



October 2, 2025

**RE: PUC EIP Staff Exceptions to ALJ Report**

**Forks 161 kV Switching Station and Forks – Rost 161 kV Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket No.** ET-6675/TL-24-232

**OAH Docket No.** 5-2500-40519

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff has reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations (ALJ report) issued by Administrative Law Jim Mortenson on September 22, 2025, for the Forks 161 kV Switching Station and Forks – Rost 161 kV Transmission Line project in Jackson County, Minnesota.<sup>1</sup>

EIP staff believes the report accurately reflects the record for this project. Staff has no exceptions to the report.

Sincerely,

***Larry B. Hartman***

Larry B. Hartman

Environmental Review Project Manager

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<sup>1</sup> On July 1, 2025, Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) unit staff moved to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Infrastructure Permitting (PUC EIP) unit as directed by state law (Laws of Minn. 2024, ch.126, art. 7). While DOC EERA staff initiated environmental review of this proposal prior to July 1, 2025, the environmental review is now being completed by PUC EIP staff. For accuracy related to procedural history, references to previous filings by EERA will be identified as such, and “EIP” will be referenced throughout the remainder of this document.