

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Application of Xcel
Energy for a Certificate of Need and
Route Permit for the Mankato—
Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission
Line Project in Southeast Minnesota**

**MPUC Docket No. E002/CN-22-532
E002/TL-23-157**

OAH Docket No. 65-2500-40099

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION OF THE CLEAN ENERGY ORGANIZATIONS

December 23, 2024

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 1405.0900, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (“MCEA”), Fresh Energy, and Clean Grid Alliance (collectively the “Clean Energy Organizations” or “CEOs”) hereby petition to intervene in the above-captioned case now pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

MCEA is a nonprofit environmental organization that works in the courts, the legislature, and state agencies to protect Minnesota’s wildlife, natural resources, and the health of its people. MCEA’s program areas include a Climate and Energy Program that advocates for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, especially from the electric power sector, and for environmentally sustainable energy policies.

Fresh Energy is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. Fresh Energy is working towards a vision of a just, prosperous, and resilient future powered by a shared commitment to a carbon-neutral economy.

Clean Grid Alliance is a nonprofit organization that works to overcome the barriers to bringing renewable energy to market in the Midwest. Clean Grid Alliance achieves its mission through technical transmission work, active participation in state and regional regulatory cases, policy advocacy, and education and outreach efforts. Its members include wind, solar, and energy storage developers and manufacturers; nonprofit environmental, public interest, and clean energy advocacy organizations; and other businesses that support renewable energy.

A party wishing to intervene in an administrative hearing must

[S]how how the petitioner's legal rights, duties, or privileges may be determined or affected by the contested case; shall show how the petitioner may be directly affected by the outcome of that the petitioner's participation is authorized by statute, rule, or court decision; shall set forth the grounds and purpose for which intervention is sought; and shall indicate petitioner's statutory right to intervene should one exist.

Minn. R. 1400.6200, subp. 1.

Consistent with the CEOs' missions, our organizations regularly participate in dockets related to large energy infrastructure projects proposed in Minnesota. Our interest is to ensure these projects support our state's climate plan and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by increasing our utilization of wind, solar, and other clean energy initiatives. The CEOs' focus on compliance with state decarbonization goals and policies is unique. In pursuit of those interests, the CEOs seek to contribute as intervenors in the development of a factual and legal record on which the Commission will determine the adequacy of the EIS and evaluate whether to grant the requested permits.

Respectfully submitted,

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