

Kahlert, Kate (PUC)

From: David Hunter <hunte001@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Kahlert, Kate (PUC)
Subject: New PUC rules to allow certificate of need hearings without addressing climate or equity matters

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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, Minnesota Rules Chapters 7849 and 7850 and Governing Notice Plan Filing Requirements, Minnesota Rules, part 7829.2550; Request to Schedule a Rules Hearing; and Request to Review Additional Notice Plan; Including Repeal of Minn. R. 7829.2550; 7849.0230; 7849.0240; 7849.1100; 7849.1300; 7850.1600; 7850.2000; 7850.2600; 7850.2900; 7850.3000; 7850.3100; 7850.3200; 7850.3300; 7850.3400; 7850.3500; 7850.3600; 7850.4000; 7850.4200

Hello staff of the 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.

Given that we are in the grips of a global climate crisis it is entirely inappropriate for the Commission to update its rules without including any mechanisms for incorporating climate change mitigation or adaptation into its decision-making processes. The fact that these rules do nothing to protect Indigenous rights and environmental justice communities is further proof that the Commission's rulemaking process has been industry-captured and does not serve the public interest. All of our children's lives (including yours) hang in the balance. The Commission must not finalize these rules as proposed.

The Commission's duty is to protect Minnesotans including tribal nations from foreseeable risk, and these rules do nothing to protect us from the harms that menace us the most. Why the Commission would support industry control at the expense of the health of the public is incomprehensible.

For these reasons, I oppose these rules and request a public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The Commission should scrap these rules and start again, but this time protecting Minnesotans and our climate.

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