

From: [Leann Jeffers](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Resolution 2026-001 Lorain Township - Docket E002, ET2, ET6675/ CN-25-117
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026 10:23:04 AM
Attachments: [Lorain Resolution 2026-001.pdf](#)

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We ask that the signed copy of resolution 2026-001 for Lorain Township be entered into the official records for the PowerOn Midwest project, Docket E002, ET2, ET6675/ CN-25-117.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Leann Jeffers ~Lorain Township Clerk

Lorain Township, Nobles County, Minnesota

September 17, 2026

Lorain Township Board, Nobles County, Minnesota urges PowerOn Midwest to halt current planning in our area and remove Lorain Township from all proposed routing maps.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East Suite 350

St. Paul MN 55101

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

To the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and PowerOn Midwest Leadership:

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

Township Roads, Maintenance Costs: The proposed transmission lines and supporting infrastructure would follow minimum maintenance roads with the township that Lorain Township does not grade or gravel. The Township is concerned that construction and long-term maintenance access for the 765 kV transmission lines 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 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 Lorain Township.

Agriculture and Livestock: Lorain 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 the manure dragline operators and aerial operators, 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 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 and Drainage: The construction of massive tower foundations and access roads across Lorain Township threatens to alter natural water flow, cause severe soil erosion, and disrupt established agricultural drainage and tiling systems.

Interference with Radio and GPS communications: The intense electromagnetic fields generated by a 765 kV 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 farming 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 765 kV transmission lines will permanently alter landscape, sedimentation, reduce view shed quality and impose EMP-related limitations on recreational 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: Red-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 recreational experiences for Lorain Township residents and visitors.

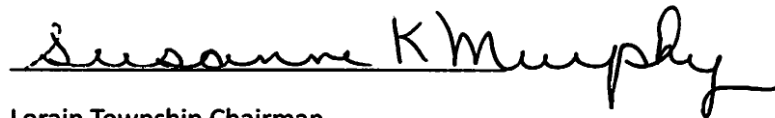
Homes, Churches and Places of Business: Proximity to these lines during construction and ongoing maintenance activities negatively impact Lorain Township property owner's right to privacy, creates potential safety hazards and places an undue burden on our township residents. The proposed transmission 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 rural benefits and quiet atmosphere that Lorain Township residents currently enjoy.

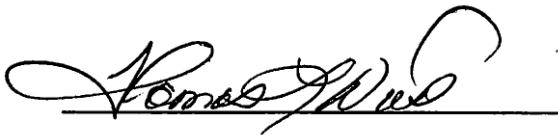
Property Values: The sheer scale and number of structures (5 towers per mile) will fundamentally alter the rural character of Lorain Township. The visual and audio disruption, as well as the potential for health risks, will lead to a substantial and permanent decline in property values for homes, farms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

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

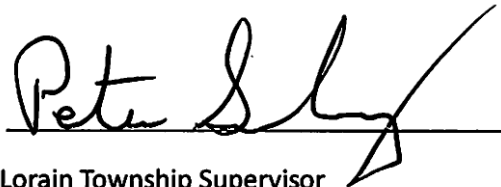
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susanne K. Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

Lorain Township Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose Marie", written over a horizontal line.

Lorain Township Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete", written over a horizontal line.

Lorain Township Supervisor

Lorain Township Board, Nobles County, Minnesota

Resolution No.: 2026-001

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

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

WHEREAS, The Township is concerned that construction and long-term maintenance access for the 765 kV transmission lines 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 gravel, snow removal 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 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 the future load growth is substantially attributable to data centers, and other large single-site loads, rather than a baseline residential, commercial, and agricultural demand; and

WHEREAS, residents of Lorain 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 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 sites closer to demand, have been fully explored and ruled out;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain 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 attributed to data centers or other large single-site loads;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lorain 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 Lorain 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 Lorain 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 Docket No. 25-117, and to the Township's state legislature and the Nobles 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 separate comment addressing route-specific concerns once route alternatives are finalized.

The foregoing Resolution was moved by THOMAS L. WIESE

Seconded by Susanne K Murphy, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Thomas Wiese Susanne Murphy Pete Suby

And the following voted against the same:

None

Whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted on this Sept 23, 2026

Day of September, 2026

ATTEST:

Susanne K Murphy
Lorain Township Board Chair

Thomas Wiese
Lorain Township Clerk