

**Comments from Operating Engineers Local 49 and North Central States Regional Council
of Carpenters**

Apr 22, 2024

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

*RE: In the Matter of The Application for a Certificate of Need for the The Big Stone South -
Alexandria - Big Oaks Transmission Projects (22-538)*

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

As labor unions representing workers in the construction industry and their families we respectfully submit these comments on the jointly proposed transmission project.

Having reviewed the application submitted by the joint applicants we believe that the need for this transmission project has been clearly demonstrated and it meets all the requirements under state law and rules. As the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is aware this project was selected as part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) long range transmission planning (LRTP) process. This project, along with the other LRTP projects, are designed to meet critical system needs to ensure reliability for Minnesotans as we transition the energy system and meet new load growth.

We do not believe there are any contested issues of fact with respect to the representations made in the certificate of need (CN) application and we believe the Commission should grant it. We look forward to continuing to participate in the route permit process.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Nathan Runke, Regulatory and Political Affairs Coordinator, International Union of Operating
Engineers Local 49

Richard Kolodziejski, Public Affairs Director, North Central States Regional Council of
Carpenters