

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, AND 49L
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To: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
From: Jason George-Business Manager, Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49
Date: May 23, 2019
RE: Docket Numbers: IP6985/TL-17-701 (Route Permit); IP6985/WS-17-700 (Site Permit)

In the Matter of the Route Permit for the Blazing Star 2 Wind Farm 115 kV Transmission Line in Lincoln County.

In the Matter of the Site Permit for the up to 200 MW Blazing Star 2 Wind Farm in Lincoln County.

Issues: Should the Commission authorize the transfer of the site permit to Xcel Energy?
Should the Commission authorize the transfer of the route permit to Xcel Energy?

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49 represents 14,000 plus skilled operating engineers in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, including many that live in the vicinity of the proposed project. Local 49 urges the Commission to approve the site permit and route permit transfers requests proposed by Blazing Star 2 to Xcel Energy.

Please find the below responses for the "Topic(s) Open for Comment" in the order as they were listed on the NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON REQUEST FOR SITE AND ROUTE PERMIT TRANSFERS.

- Yes, the Commission should authorize the transfer of the site permit to Xcel Energy so that this project may move forward without delay.
- Yes, the Commission should authorize the transfer of the route permit to Xcel Energy so that this project may move forward without delay.
- Yes, the permittee (Blazing Star 2) has provided the name and description of the entity (Xcel Energy) to whom the permit is to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, the description of the facilities affected and the requested date of transfer. *See Document ID 20194-152374-01.* This document answers all of these questions.
- Yes, there is more than sufficient evidence on the record to determine that the new permittee (Xcel Energy) can comply with the conditions of the permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason A. George
Business Manager – Financial Secretary
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49