

Fenton Township Board, Murray County, Minnesota

Resolution No.:2026-0001

A Resolution Opposing the Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765kV 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, and Xcel Energy (Collectively, the "Applicants") have filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") for the Certificated of Need for the PowerOn Midwest project, a proposed 765kV high-voltage transmission line, in Docket No. 25-117; and

WHEREAS, Fenton Township is located in Murray County, Minnesota and lies within the identified study area for this project. Current route information indicated that several miles of the proposed transmission line would follow minimum-maintenance roads within the township that the Township does not currently grade or gravel on a seasonal basis or plow snow from; and

WHEREAS, the Township board is concerned that construction and long-term maintenance access for a 765kV transmission line will require these minimum-maintenance roads to be upgraded and maintained to a high 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 baseline residential, commercial, and agricultural demand; and

WHEREAS, residents of Fenton 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 agriculture drain tile systems, soil compaction on crop land, the use of eminent domain to accept 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 sites closer to demand, have been fully explored and ruled out;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fenton Township Board formally opposes the Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765kV 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 attributed 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 765kV transmission line, including transmission system upgrades, lower-voltage transmission lines, and generation sites closer to 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 legislatures and the 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution does not constitute the Township's position on any specific 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 mike Kluis.

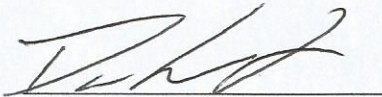
Seconded by Kurt Talsma, and upon vote being taken there on, the following voted in favor thereof:

mike Kluis, Kurt Talsma, Dave Swart;

And the following voted against the same:

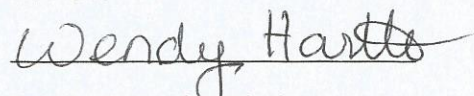
none;

whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted on this 30 day of September, 2026.



Fenton Township Chair

ATTEST:



Fenton Township Clerk

Fenton Township, Murray County, Minnesota

August 29, 2026

Fenton Township Board, Murray County, Minnesota and its constituents demand PowerOn Midwest immediately remove our township from proposed routing maps.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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

To the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and PowerOn Midwest Leadership:

The Fenton 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 Fenton Township. Fenton Township passed a resolution opposing this project. Said resolution is attached. The proposed 765kV transmission lines and supporting infrastructure will severely degrade Fenton Township in numerous ways:

Township Roads, Maintenance Costs: The proposed transmission lines and supporting infrastructure would follow minimum maintenance roads within the township that Fenton Township does not grade or gravel. The Township is concerned that the construction and long-term maintenance access for the 765kV transmission lines will require these roads to be upgraded and maintained to a higher standard, resulting in new and unfunded recurring costs to the Township for gravel, snow removal and other road maintenance. The Township is concerned that the proposed transmission lines will cause a decrease in township population, resulting in further decreased funding to maintain Fenton Township.

Agriculture and Livestock: Fenton Township consists of vital, productive agricultural land. Placement of towers will fragment working farms, disrupt modern heavy equipment navigation, compact soil, and impede drainage systems. The large structures and ultra-high-voltage transmission lines create giant physical obstacles for manure dragline operators and aerial operators, where electromagnetic fields can cause GPS and flow control system malfunctions, which compromise 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 extra-high-voltage suspended power lines and tower structures can inflict deep bruising, fractures or fatal trauma on the livestock beneath. Additional concerns include 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 and Drainage: The construction of massive tower foundations and access roads across Fenton 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 generated by a 765kV transmission lines are documented to cause electromagnetic interference. This will disrupt critical farm equipment that relies on radio frequencies, including two-way radios used by farming crews, emergency services and modern precision agricultural systems that depend on clear GPS signals for planting and harvesting.

Streams, Wetlands, Wildlife, Birds, Pollinator Habitat, Scenic Viewsheds and Recreation: Installing 765kV transmission lines will permanently alter landscape, sedimentation, reduce view shed quality and impose EMP-related limitations on recreation use. Additionally, intense electromagnetic fields and wide right-of-way can alter habitat and navigation cues of wildlife, negatively impacting wildlife, including, but not limited to: Ring-Neck Pheasant, Bald Eagle, Grey Owl, and other birds of prey, Monarch Butterfly, Topeka Shiner Minnow, White Tail Deer and Wild Turkey within the area. An industrial transmission corridor will also cause massive view disruption, blight the landscape and ruin the recreational experience for Fenton Township residents and visitors.

Homes, Churches and Places of Business: Proximity to these power lines during construction and ongoing maintenance activities negatively impact Fenton Township property owner's rights to privacy, creates potential safety hazards and places an undue burden on our township residents. The proposed transmission lines would also limit the ability of township residents to expand their business or farming operations.

Noise and 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 Fenton Township residents currently enjoy.

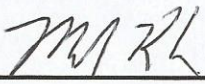
Property Values: The sheer scale and number of structures (5 towers per mile) will fundamentally alter the rural character of Fenton Township: The visual and audio disruption, as well as the potential for health risks, will lead to a substantial and permanent decline in property values for homes, farms and places of business.

Given these irreversible and severe negative impacts of the proposed 765kV transmission lines and supportive infrastructures, Fenton Township Board urges PowerOn Midwest to halt current planning in Fenton Township and remove Fenton Township from all proposed routing maps.

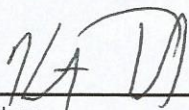
Sincerely,

X 

David Swart
Fenton Township Chairman

X 

Mike Kluis
Fenton Township Supervisor

X 

Kurt Talsma
Fenton Township Supervisor

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:15:14 AM

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Name *	Fenton Township
Address	☐ 660 41st Street CHANDLER, MN 56122 United States
Phone Number	(507) 220-0233
Email	whartle6@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number. *	25-117
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Fenton Township, Murray County Minnesota is opposed to the routing and construction of the 765V transmission lines in Fenton Township.
Attach a File	 scan0019.jpg 461.19 KB • JPG
Attach a File	 scan0020.jpg 539.02 KB • JPG
Attach a File	 scan0021.jpg 383.94 KB • JPG
Attach a File	 scan0022.jpg 530.35 KB • JPG

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:17:13 AM

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Name *	Fenton Township
Address	☐ 660 41st St CHANDLER, MN 56122 United States
Phone Number	(507) 220-0233
Email	whartle6@gmail.com
Provide the docket's number. *	25-117
Leave a comment on the docket. *	Fenton Township is opposed to the construction of the 765V transmission lines. Attached is the last page of our Township resolution.
Attach a File	 scan0023.jpg 439.89 KB • JPG