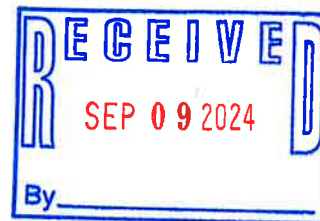


## AFFIDAVIT

State of Minnesota)

) ss.

County of Stearns)



COMES NOW Kevin and Erin Donnay being first duly sworn, under oath, and states that the following information is within his and her personal knowledge and belief:

Consumer Affairs Office  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

September 5, 2024

This communication is regarding the MN Energy Connection (Docket No. TL-22-132 and CN-22-131). The MN Public Utilities Commission is asking for comments regarding the Certification of Need.

1. **Should the Commission grant a certificate of need for the proposed project?** No. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission should not grant the certificate of need for the proposed project. There are more efficient and better methods for getting energy to the Twin Cities without this project. Citizens affected by this project – in the simplest terms – see this project as a land grab of rich Minnesota farmland by Xcel Energy and its investor groups. As an investor-owned organization Xcel Energy is masquerading as a public entity. There is no factual research or data analytics to back up or justify their proposed plan.
2. **If granted, what additional conditions or requirements, if any, should be included in the certificate of need?** In the very least, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted on all of the affected properties. This includes effects on all aspects of the environment.

Also included should be a comprehensive assessment from the Departments of Health, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. The amount of voltage [double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV)] that is proposed to be traveling through these lines is toxic to living animals, including humans.

**3. Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?** Yes. In published, peer-reviewed Academic Journals, quoted is the following information regarding stray voltage:

#### **Human Impacts**

- Health problems from electromagnetic field (EMF) include: headaches, fatigue, anxiety, insomnia, prickling or burning skin, rashes, muscle pain, damaging DNA, cancer, leukemia, neuro degenerative disease, and risk of miscarriage (Source: Electrical Engineering Portal).
- Pain in hands, severe pain in the joints, dizziness, poor balance, severe headaches, neck pain, low back pain, poor sleep, insomnia, irritability, edgy, short-fused, fluctuations of appetite, episodes of uncontrollable blood pressure, break-out of skin lesions, chronic renal insufficiency of the left kidney, numbness and tingling of the face and extremities, ringing in the ears, memory loss, chest pains, pain in the thoracic spine, blurred vision, and more.” Source: “Stray Voltage (SV) Injuries in Dairy Farmers: A Review of Five Cases” in *Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Articles*. Authors: Hooshang Hooshmand M.D. and Eric M. Phillips.
- EMFs can penetrate stone, steel, human flesh, and bone. In fact, human flesh and bone is as penetrable as air. Charges in power lines alternate between positive and negative many times per second, and it induces currents within the body, in addition to charges on its surface. The magnetic field induced currents are greater in the extremities and smaller at the cent of the body (Source: Electrical Engineering Portal).
- There is an association between childhood leukemia and proximity of home address at birth to high voltage power lines, and the apparent risk extends to a greater distance than would have been expected from previous studies. (Source: Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study. Authors: Gerald Draper, Tim Vincent, Mary E Kroll, John Swanson).

- Stress, frustration, sadness, and anger related to this project and potential loss of land rights and function and increased health risks are especially high for residents along the projected corridors. The constant stress and fatigue take their toll on the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of the body. Farmers who stand to lose their multi-generational farms are especially high risk for these levels of stress.

### Livestock Impacts

- **DAIRY CATTLE:** “Cows are more sensitive to small voltages than people and will react to voltages that humans cannot feel. Very slight voltages can affect cattle. Evidence has shown anything greater than one volt can be catastrophic to a dairy farm. A variety of cow responses to stray voltages have been reported from farm case studies. Commonly cited cattle responses include: 1) intermittent periods of poor production; 2) unexplained poor production; 3) increased incidence of mastitis; 4) elevated somatic cell counts; 5) increased milking times; 6) incomplete milk letdown; 7) extreme nervousness while in the milking parlor; 8) reluctance to enter the milking parlor; 9) rapid exit from the parlor; 10) reluctance to use water bowls or metallic feeders; 11) altered consummatory behavior ("lapping" of water from the watering device); 12) hoof problems; 13) numerous pathogens entering a cow's compromised immune system; and 14) death. The observed effects of stray voltage can be classified into four general areas: effect on milking performance and behavior, effect on herd health, effect on nutritional intake, and effect on production.” Source: “Source of Stray Voltage and Effect on Cow Health and Performance,” in *Journal of Dairy Science*. Authors: R.D. Appleman and R.J. Gustafson.
- **SHEEP:** “Nevertheless, some evidence, such as the reduction in carcass fatness, lower plasma cortisol concentration at slaughter and the increased adrenal medulla weight, suggest that permanent voltage exposure could induce a modification of the stress physiology of lambs exposed to stray voltage probably indicating a mild chronic stress in these animals.” Source: “Effects of stray voltage on the physiology of stress, growth performance and carcass parameters in Romane male lambs” in *Small Ruminant Research*. Authors: Karim Rigalma, Christine Duvaux-Ponter, Véronique Deiss, Cyril Charles, Laure Deveaux, François Deschamps, and Sabine Roussel.
- **SWINE:** “Stray voltage had some detrimental effects on feeding patterns of fattening pigs.” Source: “Effects of continuous stray voltage on health, growth and welfare of

fattening pigs” in *Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research*. Authors: Robert, S., Matte, J. J., Bertin-Mahieux, J., and Martineau, G. P.

