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Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:09 AM

To: Staff, CAO (PUC) <consumer.puc@state.mn.us>

Cc: Jason Walker <JasonW@swrdc.org>

Subject: SRDC Written Comments on Docket #: M999/M-19-205 2019 Biennial Transmission Projects Report. If ?s please contact Jason Walker at our office.

Southwest Regional Development Commission Project Review

Agenda Item: 7

Meeting Date: November 14, 2019

Project Name: 2019 Biennial Transmission Projects Report from the Minnesota Transmission Owners. MPUC Docket Number E-999/M-19-205.

Project Description: The Minnesota Transmission Owners group is comprised of fourteen utilities that own transmission lines in Minnesota. Every two years this group is required by Minnesota statute to submit a report that identifies the present and reasonably foreseeable transmission “inadequacies” in each of the six transmission zones in the state.

The report has chapters about transmission studies that have been done or are in progress, public participation or lack thereof, general information about the planning zones, itemized transmission needs (95 separate inadequacies total), profiles of each utility filing the report, and an analysis of the utilities’ progress toward compliance with state Renewable Energy Standards.

Staff Notes:

1. The Southwest Zone had two completed projects and seven needed projects which were:
 - a. Heron Lake Capacitors
 - b. Buffalo Ridge Cutover
 - c. Summit to Dovray 69 kV Rebuild
 - d. Dovray to Fulda 69 kV Rebuild
 - e. Fulda to Heron Lake 69 kV Rebuild
 - f. Lismore 115 kV Interconnection
 - g. Rutland Substation 161 kV Ring Bus Addition
2. In general, two of the largest obstacles to building more wind and solar projects are transmission constraints and storage to handle the intermittency of renewables. Improved transmission capacity and reliability would likely incentivize more renewable energy projects throughout the state.
3. This report and the previous reports are all available at www.minnelectrans.com if someone is interested in learning more.

Project Review Time: 2 hours

Income to the SRDC for this Review: \$0

Reviewer: Jason Walker, Development/Energy Planner