton Substation in Dakota County.

Before beginning construction, Applicants will acquire property rights for the Project, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel, and purchases in fee for any substations. For this Project, Applicants anticipate acquiring easements with a right-of-way of approximately 250 feet wide for 765 kV facilities and approximately 150 feet wide for 345 kV facilities.

### **Project Need**

The Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 set of transmission line projects, and is needed to maintain system reliability amid fundamental changes in demand for electricity and the type and amount of generation interconnected to the grid within the MISO footprint. The Project in combination with the other Tranche 2.1 projects will create a backbone connection in Minnesota that will ultimately be interconnected with the existing 765 kV network in the eastern United States. This network will make Minnesota's connection to the broader Midwest and eastern United States more robust and resilient, enabling Minnesota and the region to meet electrical demand in a more reliable and cost-effective manner. The Project is needed to continue to serve customer demand every minute of every day and to ensure a strong foundation that supports the resiliency of the grid.

### **Regulatory Process**

The Project requires two types of approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC or Commission): a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. Applicants will submit a Certificate of Need Application for the Project to the Commission in February 2026. Separately, Applicants will also submit Route Permit applications that cover these projects to the Commission no earlier than late 2026. The Project cannot be constructed unless the Commission determines that it is needed in the Certificate of Need proceeding. In the separate Route Permit proceedings which will follow the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will decide where the transmission line and other associated facilities will be located.

Applicants are currently seeking a Certificate of Need from the Commission. The Certificate of Need process is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849, specifically Rules parts 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.1000 to 7849.2100. A copy of the Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at [www.mn.gov/puc/](http://www.mn.gov/puc/) in Docket No. 25-117. The Commission will not make its determination on the Certificate of Need until it has completed a thorough review

process that encourages public involvement and analyzes the need for the Project. This process includes the preparation of an Environmental Report for the Project by the Commission’s Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff.

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit comments and participate in the Certificate of Need process. You can get involved by submitting comments or attending public meetings and hearings. Please keep in mind that “need” issues should be raised in the Certificate of Need process, and issues concerning the location of the transmission line should be raised during the forthcoming Route Permit processes. The table below provides a high-level summary of the major steps in the Certificate of Need process and Applicants’ estimated dates for each step.

Action	Approximate Date
Pre-Application outreach	Fall 2025
Certificate of Need Application Filed	February 2026
Informational and Scoping Meetings ( <i>opportunity for public comment</i> )	April 2026
Environmental Report Issued	August 2026
Public Hearings ( <i>opportunity for public comment</i> )	September 2026
Commission Decision	February 2027

There will be separate processes for the Route Permit proceedings, and you will receive notices of those proceedings if you may be impacted by a proposed route.

### **Additional Information and Mailing Lists**

To learn how to subscribe to the Project’s Certificate of Need docket and to receive email notifications when information is filed in that docket, please visit [www.mn.gov/puc/edockets/how-to/](http://www.mn.gov/puc/edockets/how-to/). To subscribe to this docket, follow those instructions and enter Docket Number 25-117.

To be placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list, email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail. If you have questions about the state regulatory process, you may contact the Minnesota state regulatory staff listed below:

*[To be identified]*

Also, please feel free to contact the PowerOn Midwest Project with any questions. Questions can be sent to:

PowerOn Midwest

Email: [Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com](mailto:Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com)

Phone: 888.283.4678

Information regarding the Project is also available at [PowerOnMidwest.com](http://PowerOnMidwest.com).

**Transmission Planning Process in Minnesota**

Minnesota Statutes section 216B.2425 requires that each electric transmission-owning utility in the state file a biennial transmission planning report with the Commission in the fall of each odd-numbered year. These reports provide information on the transmission planning process used by utilities in the state of Minnesota and information about other transmission line projects. The 2023 Biennial Transmission Planning Report is available at: [www.minnelectrans.com](http://www.minnelectrans.com). The 2023 Biennial Transmission Planning Report was submitted on November 1, 2023. An updated report will be submitted later in 2025.

We encourage you to get involved in this process and look forward to working with you.

*[Notice Area map to be inserted.]*