

CHANARAMBIE TOWNSHIP BOARD

MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 1 -2026

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE POWERON MIDWEST 765 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT AS PROPOSED, AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF FORMAL COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 25-117

WHEREAS, Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC, and Xcel Energy (collectively, the “Applicants”) have filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for a Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest project, a proposed 765 kV high-voltage transmission line, in Docket No. 25-117; and

WHEREAS, Chanarambie Township, located in Murray County, Minnesota, lies within the identified study area for this project, and current route information indicates that several miles of the proposed transmission line would follow minimum-maintenance roads within the Township that the Township does not currently grade nor gravel on a seasonal basis nor plow snow from; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is concerned that construction and long-term maintenance access for a 765 kV transmission line will require these minimum-maintenance roads to be upgraded and maintained to a higher standard, resulting in new and unfunded recurring costs to the Township for snow removal, gravel, and road maintenance that were not contemplated in the Township’s budget or levy; and

WHEREAS, construction activity associated with the project is likely to damage the surface and subgrade of Township roads, and the Applicants have not identified who will bear the cost of restoring those roads to a usable condition following construction; and

WHEREAS, the Applicants and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”) have identified a claimed need for up to 10,000 megawatts of additional transmission capacity in Minnesota, without providing the Township or the public a specific, itemized breakdown of how much of that capacity is intended to serve Minnesota load directly, as opposed to facilitating the transfer or export of power across state lines; and

WHEREAS, MISO’s own long-range transmission planning documents indicate that Minnesota electricity demand has been flat for many years, and that future load growth is substantially attributable to data centers and other large, single-site loads rather than to baseline residential, commercial, and agricultural demand; and

WHEREAS, residents of Chanarambie Township along the proposed route face significant impacts from this project, including but not limited to permanent visual impacts, ongoing noise, electric and magnetic field (EMF) exposure concerns, disruption to agricultural drain tile systems, soil compaction on cropland, the use of eminent domain to acquire right-of-way, and diminished property values driven by both the physical presence of the line and real and perceived health concerns; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota law and Commission practice, once a Certificate of Need is granted for a high-voltage transmission line, questions of need, alternatives, and line configuration are generally foreclosed from further consideration at the subsequent route permit stage, making it necessary for the Township to raise these concerns at the Certificate of Need stage of this proceeding; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds that the Applicants have not adequately demonstrated that this project, at the scale and voltage proposed, is necessary to meet Minnesota’s own electricity needs, or that reasonable alternatives — including transmission upgrades, lower-voltage lines, or generation sited closer to demand — have been fully explored and ruled out;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chanarambie Township Board formally opposes the Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV transmission project as currently presented, and requests that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission require the Applicants to fully justify the need for this project, including a specific breakdown of intended in-state

use versus interstate transfer, and a specific accounting of the extent to which forecasted demand growth is attributable to data centers or other large single-site loads;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Board requests the Commission require the Applicants to identify all township and county roads within the study area that are minimum-maintenance or otherwise below a standard adequate for construction and long-term maintenance traffic, and to enter into a binding road-use and restoration agreement with each affected road authority — addressing both construction-related damage and any ongoing maintenance burden created by the project — prior to the issuance of any route permit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Board requests the Commission fully evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed 765 kV line, including transmission system upgrades, lower-voltage transmission lines, and generation sited closer to the areas of demand, before granting a Certificate of Need;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Board is very concerned for our residents and requests the Commission weigh the impacts described herein — including the negative visual impact of lines this size, noise from the transmission lines, EMF exposure, drain tile disruption, soil compaction, eminent domain, stress on our farming families, and property devaluation — as part of its review of this Certificate of Need application;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is directed to submit this Resolution, along with any accompanying comments, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for inclusion in the official record of Docket No. 25-117, and to the Township's state legislators and Murray County Board of Commissioners for their information and support;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution does not constitute the Township's position on any specific proposed route, and that the Township Board intends to submit a separate comment addressing route-specific concerns once route alternatives are finalized.

The foregoing Resolution was moved by Travis Delong, seconded by Chad Mesma, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Chad, Dale, Travis _____; and the following voted against the same:

_____ whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and

adopted this 25 day of August, 2026.

Dale Delong

Board Chair, Chanarambie Township

ATTEST:

Connie Pao

Township Clerk, Chanarambie Township