

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON
CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION COMPLETENESS**

Issued: *January 19, 2018*

In the Matter of the Huntley-Wilmarth 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Faribault, Martin, Blue Earth, and Nicollet Counties

PUC Docket Number(s): E002, ET6675/CN-17-184

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes February 2, 2018 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes February 14, 2018 at 4:30pm

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Does the Huntley-Wilmarth certificate of need application contain the information required under Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 as modified by the Commission's September 1, 2017 Order which authorized exemptions to certain filing requirements?
- Are there any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made
- Should the application be evaluated using the Commission's informal process or referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background: On January 17, 2018 Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest, LLC (Applicants) filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a certificate of need application in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.

The Applicants are proposing to construct approximately 50 miles of 345 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy's existing Wilmarth Substation north of Mankato, Minnesota and ITC Midwest's Huntley Substation, currently under construction, south of Winnebago, Minnesota and the necessary modifications to the substations to accommodate the proposed line. The project has been approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) as a Market Efficiency Project. The proposed project is a large energy facility as defined by Minnesota Statute § 216B.2421, subdivision 2 (3), because it is a transmission line with a capacity of 100 kV or more with more than 10 miles of length in Minnesota. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute, § 216B.243, subdivision 2, no large energy facility shall be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the Commission.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties,

participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!* or click [HERE](#) to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (17) and the docket number (184), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Tricia DeBleeckere, at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Jamie Eschbach at 651-201-2204.

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