

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 MAPLE
RIVER - CUYUNA 345 kV TRANSMISSION
LINE PROJECT

Docket No. E015,ET2,E017/CN-25-109

SUMMARY OF FILING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, and Otter Tail Power Company (collectively, “Applicants”) have submitted an application for a Certificate of Need for the Maple River – Cuyuna 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 support the reliability of the regional transmission system, particularly in northern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota; provide additional transmission capacity and regional transfer capability to reliably integrate future generation resources; meet growing electrical demand, enhance resiliency during extreme weather events, and enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations.

The Project consists of construction of a new 345 kV double-circuit transmission line, operated initially as a single-circuit transmission line, connecting Minnesota Power’s Cuyuna Substation in Crow Wing County to Otter Tail Power Company’s Maple River Substation in Cass County, North Dakota. The transmission line is currently estimated to be approximately 160-180 miles in length, depending on continuing route development. The Cuyuna Substation will remain owned by Minnesota Power. The Maple River Substation will remain owned by Otter Tail Power Company. Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy will jointly own the 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 the Project webpage at: <https://mrctransmissionproject.com/>.