



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Gina M Lemon, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Anita M Cloud, Tribal Historic Preservation Assistant

February 6, 2026

Via Internet

PowerOn Midwest
Attn: Scott Ek
121 7th Place E – Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Notice of Certification of Need Application for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and MPUC Docket No. 25-117

Xcel Energy d/b/a Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, LLC (ITC Midwest), & Northern States Power (the applicants). The applicants are providing notice of the Project at an early stage of the development phase.

The project includes;

- A single-circuit 765 kV high voltage transmission line between the following points.
 - The SD/MN border and the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson Co., MN
 - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the MN/IA border.
 - The Lakefield Junction Substation and the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower Co., MN.
 - The Pleasant Valley Substation and the North Rochester Substation in Goodhue Co., MN.
- A new 345 kV transmission circuit from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The existing 345 kV single-circuit structures are proposed to be removed and replaced with new double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- A new second 345 kV transmission circuit between the North Rochester Substation to the Hampton Substation, to be strung on existing double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
- Expansions of the following existing substation;
 - Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County.
 - Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County.
 - North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County.
 - Hampton Substation in Dakota County.

345 kV transmission line connections to connect the expanded substations and the existing substations.

LL THPO No. 26-044-NCRI

Dear Scott Ek,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. This has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1992, and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (38CFR800).

I have reviewed the documentation. After careful consideration of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any recorded historic properties, within this area. ** This does not mean there are not any cultural resources present, at this time. **

****The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe recommends the Applicants consult with the Lower Sioux Community and the Ho-Chunk Nation, on this project. Thank you.**



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Should any human remains or suspected human remains be encountered, all work shall cease and the following personnel should be notified immediately: County Sheriff's Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe along with other interested parties.

Please note the above determination does not "exempt" future projects from Section 106 review. In the event of any other tribe notifying you of an issue or us (LLBO) of concerns for this specific project, we may reenter into the consultation process.

You may contact me at **(218) 335-2940** if you have questions regarding our review of this project. Please refer to the **LL-THPO Number** as stated above in all correspondence with this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina M Lemon

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer