

Comment Submission

Comment Number: 9222

Date Created: 2026-02-18 14:28:20 -0600

Submitter: J Johnson

2046 Dayton Avenue

St. Paul

Docket Number: CN-25-145; GS-25-154; TL-25-161; GP-25-163

Comment: IBEW Comments on Xcel's Lyon County Generating Station

2026__ibew_comments__lyon_county_permits.pdf



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

February 17, 2026

Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit,
Transmission Line Route Permit, and Pipeline Route Permit for the Lyon County Generating
Station in Lyon County, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Numbers: E002/CN-25-145; G002/GS-25-154; E002/TL-25-161; G002/GP-25-163
CAH Docket Number: 5-2500-41123**

IBEW Locals 160, 929 and 23 appreciate the opportunity to comment on the applications submitted by Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, Transmission Line Route Permit, and Pipeline Route Permit for the construction of the Lyon County Generating Station and associated electrical and natural gas infrastructure. We believe the Lyon County Generating Station is critical to maintain reliability and support the large additions of variable wind and solar energy on the electric grid that will be built in southwest Minnesota over the next decades.

We believe Xcel has clearly demonstrated the need for the Lyon County Generating Station to balance and compliment the wind and solar it will add to system under Minnesota's Carbon Free Standard. Its location close to much of the wind and solar development Xcel is planning to build over the next decade will allow the plant to efficiently balance the new variable energy built in the area.

The construction and operation of the Lyon County Station will also create new employment and career opportunities for IBEW members facing the loss of jobs because of plant closures elsewhere in the Xcel system. Many of these IBEW members are currently in professional limbo, waiting to see if another job will materialize after the plant at which they work closes. The Lyon County Station could provide another option for these workers.

We also believe the Lyon County Station will spark additional investments in wind, solar and transmission development in the area and could help build a workforce to support not just the Lyon County Generating Station, but also the construction of more wind and transmission in the southwest corner of the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We urge the Commission to approve this important project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt Zimmerman
Business Manager
IBEW Local 160
13220 County Road 6
Plymouth, MN 55441
612-781-3126

Rick Bartz
Business Manager
IBEW Local 949
12908 Nicollet Avenue
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-8484

Jon Jacobson
Business Manager
IBEW Local 23
445 Etna Street, #61
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-774-6011

Joel Johnson
Legislative Director
IBEW State Council
763-639-1746
joelonemn@gmail.com