

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN FILING REQUIREMENTS

Issued: July 19, 2017

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest, LLC for a Certificate of Need for 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 August 3, 2017 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes August 10, 2017 at 4:30pm

Topic/s Open for Comment:

- Should the Commission grant the exemption request?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Project Background: On July 14, 2017, Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest, LLC (Applicants) filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission), a request for exemption from certain certificate of need application content requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. Under Minnesota Rule 7849.0200, subpart 6, an applicant may request exemption from any data requirements of Minnesota Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.0400, if it can demonstrate that the data requirement is unnecessary to determine the need for the proposed facility or may be satisfied by submitting another document. Applicants anticipate filing a certificate of need application in late 2017.

The Applicants are proposing to construct approximately 40-50 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, near Winnebago, Minnesota. 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 (2), because it is a transmission line with a capacity of 200 kV or more and greater than 1,500 feet length. 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.

The Applicants are requesting exemptions from the following application content requirements of Minnesota Rules chapter 7849:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Promotional Activities | Minnesota Rule 7849.0240, Subp. 2 (B) |
| • Effects on Rates Systemwide | Minnesota Rule 7849.0260 (C)(5) |
| • Expected Losses | Minnesota Rule 7849.0260 (A)(3) and (C)(6) |

- System Map Minnesota Rule 7849.0260 (D)
- Forecasting Minnesota Rule 7849.0270, Subp. 2 (A-D, F) and Subp. 3-5
- System Capacity Minnesota Rule 7849.0280 (B-I)
- Conservation Minnesota Rule 7849.0290
- Consequences of Delay Minnesota Rule 7849.0300
- No Facility Alternative Minnesota Rule 7849.0340

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!*, 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 - 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*, and follow the prompts.

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

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

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.