

**NEW DECISION OPTION
Proposed by Commissioner Tuma
February 05, 2026**

DOCKET NUMBER E002/CN-22-532; E002/TL-23-157

ANALYST Cezar Panait

DATE/TIME SUBMITTED January 27, 2026 10:45 AM

TITLE Tuma NEW 12B

ATTACHMENT No

SUBJECT In the matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Mankato - Mississippi 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Southeast Minnesota.

Tuma NEW 12B - Modify Permit Section 5.3.16 as follows:

5.3.16 Avian Protection

The Permittee in cooperation with the DNR shall identify areas of the transmission line where bird flight diverters will be incorporated into the transmission line design to prevent large avian collisions attributed to visibility issues. Standard transmission design shall incorporate adequate spacing of conductors and grounding devices in accordance with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards to eliminate the risk of electrocution to raptors with larger wingspans that may simultaneously come in contact with a conductor and grounding devices. **In pre-construction planning the Permittee shall work with DNR to identify existing raptor nests on structures that will be impacted or removed, and on strategies to mitigate impacts on nesting raptors.** The Permittee shall submit documentation of its avian protection coordination with the plan and profile pursuant to Section 9.2.