PETERSBURG TOWNSHIP
Jackson County, Minnesota

26-07 RESOLUTION
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED POWERON MIDWEST 765kV ELECTRIC TRANSMISION LINE ROUTES THROUGH PETERSBURG TOWNSHIP JACKSON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest has submitted an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC Docket #25-117) for a portfolio of high-voltage electric transmission projects throughout eastern South Dakota and southern Minnesota, including in Petersburg Township, Jackson County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, PowerOn Midwest has identified the following routes through Petersburg Township, Jackson County, Minnesota to construct a 765kV electric transmission line requiring a 250-foot-wide right-of-way and structures with heights ranging from 150-175 feet and width from 135-145 feet; and

WHEREAS, Petersburg Township, located in Jackson 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 gravel roads within the township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is concerned that construction and long-term maintenance access for a 765 kV transmission line will require these gravel 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, 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 Petersburg 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 Petersburg 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 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 roads within the study area 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 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 Jackson 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.

Upon being put to a vote, the following supervisors voted in favor of said Resolution:

☒ Greg ALLEN JEFFERY JOHNSON ELDON POTTOFF

WHEREUPON, the Resolution is declared to be duly passed and adopted on this 14[11] day of September.

Supervisor

Attest:

Marie Pell, Clerk

PETERSBURG TOWNSHIP
Jackson County, Minnesota

October 29, 2026

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, suite #350
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Consumer.puc@state.mn.us
Scott.ek@state.mn.us

PowerOn Midwest
5115 Excelsior Blvd #113
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com

RE: PowerOn Midwest 765kv Transmission Routing in Petersburg Township, Jackson County, Minnesota

To the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MOUC) and PowerOn Midwest Project Leadership,

The Petersburg 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 Petersburg Township. On September 14, 2026, the Board passed a resolution opposing this project as the 765kV transmission lines and the massive supporting infrastructure will severely degrade our area in numerous ways:

- Agriculture & Livestock: Our community consists of vital, productive agricultural land. The placement of towers will fragment working farms, disrupt modern heavy-equipment navigation, compact soils, and impede drainage systems. The large structures and ultra-high voltage transmission lines create giant physical obstacles to manure dragline operators and aerial applicators, 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 directly 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, behavior, or tower structure failure.

- O Water Flow & Drainage: The construction of massive tower foundations and access roads across the township threatens to alter natural water flow, cause severe soil erosion, and disrupt established agricultural drainage and tiling systems.

- o Interference with Radio and GPS Communication: The intense electromagnetic fields (EMF) generated by a 765kV 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 farm crews, emergency services, and modern precision agriculture systems that depend on clear GPS signals for planting and harvesting.

- o Streams, Wetlands, Wildlife, Birds, Pollinator Habitat, Scenic Viewsheds, and Recreation: installing a 765-kV transmission line permanently alters the local landscape. Massive towers and 250-foot rights-of-way cause habitat fragmentation, waterway sedimentation, reduced viewshed quality, and impose potential EMF-related limitations on recreational use. Additionally, intense Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) and wide rights-of-way can alter habitat and navigational cues of wildlife, negatively impacting wildlife including, but not limited to: Ring-necked Pheasant, Monarch Butterfly, Topeka Shiner Minnow, Blanding's Turtle within the area. An industrial transmission corridor will also cause massive view disruption, blight the landscape, and ruin the recreation experience for residents and visitors.

- O Homes, Farms, Churches, and Places of Businesses: Proximity to these lines during construction and ongoing maintenance activities negatively impacts our property owners' rights to privacy, creates potential safety hazards, and places an undue burden on community institutions such as our farms, local churches, and small businesses.

- o Noise & 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 our residents currently enjoy.

- o Property Values: The sheer scale and number of structures (5 towers per mile) will fundamentally alter the rural character of our 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, working farms, and places of business.

Given these irreversible and severe negative impacts, the Petersburg Township Board urges PowerOn Midwest to halt current planning in our area and remove Petersburg Township from all proposed routing maps.

The attached resolution of our community's concerns will be fully documented and addressed in the public record.

Sincerely,

The Petersburg Township Board of Supervisors

Jackson County, Minnesota