



Goodhue County SWCD

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Sam Weaver

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

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Xcel Energy & Echo Zone LLC Route Permit for The North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Goodhue County, Minnesota

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

Please accept the following comments from Goodhue SWCD regarding the North Rochester to Skyway 345 kilovolt Transmission Line Project outlined in your letter dated June 2, 2026.

Wetland Avoidance

There is an identified wetland within and to the east of the proposed project area for the North Rochester Substation Expansion Area. Please ensure compliance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, including adherence to avoidance requirements (Minnesota WCA Rule 8420.0100 Subp. 1C.), stating "avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands".

Delineation, avoidance/sequencing and mitigation may be needed to comply with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations to help avoid potential negative environmental impacts associated with this proposed transmission project.

Sincerely,

Ben Dvorak

Natural Resource Specialist/WCA LGU

Goodhue SWCD