- **POULTRY:** “Based on these experiments, it is clear that stray voltages high enough to create a problem with turkey poults.” Source: “The Effects of Stray Voltage on Turkey Poults” in *Avian Diseases*. Authors: Halvorson, D. A., Noll, S. L., Bergeland, M. E., Cloud, H. A., and Pursley, R.

### **Plant and Crop Impact**

- Fact: Plant Growth (plants and crops) are affected by EMFs by decreased leaves size and decreased carotene levels, and lack of chlorophyll (Source: Electrical Engineering Portal).
- Some crops require aerial applications. This project would prohibit those practices.

### **Destruction of Farmland, Livestock, and Wildlife**

Xcel Energy’s claim to build new renewable energy is a contradiction by destroying farmland and livestock in the process. This is further contradicted in the circumstance that the transmission lines cannot be placed on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources land because it is a disruption to the natural habitat and due to the extensive permitting process. A farm should be considered in the same manner. According to the Minnesota House of Representatives, 25 Percent of Minnesota land is owned by county, state, or federal government. Minnesota State government owns 8.4 million acres (17 percent). The federal government owns 3.4 million acres (7 percent). However, prime private farmland and residential areas are being targeted for this project

### **Wind and Solar Cannot Replace Coal, Natural Gas or Nuclear Power**

Wind and solar cannot replace coal, natural gas, or nuclear power in cost or reliability. Fact: Per the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission order on August 10, 2023, line loss on this Minnesota Energy Connection project is projected to be 11.33 to 12.75 percent. Generation capacity through MISO is around 15 percent transmitting amount. With a line loss of 11.33 to 12.75 percent, where is the logic in this? New wind is twice as expensive as the electricity generated by the Sherco coal plants. New solar is 3.3 times more expensive.

Prematurely retiring some of Minnesota's most reliable energy sources at Sherco and replacing them with wind and solar will result in blackouts for Minnesotans. Minnesotans already consume more energy than what our state generates, and we rely on other states to cover our short fall. Minnesota needs to re-evaluate their energy consumption, energy production, and energy policies so that they align with our reality.

### **Cost of Minnesota Energy Connection Project**

According to the Star Tribune (dated November 16, 2023), the cost of the Minnesota Energy Connection project is estimated to be \$1.114 billion.

### **North Dakota's Concerns over Constitutionality of Minnesota Policies**

North Dakota has sent notice to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding concerns over Minnesota's energy policies as a MISO participant and the Constitutionality of Minnesota's energy regulations. North Dakota's concerns over Minnesota's factual realities as stated in the June 26, 2024 letter from the North Dakota Industrial Commission on behalf of North Dakota:

1. Burden interstate commerce in violation of the dormant Commerce Clause;
2. Regulate wholesale sales of electricity and is therefore preempted by the Federal Power Act; and
3. Regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and is therefore preempted by the Clean Air Act.

### **Constitutional 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights & MN PUC Commissioner Oath**

Minnesotans have a right to the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution. The 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment does not allow for taking of rights from some to benefit others. People acquire property because they are enabled to use the property in the manner in which they want. This gives the property its fundamental value. By allowing a privately-owned company, such as Xcel Energy, to force their high voltage transmission lines onto our properties, it is not what the Founders of the Constitution intended. Minnesotans are simply asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioners to uphold their oath in supporting the Constitution of the United States by establishing stricter criteria and boundaries on Xcel Energy. This privately-owned company is running wildly unchecked in Minnesota with several high voltage lines in the planning stages

throughout the state. This is absolutely ridiculous! In 2024, there are far better energy alternatives than to run dangerously high voltage lines throughout the entire state.

### Conclusion

The certificate of need should be denied by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission because this project as proposed will not produce what is needed and will not be reliable. Wind and solar energy cannot replace coal, natural gas, or nuclear power. The impacts of this project on the environment, humans, livestock and wildlife will be detrimental to Minnesotans. The Constitutionality of Minnesota's "Carbon Free" energy policy is questionable – not only by Minnesotans, but also by our neighbor, North Dakota. If Xcel Energy was forthright in their presentations to the public, they would have stated that they have applied for two natural gas plants to be built in Lyon County that tie into this project – further proving that this project is not needed as proposed to the public. The information they presented was a direct and outright lie to the citizens of Minnesota. With that, should come some form of punishment and penalty. Furthermore, Xcel Energy is not only scamming federal taxpayers through the Green New Deal with this project and the Minnesotans who live the affected areas as targets, but it is classifiable as a Crime Against Humanity in allowing such a project – knowing all of the destruction it will cause to Minnesota.

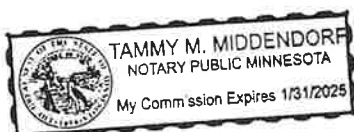
Signature Kevin Donnay

Signature Erin Donnay

Address 15310 County Road 48, Kimball, MN 55353

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 5th day of September, 2024,  
by Kevin Donnay.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 5th day of September, 2024,  
by Erin Donnay.



Tammy Middendorf  
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR MINNESOTA