

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie J. Sieben  
Hwikwon Ham  
Valerie Means  
Joseph K. Sullivan  
John A. Tuma

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

**In the Matter of the Application of  
Dairyland Power Cooperative for a  
Certificate of Need for the Wabasha  
Relocation 161 kV Transmission Line  
Project in Wabasha County, Minnesota**

MPUC Docket No. ET3/CN-23-504

**SUMMARY OF FILING**

On March 27, 2024, Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) filed a Joint Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application (Joint Application) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit to relocate approximately 13.3 miles of 161-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line and construct a new substation (the Wabasha Relocation Project, or the Project).

The Project is a relocation of approximately 10.4 miles of Dairyland's existing LQ34 line, which presently connects to the Wabaco Substation (located approximately 2 miles south of the Town of Plainview) and to the Alma Substation (located on the east side of the Mississippi River in Wisconsin). The Project starts in Plainview Township, northeast of the Town of Plainview, and traverses northeast through Highland, Watopa, and Greenfield Townships, and ends at a new 161/69-kV substation east of the City of Kellogg in Wabasha County, Minnesota near the Mississippi River. No construction is contemplated across the Mississippi River as a part of this Project.

The LQ34 line was originally built in 1955. In 2012, the portion of the LQ34 corridor between the Town of Plainview and the City of Kellogg was approved as the route for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project (CapX2020).<sup>1</sup> The CapX2020 project was co-located with the Dairyland LQ34 line in this 10-mile corridor as a double circuit (161-/345-kV) transmission line carrying both the Dairyland 161-kV line and the CapX2020 345-kV line. Recognizing future capacity needs, all the CapX2020 lines were constructed to be capable of carrying two circuits of 345-kV lines.

In July 2022, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) approved a long-range transmission plan (LRTP) including a new Wilmarth-North Rochester-Tremval transmission line.<sup>2</sup> This new 345-kV line, referred to as the Mankato to Mississippi River 345-kV Transmission Project in Minnesota, would utilize the double circuit capability of the CapX2020 system between

---

<sup>1</sup> Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/long-range-transmission-planning/>

North Rochester and Alma, Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the Dairyland 161-kV circuit must be relocated from the CapX2020 structures to make room for a new, second 345-kV circuit on the existing CapX2020 structures.<sup>4</sup>

Dairyland's 161-kV transmission line must be relocated so that it may continue to supply power to the Wabaco Substation, which maintains reliability by providing power to the Town of Plainview and neighboring areas, following execution of the new Mankato to Mississippi River 345-kV Transmission Project. The new Kellogg Substation is required because the new Mankato to Mississippi River 345-kV Transmission Project's circuit across the Mississippi River will eliminate Dairyland's existing LN340 69-kV transmission line Mississippi River crossing and connection into the Alma Substation in Wisconsin. The new Kellogg Substation will then supply the local 69-kV transmission system in the area. Finally, relocating the 161-kV line maintains existing transmission capacity and generation outlet provided by the existing transmission line. Overall, the Project proposes to maintain the electrical capabilities of existing transmission system in addition to making way for the new 345-kV line (Mankato to Mississippi River 345-kV Transmission Project) to use the existing infrastructure already capable of carrying a new 345-kV transmission line.

The Application is available on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's e-Dockets webpage under the docket number listed above. It is also available on Dairyland's Project website: <https://www.dairylandpower.com/wabasha-relocation-project>.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://mmrtpproject.com/>

<sup>4</sup> Docket No. E002/CN-22-532.