



Murray County Board of Commissioners
2848 Broadway Ave.
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Slayton, MN 56172

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 1, 2026**

Commissioner Carlson presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-01-01
A RESOLUTION OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED “POWERON MIDWEST 765 KV AND 345 KV”
TRANSMISSION PROJECT WITHIN MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, Great River Energy, and ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest) (collectively, “Applicants”) have filed a Joint Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”) for a Certificate of Need (MPUC Docket No. E002, Et2, ET6675/CN-25-117) for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV Project, which includes approximately 275 miles of 765 kV new single-circuit transmission line proposed between South Dakota/Minnesota Border – Lakefield Junction Substation (Jackson County); and

WHEREAS, According to the Application, the 765 kV structures would typically range from approximately 150 to 175 feet in height, spaced approximately 1,200 to 1,400 feet apart, and require up to an approximately 250-foot-wide right-of-way (125 feet each side from the centerline); and

WHEREAS, MISO’s Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) for Tranche 2.1, includes 24 projects and 323 facilities across the MISO Midwest subregion estimated at \$21.8 billion, and states the facilities are targeted to go in service from 2032 to 2034; and

WHEREAS, The Application states that the Project was approved by MISO as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 portfolio and is designed to address regional reliability, economic, and generation transition objectives; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 provide that a Certificate of Need may only be granted if, by a preponderance of the evidence, the proposed facility will provide benefits to society in a manner compatible with protecting the natural and socioeconomic environments, including human health, and that the project will comply with relevant local policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes § 394, Subd. 9 “Comprehensive plan” means the policies, statements, goals, and interrelated plans for private and public land and water use, transportation, and community facilities including recommendations for plan execution, documented in texts, ordinances and maps which constitute the guide for the future development of the county or any portion of the county; and

WHEREAS, A Comprehensive Land Use Plan is a long-range policy document that establishes values, goals and policies for addressing land use and development issues for the County relating to land use elements, agricultural and environmental protection, economic development, parks and trails, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Murray County has adopted its Comprehensive Land Use Plan by ordinance, which recognizes:

1. The cultural and economic importance of agriculture, including the large amount of prime farmland,
2. The preservation of scenic and natural landscapes,
3. The protection of environmentally sensitive areas, including areas designated as native prairie, and wellhead protection areas or drinking water supply management areas,
4. The priority of natural resource protection over large-scale infrastructure expansion to ensure Murray County is an attractive and aesthetically pleasing place to live; and

WHEREAS, Murray County Residents are in danger of losing some of their cultural and historically significant resources due to the expansion or construction of new infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Project would introduce the largest alternating current transmission voltage currently operating in the United States (765 kV) into Murray County; and

WHEREAS, The Application acknowledges potential impacts including electric and magnetic fields (EMF), noise, corona discharge, agricultural disruption, and environmental impacts, but long-term localized effects on Murray County's agricultural economy, property values, historic and culturally significant resources, and tourism-dependent landscape remain disputed and unresolved; and

WHEREAS, Murray County residents, landowners, and agricultural producers have expressed significant concerns including but not limited to:

1. Potential human health impacts.
2. Potential contamination of the City of Iona's well due to tower proximity to Iona's Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA).
3. EMF exposure.
4. Audible noise and corona effects.
5. Stray voltage.
6. Agricultural land fragmentation and loss of productivity.
7. Potential loss of homes and farms.
8. Property value depreciation.
9. Visual and aesthetic impacts to the landscape.
10. Wildlife and livestock impacts.
11. Tourism impacts.
12. Eminent domain concerns.
13. Road damage and construction impacts.
14. Adequacy of public engagement and transparency.
15. Whether the Project delivers demonstrable, direct benefit to Murray County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1. Opposition

The Murray County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the proposed routing of the 765 kV PowerOn Midwest transmission facilities within Murray County unless and until it is conclusively demonstrated through the MPUC process that:

1. The Project is the least-impactful alternative and is explicitly proven to provide Murray County residents with direct benefits.
2. No reasonable lower-voltage or non-wire alternatives exist.
3. The Project fully complies with Murray County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
4. Local environmental, agricultural, and socioeconomic impacts are minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

Section 2. Environmental and Local Review

Murray County formally requests:

1. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and mitigation plan with local review that includes Murray County-specific agricultural, groundwater, wildlife, scenic, historic and culturally significant resources, tourism, and property value analyses.
2. Detailed modeling of EMF, audible noise, and corona discharge at residential setbacks.
3. Minimum dwelling setback for all residences in Murray County of 750 feet (3 times the required easement area).
4. Minimum DWSMA setback of one (1) mile for any 765 kV transmission line tower.
5. Independent Agricultural Impact Assessment specific to prime farmlands, soils and topography.
6. Full disclosure of anticipated right-of-way acquisition impacts within the County.
7. Early sharing of the Route Permit Application prior to formal filing.

Section 3. Information Requested from Applicants

Murray County requests that the Applicants provide, in written and publicly accessible form on or before October 1, 2026, or prior to Route Permit Application submittal:

1. A breakdown of cost allocation by state and rate class.
2. Documentation of no negative human health impacts, including, but not limited to, impacts to individuals with pacemakers.
3. Documentation of potential impacts to livestock, how impacts would be monitored after construction is completed and lines are energized, and how livestock producers would be compensated.
4. Documentation of Minnesota residential rate impacts resulting from this project projected over 1, 10, and 20 years.
5. A list of specific quantified economic benefits projected for Murray County.
6. Detailed alternative route analysis considered for Murray County, including, but not limited to, less impactful alternatives like advanced transmission technologies (ATTs), grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), and distributed energy resources (DERs).
7. Documentation of distributed energy resource assumptions used in load forecasts (Years 1, 10, and 20).
8. A list of prior combined 765 kV / 161 kV double-circuit installations constructed by the Applicants.
9. Road use agreements, construction practices, and infrastructure protection commitments to minimize risk and damages.
10. A clear explanation of eminent domain authority and compensation standards.

Section 4. Preservation of Local Authority

Murray County asserts its right to:

1. Participate as a party in MPUC proceedings,
2. Submit formal comments and expert testimony,
3. Protect its Comprehensive Land Use Plan,
4. Advocate for agricultural land preservation,
5. Protect the Native Prairie landscape and tourism economy,
6. Protect residents' property rights.

Section 5. Transmission of Resolution

The County Zoning/Environmental Administrator is directed to transmit this Resolution to:

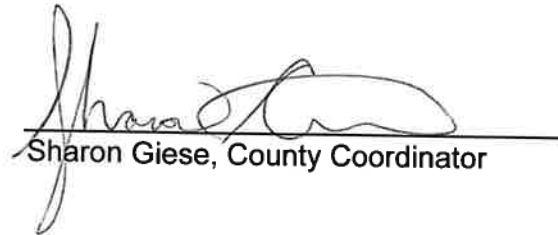
1. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
2. Minnesota Department of Commerce
3. MISO
4. The Governor of Minnesota

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and thereupon put to a vote all members voted for its adoption. Motion passed.

I, Sharon Giese, County Coordinator of the County of Murray, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy represents a true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in Murray County.

Dated: September 1, 2026

ATTEST:



Sharon Giese, County Coordinator