

Cedar Township, Martin County, Minnesota

Statement of Opposition to the Proposed PowerOn Midwest 765 kV Transmission Line

Cedar Township, Martin County, Minnesota, formally opposes the routing and construction of the proposed PowerOn Midwest 765 kV transmission line within our township boundaries. The project, as currently presented, would impose severe and irreversible impacts on our agricultural land, local infrastructure, property owners, and the long-term wellbeing of our community.

Key Impacts and Concerns

Township Roads & Maintenance Burden

The proposed transmission line would require construction and long-term access along roads that Cedar Township does not currently grade, gravel, or maintain at a level suitable for heavy industrial traffic. This project would create new, unfunded, and ongoing costs for road upgrades, snow removal, and maintenance.

Agriculture & Livestock

Cedar Township's economy and identity rely on productive farmland and livestock operations. Tower placement and construction activity would:

- Fragment working farms
- Disrupt heavy equipment navigation
- Compact soils and damage drainage systems
- Interfere with manure dragline operations and aerial application
- Introduce EMF-related risks to livestock health and behavior
- Create hazards from falling ice and step-and-touch voltage during equipment failure

Water Flow & Drainage

Large tower foundations and access roads threaten natural water flow, increase erosion, and disrupt established drainage and tiling systems essential to local agriculture.

Radio & GPS Interference

The electromagnetic fields generated by a 765 kV line are documented to interfere with radio communication and GPS-dependent precision agriculture systems, impacting planting, harvesting, and emergency communication.

Wildlife, Habitat & Scenic Viewsheds

A 250-foot right-of-way and 150–175-foot towers would permanently alter Cedar Township's landscape, fragment wildlife habitat, reduce viewshed quality, and diminish recreational use. Species of concern include pheasants, raptors, pollinators, and aquatic wildlife.

Homes, Churches & Local Businesses

Construction and maintenance activities near homes and community institutions would reduce privacy, create safety risks, and limit future expansion of farms and small businesses.

Noise, Vibration & Property Values

Ultra-high-voltage lines generate persistent noise and corona discharge, degrading rural quiet and contributing to long-term declines in property values for homes, farms, and businesses.

Township Position

Given these substantial and permanent impacts, Cedar Township urges PowerOn Midwest and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to remove Cedar Township from all proposed routing maps and halt planning activities within our township.

Cedar Township supports full evaluation of alternatives, including lower-voltage transmission options, system upgrades, and generation sited closer to demand.

Certification

This statement is issued by the Cedar Township Board of Supervisors, Martin County, Minnesota, for inclusion in the public record of MPUC Docket No. 25-117.

Motion & Signature Section

Motion by Supervisor: Jeff Scholl Seconded by
Supervisor: Stephan Melson

Approved by the Cedar Township Board of Supervisors on this 8th day of September 2026.

Board Chairman: [Signature]

Attest (Township Clerk): [Signature]