

From: [Thomas Hillard](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#); [Ek, Scott \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 25-117
Date: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:07:13 PM
Attachments: [Altona Township Resolution.pdf](#)

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RE: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 25-117.

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

Attached you will find a "Resolution Opposing the Proposed PowerOn Midwest 765KV Electric Transmission Line Routing Through Altona Township" along with a letter addressing our concerns regarding this 765kv transmission line. Altona Township is located in Pipestone County of Southwest Minnesota. As Chairman of the Altona Township Board I send you this Resolution on behalf of the Altona Township Board and the residents of our township.

Altona Township is one of the townships in southwest Minnesota where the 765kv electric transmission line is proposed to run through as well as the alternative route. We have great concerns which are addressed in the letter attached of how these 765kv transmission lines will affect our health, livestock, agriculture, farming practices, wildlife, community, natural surroundings, property value, etc.

Thank you for your time in reviewing our concerns and thoughtful consideration of Not Approving the proposed PowerOn Midwest 765kv electric transmission line.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hillard
Board Chairman, Altona Township

Altana
Pipestone Township Board of Supervisors
County, Minnesota

June 18, 2026

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite #350
Saint Paul, MN 55101
consumer.puc@state.mn.us
scott.ek@state.mn.us

PowerOn Midwest
5115 Excelsior Blvd #113
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com

Sent 8/18/26 to MN PUC
Rocket # 25-117

RE: PowerOn Midwest 765kV Transmission Routing in Altana Township, Minnesota

To the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) and PowerOn Midwest Project Leadership,

The Altana Township Board of Supervisors, acting on behalf of our residents, officially issues this letter of formal opposition to the routing and construction of the proposed 765kV transmission lines in Altana Township. On August 17, 2026, the Board passed a resolution opposing this project as the 765kV transmission lines and the massive supporting infrastructure will severely degrade our area in numerous ways:

- **Agriculture & Livestock:** Our community consists of vital, productive agricultural land. The placement of towers will fragment working farms, disrupt modern heavy-equipment navigation, compact soils, and impede drainage systems. The large structures and ultra-high voltage transmission lines create giant physical obstacles to manure dragline operators and aerial applicators, where electromagnetic fields can cause GPS and flow-control system malfunctions, which compromises application accuracy. Furthermore, the electromagnetic fields and stray voltage associated with extra-high-voltage lines are known to pose dangerous health and behavioral risks to livestock. Falling ice from the ultra-high voltage suspended power lines and tower structures can inflict deep bruising, fractures, or fatal trauma on livestock directly underneath. Additional concerns include the dangers to humans and livestock from step and touch voltage caused by ground potential gradient in the event of conductor, hardware, or tower structure failure.
- **Water Flow & Drainage:** The construction of massive tower foundations and access roads across the township threatens to alter natural water flow, cause severe soil erosion, and disrupt established agricultural drainage and tiling systems.
- **Interference with Radio and GPS Communication:** The intense electromagnetic fields (EMF) generated by a 765kV transmission line are documented to cause electromagnetic interference. This will disrupt critical farm equipment that relies on radio frequencies, including two-way radios used by farm crews, emergency services, and modern precision agriculture systems that depend on clear GPS signals for planting and harvesting.
- **Streams, Wetlands, Wildlife, Birds, Pollinator Habitat, Scenic Viewsheds, and Recreation:** Installing a 765-kV transmission line permanently alters the local landscape. Massive towers and 250 foot rights-of-way cause habitat fragmentation, waterway sedimentation, reduced viewshed quality, and impose potential EMF-related limitations on recreational use. Additionally, intense Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) and wide rights-of-way can alter habitat and navigational cues of wildlife, negatively impacting wildlife including, but not limited to, Ring-necked Pheasant, Monarch Butterfly, Topeka Shiner Minnow, and Blanding's Turtle within the area. An industrial transmission

corridor will also cause massive view disruption, blight the landscape, and ruin the recreational experience for residents and visitors.

- **Homes, Churches, Daycares, Parks, and Places of Businesses:** Proximity to these lines during construction and ongoing maintenance activities negatively impacts our property owner's rights to privacy, creates potential safety hazards, and places an undue burden on community institutions such as our local churches, parks, daycares, and small businesses.
- **Noise & Vibration:** Extra-high-voltage lines are known to generate consistent, disruptive audible noise (such as buzzing and humming) and corona discharge, particularly in damp weather, which will destroy the rural benefits and quiet atmosphere that our residents currently enjoy.
- **Property Values:** The sheer scale and number of structures (5 towers per mile) will fundamentally alter the rural character of our township. The visual and audio disruption, as well as the potential for health risks, will lead to a substantial and permanent decline in property values for homes, working farms, and places of business.

Given these irreversible and severe negative impacts, the Altona Township Board urges PowerOn Midwest to halt current planning in our area and remove Altona Township from all proposed routing maps.

The attached resolution of our community's concerns will be fully documented and addressed in the public record.

Sincerely,

The Board of Supervisors

Altona Township, Minnesota

Supervisor [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED POWERON MIDWEST 765kV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES THROUGH Altona TOWNSHIP

At a meeting of the Township Board of Altona Township of Rice County, Minnesota, held on the 17th day of August, 2026.

PRESENT: Thomas Hillard, Chairman Travis Dethlefs, Supervisor
Aaron Christensen, Supervisor Chelsay Hillard, Treasurer

ABSENT: Lynn Vander Plaats, Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Thomas Hillard, Chairman and supported by Travis Dethlefs, Supervisor and Aaron Christensen, Supervisor

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest has submitted an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC Docket #25-117) for a portfolio of high-voltage electric transmission projects throughout eastern South Dakota and southern Minnesota, including in Altona Township, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest has identified the following routes through Altona Township, Minnesota to construct a 765kV electric transmission line requiring a 250-foot-wide right-of-way and structures with heights ranging from 150-175 feet and width from 135-145 feet; and

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest is hosting a series of twelve rotating open house meetings throughout southwest and southern Minnesota in June 2026 to receive input from individuals and organizations impacted by the proposed transmission line routes and has provided mechanisms to receive written feedback; and

WHEREAS, preliminary routing options for this project significantly impact the natural and residential landscape of Altona Township, including sensitive ecological areas and established neighborhoods including churches, schools, daycares, parks, and places of business; and

WHEREAS, the construction and maintenance of such lines would require heavy excavation of agricultural land resulting in damage to property, altering both overland and underground water flow, and impacting farming and livestock operations and safety; and

WHEREAS, the project poses a direct threat to critical streams, wetlands, and riparian zones, negatively impacting biodiversity, wildlife, and impeding recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of industrial-scale infrastructure in proximity to residential properties is expected to diminish aesthetic character, cause long-term negative audio and visual effects, and have a negative financial impact on property values in Altona Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF Altona TOWNSHIP OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, that Altona Township formally opposes the proposed PowerOn Midwest 765kV transmission line as currently routed through Altona Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Altona Township urges PowerOn Midwest and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to prioritize alternative routes that avoid residential areas, public parks, and sensitive environmental preserves to minimize negative impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to PowerOn Midwest and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, along with an attached letter detailing the impacts outlined in this resolution.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Yes

NAYS: None

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF Pipestone } ss

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Pipestone Township of Pipestone County, Minnesota, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 17th day of August, 2026.

Lynn Vander Plaats
(Printed Name):
Township Clerk Lynn Vander Plaats

Supervisor

[Signature]
[Signature]
Thomas W. [Signature] Choirman