

December 13, 2024

VIA eFILING

Mr. Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Dairyland Power Cooperative for a Route Permit for a 161 kV Transmission Line in Fillmore County, Minnesota

MPUC Docket No. ET3/TL-24-95

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) respectfully submits these reply comments in response to the comments filed during the scoping comment period for the environmental assessment (EA) being prepared by the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff for the proposed Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project in Fillmore County, Minnesota (Project).

One agency, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), submitted scoping comments during the comment period ending December 3, 2024. No members of the public submitted written scoping comments.

Response to MDNR Scoping Comments

MDNR submitted comments dated December 3, 2024 regarding karst, calcareous fen, lighting, dust control, and wildlife-friendly erosion control.¹ To the extent the EA prepared for this Project evaluates these topics, Dairyland provides additional information and context to inform that analysis. Dairyland appreciates MDNR's comments and looks forward to continued coordination with MDNR.

1. Karst

MDNR recommended including a special permit condition requiring a karst survey plan and the development of a karst contingency plan prior to construction. Dairyland has no objection to karst considerations being studied in the EA, including evaluation of MDNR's proposed special condition as a route permit condition for the Project. To the extent that it is helpful for development of the EA, section 6.6.2 of the Application includes information regarding the

¹ MDNR Comments (December 3, 2024) (eDocket No. [202412-212653-01](#)).

presence of karst features in the vicinity of the Project, as well as potential impacts to, and proposed avoidance and/or minimization measures for, these features.²

2. Calcareous Fen

MDNR recommended including a special permit condition requiring Dairyland to work with MDNR to determine if any impacts to calcareous fen will occur during any phase of the Project, to develop a calcareous fen management plan in coordination with MDNR if the Project is anticipated to impact any calcareous fens.

Dairyland has no objection to the EA addressing the presence of calcareous fens and evaluating ways to mitigate impacts to these areas, including MDNR's proposed special condition being evaluated as a route permit condition for the Project. To the extent that it is helpful for development of the EA, sections 6.6.4.6 and 6.6.7.1 of the Application include information regarding the presence of calcareous fens in the vicinity of the Project, as well as potential impacts to, and proposed avoidance and/or minimization measures for, these features.³

3. Facility Lighting

MDNR recommended including a special permit condition similar to what was imposed in a recent docket regarding facility lighting. However, Dairyland notes that the proposed special condition, and the underlying concern, pertains to lighting at a substation and facilities associated with a substation.⁴ The Project does not include a substation or facilities associated with a substation in Minnesota, and therefore such a special permit condition is not applicable to this Project.

4. Dust Control

MDNR recommended including a special permit condition prohibiting the use of dust control products containing calcium chloride or magnesium chloride. Dairyland has no objection to the EA evaluating this as a route permit condition for the Project.

5. Wildlife-Friendly Erosion Control

MDNR recommended including a special condition related to the use of wildlife-friendly erosion control measures. Dairyland has no objection to this being studied in the EA.

² See Route Permit Application at 75-77 (August 26, 2024) (eDocket No. [20248-209763-02](#)).

³ See Route Permit Application at 81, 87-88 (August 26, 2024) (eDocket No. [20248-209763-02](#)).

⁴ See MDNR Comments at 2 (December 3, 2024) (eDocket No. [202412-212653-01](#)) and *In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Alexandria to Big Oaks 345 kV Transmission Project in Central Minnesota*, Docket No. TL-23-159, Route Permit at Special Condition 6.1 (October 30, 2024) (eDocket No. [202410-211465-01](#)).

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Conclusion

Dairyland appreciates EERA's review of these comments and is available to coordinate with EERA to provide any information EERA may need in its preparation of the EA for the Project. These reply comments have been e-filed today through www.edockets.state.mn.us. A copy of this filing is also being served upon the persons on the Official Service List of record. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

/s/ Bridget A. Duffus

Bridget A. Duffus

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**In the Matter of the Application of
Dairyland Power Cooperative for a Route
Permit for the Beaver Creek 161 kV
Transmission Line Project in Fillmore
County, Minnesota**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

MPUC Docket No. ET3/TL-24-95

Breann L. Jurek certifies that on the 13th day of December, 2024, she e-filed on behalf of Dairyland Power Cooperative a true and correct copy of its Scoping Reply Comment to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, via edockets (www.edockets.state.mn.us). Said documents were also served on the Official Service List on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, as attached hereto.

Executed on: December 13, 2024

Signed: /s/ Breann L. Jurek

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Justin	Chasco	jchasco@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		44 E. Mifflin Street Suite 1000 Madison WI, 53703 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
2	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
3	Bridget	Duffus	bduffus@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402-4400 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
4	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
5	Caleb J	Hefti	caleb.hefti@dairylandpower.com	Dairyland Power Cooperative		3200 East Ave. S. PO Box 817 La Crosse WI, 54602-0817 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
6	Breann	Jurek	bjurek@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron PA		60 S Sixth St Ste 1500 Minneapolis MN, 55402 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
7	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
8	Jessica A.	Sandry	jessica.sandry@dairylandpower.com	Dairyland Power Cooperative		3200 East Ave. S. PO Box 817 La Crosse WI, 54602-0817 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
9	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Pl E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		No	24-95Official CC Service List
10	Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates		7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield MN, 55423 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-95Official CC Service List
11	Suzanne	Todnem	suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us		Office of Administrative Hearings	600 Robert St N PO Box 64620 St. Paul MN, 55164 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	24-95Official CC Service List