

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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*"In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for
Individuals, families, and communities by fostering a
Healthy economy and environment"*

Looking forward with purpose"



September 23, 2026

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Docket No. E002, Et2, ET6677/CN-25-117
121 7th Place East, Suite #350
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: PowerOn Midwest (Xcel, ITC, MISO) – 765kV Transmission Infrastructure Project (25-117)

Dear Chair Sieben,

The Nobles County Board of Commissioners invited members of PowerOn Midwest and area Townships to their September 22, 2026 Board Meeting. The mission for that day was to hold good discussion and for everyone to obtain information about the PowerOn Midwest 765kV Transmission project (Docket 25-117). Good discussion and information were accomplished and everyone was appreciative of having their testimony heard.

Concerns remain in Nobles County regarding this project. Resolution 202631 was adopted by the Nobles County Commissioners. As directed as part of the Resolution, I am to forward a copy to you to share the language, the concerns, and to add to the questions for the various studies being performed.

Thank you for accepting receipt of this Resolution. Please contact me if you have your own inquiries in regards to the public bodies within Nobles County.

Sincerely,

Bruce Heitkamp
County Administrator

Enc. Nobles County Resolution 202631

**NOBLES COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 202631**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NOBLES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ILLUSTRATING
CONCERNS OVER THE PROPOSED 765 kV "POWERON MIDWEST 765 KV" TRANSMISSION
PROJECT WITHIN NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Nobles County recognizes the importance of reliable energy infrastructure but also affirms the need to protect local interests, private property rights, and the long-term viability of agriculture, which is central to Nobles County's economy and identity; and

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), which includes 275 miles of PowerOn Midwest 765 kV, new single-circuit transmission infrastructure, proposed between the South Dakota/Minnesota Border and the Lakefield Junction Substation (within Jackson County); and

WHEREAS, according to the PowerOn Midwest 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, PowerOn Midwest's Application acknowledges potential impacts including electric and magnetic fields (EMF), noise, corona discharge, agricultural disruption, and environmental impacts with long-term localized effects on Nobles County's agricultural economy, property values, historic and culturally significant resources, and tourism-dependent landscape remaining disputed and unresolved; and

WHEREAS, residents, farmers, and landowners of Nobles County have expressed significant concerns regarding the proposed PowerOn Midwest 765 kV electric transmission infrastructure, including but not limited to impacts on private property rights, agricultural productivity, drainage systems, aerial spraying, livestock operations, and long-term land use; and

WHEREAS, Nobles County residents are in danger of losing some of their cultural and historically significant resources due to the expansion or construction of this new infrastructure, being introduced as the highest nominal alternating voltage level operating in the United States (765 kV); and

WHEREAS, landowners throughout S.W. Minnesota have also raised concerns about the use of eminent domain, compensation fairness, and the long-term burden of easements that may permanently restrict land use and reduce property value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Nobles County Board of Commissioners formally supports and share in the concerns raised by citizens and landowners regarding the proposed PowerOn Midwest 765 kV transmission line; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Nobles County urges state and federal regulators, including the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to ensure:

Section 1. Opposition

The Nobles County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the proposed routing of the 765 kV PowerOn Midwest transmission facilities within Nobles 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 Nobles County residents with direct benefits.
2. No reasonable lower-voltage or non-wire alternatives exist.
3. The Project fully complies with Nobles 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

Nobles County formally requests:

1. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and mitigation plan with local review that includes Nobles 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 Nobles County of 750 feet (3 times the required easement area).
4. Minimum total confinement livestock structures setback of 500 feet
5. Minimum DWSMA setback of one (1) mile for any 765 kV transmission line tower.
6. Independent Agricultural Impact Assessment specific to prime farmlands, soils, Topography, and public & private drainage systems (respectively).
7. Full disclosure of anticipated right-of-way acquisition impacts within Nobles County.
8. Early sharing of the Route Permit Application prior to formal filing.

Section 3. Information Requested from Applicants

Nobles County requests the Applicants provide, in written and on publicly accessible forms, Route Permit Application submittals:

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 and other electronic implant devices (hearing, etc.).
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 Nobles County.
6. Detailed alternative route analysis considered for Nobles 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

Nobles 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 Administrator is directed to transmit this Resolution to:

1. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
2. Minnesota Department of Commerce
3. Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)
4. The Governor of Minnesota

Adopted by the Nobles County Board of Commissioners this 22nd day of September 2026.

Signed:



Chris Dybeveck, Board Chair

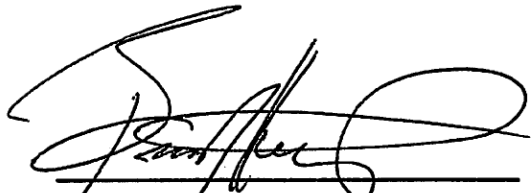
CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
 (ss
COUNTY OF NOBLES)

I, Bruce Heitkamp, Administrator of said County of Nobles, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution adopted by the County Board on the 22nd day of September, 2026 and now remaining on file and of record in my office and that the same is a correct transcript and of the whole of such original.

Witness my hand and official seal this 22nd day of September, 2026

SEAL



Bruce Heitkamp, County Administrator
Nobles County, Minnesota