



February 4, 2026

**—Via Electronic Filing—**

Sasha Bergman  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: STATUS UPDATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE GOPHER TO  
BADGER LINK 765 KV HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT  
DOCKET No. ET3, E002/CN-25-121

Dear Ms. Bergman:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (collectively, Utilities) respectfully submit this status report to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in response to Commission Staff's September 2, 2025 letter regarding the above-captioned dockets. Commission Staff directed the Utilities to file regular status updates that include "the anticipated application filing dates and the anticipated in-service dates, as well as any other pertinent information. If the anticipated application date or in-service date changes, please provide an explanation in future filings."

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO), a federally registered planning authority and regional transmission organization, approved its Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects as part of its 2024 MISO Transmission Expansion Plan. MISO's LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio is made up of 24 projects, including the above-captioned project (Project).

The Utilities intend to file a joint Certificate of Need Application for the Project on February 6, 2026. In advance of filing the Application, the Utilities filed a notice plan petition and requests for exemption on October 8, 2025. The Utilities currently anticipate filing a Route Permit Application later in 2026 and will update the Commission as we know more about this filing date. As identified by MISO, the in-service timing for the Project is 2034.

In Minnesota, the Utilities have named the Project the "Gopher to Badger Link" and information regarding the Project is available on the project website: <https://gophertobadgerlink.com>. The Utilities are also engaging in stakeholder outreach in the Project area. The Utilities hosted open houses in January, and will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the development, permitting, and construction.

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The Utilities will continue to provide status updates every 35 days until applications are filed with the Commission. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jody Londo at [jody.l.londo@xcelenergy.com](mailto:jody.l.londo@xcelenergy.com), or Kathleen Galioto at [kathleen.galioto@dairylandpower.com](mailto:kathleen.galioto@dairylandpower.com).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jody Londo*

JODY LONDO  
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

*/s/ Kathleen Galioto*

KATHLEEN GALIOTO  
VICE PRESIDENT & DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL  
DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE