



October 8, 2024

Comments from the IBEW

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Minnesota Energy Connection Project

In the Matter of Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications for the Minnesota Energy Connection Project in Sherburne, Stearns, Kandiyohi, Wright, Meeker, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, and Lyon counties in Minnesota (PUC Docket Number: E-002/CN-22-131)

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

The Minnesota International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) appreciates the opportunity provided by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to comment on Xcel Energy's application for a Certificate of Need for the Minnesota Energy Connection (MEC), a proposed transmission line from the Sherburne County Generating Station (Sherco) to Lyon County, Minnesota.

Our members have built and maintained most of the electric infrastructure in Minnesota. As a result, the IBEW understands how important this project is for the increasingly congested grid in Minnesota. Therefore, we strongly support the timely approval and construction of the Minnesota Energy Connection. We believe the project is essential to relieve existing

transmission congestion and to support the development of renewable energy in Southwest Minnesota. The project will also benefit Xcel ratepayers by providing access to the affordable wind, solar and storage resources in Southwest Minnesota.

Finally, we believe the Minnesota Energy Connection will provide hundreds of high-quality jobs for IBEW members, not only during the construction and maintenance of the line, but also during the construction, maintenance and operation of wind, solar and battery storage, as well as other grid construction and connections.

In recent years, the Minnesota Legislature has passed bipartisan legislation requiring prevailing wage on state-funded energy projects. Both bodies have also passed laws making sure that utilities and contractors work closely with trade unions as the state approaches the 2040 100% Clean Energy Standard. We ask that the Commission provide accountability to ensure that impacted workers and communities share in the benefits from the shift in how we generate and distribute energy in Minnesota.

Again, we thank Commissioners for the opportunity to comment on the Minnesota Energy Connection.

Dated: September 6, 2024
Respectfully Submitted,

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