

Comments from Operating Engineers Local 49 and North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

July 10, 2025

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Letter of Support for the Joint Application of Crane Energy Storage and Sandhill Energy Storage in Olmsted County, MN (IP-7148/ESS-24-406, IP-7148/ESS-24-407)

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 and the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, which represents nearly 42,000 members across six states including Minnesota, we write to express our strong support for the joint application of Crane Energy Storage and Sandhill Energy Storage in Olmsted County, MN.

As unions dedicated to providing a highly skilled, safe, and productive workforce, we recognize the critical role that energy infrastructure projects play in advancing Minnesota's goals for reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy. The proposed energy storage facilities will not only enhance grid stability and support the integration of renewable resources, but it will ensure reliable electricity services in the region.

We met with Crane and Sandhill Energy. They support the hiring of local workers and paying prevailing wages with a preference for trained apprentices. Projects of this scale require a level of expertise and dedication that union operators and carpenters bring to the jobsite. Our members have a proven track record of delivering complex energy projects, like this joint application, on time and to the highest safety and quality standards. By supporting these applications, the Commission will help ensure that these projects provide family-sustaining jobs, workforce training, and economic growth for Olmstead County and the region.

We also appreciate the Commission's commitment to balancing public interest, including community impacts and environmental stewardship, as outlined in your mission. The Crane and Sandhill projects align with these priorities by promoting cleaner energy solutions and supporting Minnesota's transition to a more resilient energy system.

We urge the Commission to approve the joint application and stand ready to partner with project developers to ensure these facilities are built to benefit all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Richard Kolodziejewski, Director of Government Affairs, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Nathan Runke, Regulatory and Political Affairs Coordinator, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

