

State of Minnesota
Court of Administrative Hearings
For the Public Utilities Commission

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

MPUC Docket No. E002, ET2, ET6675/CN-25-117

CAH Docket No.: 28-2500-41617

Direct Testimony of Dr. David Loomis

August 13, 2026

1 I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2
3 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

4 A. My name is Dr. David G. Loomis, and my business address is 1604 Visa Drive, Suite 1,
5 Normal, Illinois 61761.
6

7 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

8 A. I am the President of Strategic Economic Research, LLC (Strategic Economic Research).
9 I am also a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Illinois State University.
10

11 **Q. Please briefly describe your educational background and professional experience.**

12 A. In 1985, I graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Honors
13 Economics from Temple University. In 1995, I earned my Doctor of Philosophy and
14 Economics from Temple University. From 1996 to 2023, I was employed by Illinois State
15 University (ISU) as a professor of Economics. During my tenure at ISU, I held various
16 positions with increasing responsibility. In 1996, I was hired as an Assistant Professor. In
17 2002, I was promoted to Associate Professor. In 2010, I was promoted to full professor.
18 From 2023 to present, I have served as a Professor Emeritus. Throughout my time at ISU,
19 my responsibilities have included teaching the following subjects: Regulatory Economics;
20 Telecommunications Economics and Public Policy; Environmental Economics; Industrial
21 Organization and Pricing; Individual and Social Choice; Economics of Energy and Public
22 Policy; and a Graduate Seminar Course in Electricity, Natural Gas, and
23 Telecommunications. I also supervised as many as five graduate students in research
24 projects each semester, and served on numerous departmental committees.
25

26 From 1997 to 2023, I served as Co-Director (1997 to 2005) and Executive Director (2005
27 to 2023) of the Institute for Regulatory Policy Studies (IRPS) at ISU. IRPS is a public-
28 private partnership between the regulatory community, including the Illinois Commerce
29 Commission, and ISU. During my tenure at IRPS, my responsibilities included developing

1 and implementing state-level workshops concerning regulatory issues related to the
2 electric, natural gas, and telecommunications industries.

3
4 In 2006, I founded the Illinois Wind Working Group (Group). From 2006 to 2018, I served
5 as Director of the Group. As Director, my responsibilities included organizing strategic
6 conferences to address critical wind energy issues.

7
8 In 2007, I co-founded the Center for Renewable Energy at ISU (Center). From 2007 to
9 2018, I served as Director of the Center. As Director, my responsibilities included
10 reviewing renewable energy manufacturing grant applications for the Illinois Department
11 of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a \$30 million program, and creating technical
12 “Due Diligence” documents for the Illinois Finance Authority loan program for wind farm
13 projects.

14
15 **Q. What are your responsibilities as the President at Strategic Economic Research?**

16 A. From 2011 to present, I have served as President of Strategic Economic Research. As
17 President, my responsibilities include performing economic impact analyses on policy
18 initiatives and energy projects, such as wind energy, solar energy, natural gas plants, and
19 transmission lines at the county and state level. I am the Lead Expert providing expert
20 testimony at county and state zoning hearings. I have personally trained a staff of 15 full-
21 time employees, along with approximately 10 part-time employees. I also oversee the
22 analysis, report-writing, financial, and human resources functions.

23
24 **Q. For whom are you testifying?**

25 A. I am testifying on behalf of Great River Energy, Northern States Power Company, doing
26 business as Xcel Energy, and ITC Midwest LLC (collectively, Applicants), in support of
27 their Joint Certificate of Need Application (Application) to the Minnesota Public Utilities
28 Commission (Commission) for the PowerOn Midwest Project (Project).

1 **Q. What is the purpose of your direct testimony in this proceeding?**

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the April 2026 Economic Impact Analysis (the
3 Report) prepared in relation to the Project.
4

5 **Q. What schedules are attached to your Direct Testimony?**

6 A. The following schedule is attached to my Direct Testimony:

- 7 • **Schedule 1**: Economic Impact Analysis of the PowerOn Midwest Project in Minnesota.
8

9 **Q. What is the purpose of your Report?**

10 A. The purpose of my Report is to aid decision makers in evaluating the economic impact of
11 the Project on Minnesota Project counties (Project Counties)¹ as well as on the State of
12 Minnesota. This analysis is intended to study the direct, indirect, and induced impacts on
13 job creation, earnings, and total economic impact.
14

15 **Q. Please describe the modeling used in your economic impact analysis of the effect of**
16 **the Project.**

17 A. The economic impact analysis of the Project was created using IMPLAN (IMpact analysis
18 for PLANning). IMPLAN software and parameters are based on government data collected
19 at federal, state, and local levels. IMPLAN is a leading provider of economic development
20 software that is widely used by economists and economic development professionals.
21

22 IMPLAN is an input-output model that measures the spending patterns and location-
23 specific economic structures that reflect expenditures supporting varying levels of
24 employment, income, and output. IMPLAN modeling uses construction cost data,
25 operations cost data, and data relating to the percentage of goods and services acquired in

¹ Cottonwood County, Dakota County, Dodge County, Faribault County, Freeborn County, Goodhue County, Jackson County, Lincoln County, Lyon County, Martin County, Mower County, Murray County, Nobles County, Olmstead County, Pipestone County, Redwood County, Rock County, Steele County, Waseca County.

1 the county and state to calculate the jobs, earnings, and economic output associated with
2 this information. The results are split into the construction period and the annual operations
3 period of the Project. Within each period, impacts are further divided into direct, indirect,
4 and induced impacts
5

6 **Q. What are your conclusions with regard to the economic impact of the Project on**
7 **Minnesota Project Counties and the State of Minnesota?**

8 A. Using the modeling described above, I concluded that the Project positively impacts the
9 local and state economy in at least four areas: jobs, earnings, output, and tax revenue.
10

11 **Q. Please describe your conclusions concerning the economic impact of the Project in**
12 **terms of jobs.**

13 A. Based on my analysis, the Project is estimated to create or retain the following full-time
14 equivalent jobs:

- 15 • 2,553 new local jobs during construction for all Minnesota Project Counties;
- 16 • 4,870 new local jobs during construction for the State of Minnesota;
- 17 • 354.8 new local long-term jobs for all Minnesota Project Counties; and
- 18 • 517 new local long-term jobs for the State of Minnesota.
19

20 **Q. Please describe your conclusions concerning the economic impact of the Project in**
21 **terms of earnings.**

22 A. The jobs identified above from the Project are estimated to result in the following earnings
23 for those employees, to the benefit of the local and state economy:

- 24 • Over \$259 million in new local earnings during construction for all Minnesota Project
25 Counties;
- 26 • Over \$482 million in new local earnings during construction for the State of Minnesota;
- 27 • Over \$26.5 million in new local long-term earnings for all Minnesota Project Counties
28 annually; and
- 29 • Over \$39.4 million in new local long-term earnings for the State of Minnesota annually.