

Re: COMMENTS ON Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Certificates of Need and Site and Route Permits for Large Electric Power Plants and High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to request a hearing in the rulemaking you are conducting on Certificates of Need, Powerplant Siting, and Route Permits for High-Voltage Transmission Lines. I oppose the proposed amendments in their entirety.

While the rules mention the “effects of the proposed facility upon the natural and socioeconomic environments” including “human health,”, they do not require any assessment or consideration by the PUC regarding the cumulative impacts of the project, or how it would affect communities that suffer from legacy pollution and environmental harms. BIPOC and poor communities have been disproportionately harmed both by climate change and legacy pollution and it is vital that the PUC consider the environmental effects of the proposed rules on those communities.

The world is experiencing a climate crisis and it is critical that Commission rules include mechanisms for incorporating climate mitigation and adaption into its decision making. These rules fail to do so. The proposed rules do not require the PUC to include GHG emissions of their cumulative impact on climate change in deciding whether to allow a project to proceed.

For these reasons and many more, I oppose these rules and request a public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

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