

Chair and Commissioners
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Request for Temporary Suspension of Proceedings – MariBell Transmission Project

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Spring Grove, Minnesota, the City Council respectfully submits this formal request for a temporary suspension of proceedings, permitting actions, and any advancement toward construction of the MariBell Transmission Project within one mile of the City's corporate limits.

The proposed transmission line corridor, as currently presented, lies in close proximity to the City and directly affects current residents, adjacent landowners, agricultural operations, and areas identified for future residential and commercial growth under the City's Comprehensive Plan. At this time, the City does not have sufficient information to fully evaluate the long-term impacts of the project on:

- Residential property values
- Agricultural land use and drainage systems
- Future municipal growth and infrastructure corridors
- Environmental resources and scenic landscapes
- Public health and safety considerations
- Emergency services coordination
- The City's tax base and economic development prospects

The City is particularly concerned that meaningful engagement with affected residents and landowners has not yet produced clear answers regarding route alternatives, mitigation strategies, long-term maintenance implications, or compensation frameworks.

Accordingly, the City respectfully requests:

1. A temporary halt or stay of project review and advancement until supplemental information is provided and reviewed;
2. An extension of applicable comment and scoping deadlines;
3. A comprehensive evaluation of route alternatives that increase separation from the City's municipal boundary;
4. A detailed economic and land-use impact analysis specific to Spring Grove and adjacent properties;

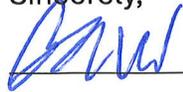
5. A public informational meeting held within the City of Spring Grove to ensure full community participation.

The City of Spring Grove recognizes the importance of regional energy reliability; however, infrastructure of this magnitude warrants deliberate review and transparent communication when it is proposed in close proximity to an established municipality.

The City is committed to working constructively with the Commission, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and the project developer to ensure that the rights of our residents and landowners are fully considered before irreversible decisions are made.

We respectfully request written confirmation of how the Commission intends to address this request.

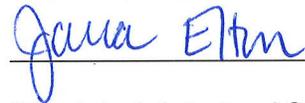
Sincerely,



Date 3-5-26

Mayor

City of Spring Grove



Date 3-5-26

City Administrator / Clerk

cc: Minnesota Department of Commerce
Project Developer – MariBell Transmission Project
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners

CITY OF SPRING GROVE
HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-21

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS AND FURTHER REVIEW OF THE MARIHELL TRANSMISSION PROJECT WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE CITY OF SPRING GROVE

WHEREAS, the MariBell Transmission Project proposes construction of a high-voltage transmission line in proximity to the municipal boundaries of the City of Spring Grove; and

WHEREAS, portions of the proposed route are located within one (1) mile of the City limits, directly affecting City residents, adjacent landowners, agricultural operations, and areas designated for future growth under the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that additional time and information are necessary to adequately evaluate the potential impacts of the project on:

- Residential and agricultural property values;
- Land use and long-term development patterns;
- Municipal infrastructure and emergency services;
- Environmental resources and scenic landscapes;
- Public health, safety, and general welfare;
- The City's economic development objectives and tax base; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received questions and concerns from residents and adjacent landowners regarding route alternatives, mitigation measures, long-term maintenance implications, and compensation frameworks; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that full transparency, thorough environmental and economic review, and meaningful public engagement are essential prior to advancement of a project of this magnitude;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Spring Grove, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The City formally requests that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission temporarily suspend or stay further proceedings, permitting actions, and any advancement toward construction of the MariBell Transmission Project within one mile of the City's corporate limits until additional review and information are provided.

2. The City further requests an extension of applicable scoping and public comment periods to allow the City and its residents adequate opportunity to evaluate project impacts.
3. The City requests a comprehensive analysis of route alternatives that increase separation from the City's municipal boundaries and planned growth areas.
4. The City requests a detailed economic and land-use impact study specific to Spring Grove and affected adjacent properties.
5. The City requests that at least one formal public informational meeting be conducted within the City of Spring Grove.
6. The City directs the Mayor and City Administrator to transmit this Resolution to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the project developer, and other appropriate governmental entities.

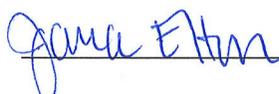
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Spring Grove remains committed to working cooperatively with state agencies and the project developer to ensure that regional energy needs are balanced with protection of local residents and long-term community planning objectives.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Spring Grove this 5th day of March, 2026.

 _____ 3-5-26

Mayor

ATTEST:

 _____ 3-5-26

City Administrator / Clerk

Voting:

Ayes: Mayor Wilhelmsen, Council Member Turner, Council Member Ostern

Nays: 0

Absent: Council Member Buckland, Council Member Hagen