

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben	Chair
Hwikwon Ham	Commissioner
Audrey C. Partridge	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE IRON RANGE
– ST. LOUIS COUNTY – ARROWHEAD 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Docket No. E015 /CN-25-111

SUMMARY OF FILING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, Minnesota Power and American Transmission Company, LLC by and through its corporate manager ATC Management Inc. (“ATC”) (collectively, the “Applicants”) have submitted an application for a Certificate of Need for the Iron Range – St. Louis County – Arrowhead 345 kV Transmission Line Project (“Project”). The Applicants are providing this summary of the Certificate of Need filing pursuant to Minn. R. 7829.2500, Subp. 2.

The Project was studied, reviewed, and approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (“MISO”) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning (“LRTP”) Tranche 2.1 portfolio of projects included in MISO’s 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (“MTEP24”). The Project, as part of the LRTP Tranche 2.1 portfolio, is needed to enhance grid reliability in the Upper Midwest as grid operating conditions become more variable, to increase grid efficiency and regional transfer capability as energy is transferred from where it is produced to where it is needed, and to meet the growing demand for reliable clean energy in the Upper Midwest.

The Project consists of construction of a new 345 kV double-circuit capable transmission line connecting Minnesota Power’s Iron Range Substation, Minnesota Power’s St. Louis County Substation, and ATC’s Arrowhead Substation. The Project makes extensive use of existing high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way by following along or replacing existing high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way for 92 percent of its 67.5-mile length. The modifications proposed at the Iron Range Substation will not require expansion of the fence line. The modifications proposed at the St. Louis County and Arrowhead Substations will require expansions to accommodate the necessary additional equipment for the Project.

To meet the needs that MISO has identified for the Project, the 800 MVA limitation imposed by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board¹ on the transformers at ATC's Arrowhead Substation as part of the 2001 Arrowhead – Weston 345 kV proceedings would need to be removed. The Applicants have requested and included support for the removal of the 800 MVA limitation in the Project's Certificate of Need Application.

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 the Project webpage at: <https://isatransmissionproject.com/>.

¹ In 2001, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board was responsible for the siting of high-voltage transmission facilities in Minnesota. Effective July 1, 2005, transmission line routing authority was transferred from the Environmental Quality Board to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. 2005 Sess. Law 97, art. 3.