



BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

428 6th Street, PO Box 325, Allison, IA 50602

GREG BARNETT
1st District

WAYNE DRALLE
2nd District

RUSTY EDDY
3rd District

April 15, 2025

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

RE: Docket Nos. 24-294, 24-295 - Site Permit and Route Permit for the Midwater Energy Storage Project and Associated Transmission Line in Freeborn County

To Whom it May Concern:

The Shell Rock River flows through Butler County, Iowa. We have four county-run campgrounds on the Shell Rock River which rely on the boating and fishing opportunities available on the river.

Our county is part of the Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition. Working with the other counties and cities on the river, we are taking positive steps to ensure water quality not only for the recreational opportunities clean water can provide for our residents, but also to generally improve the environmental condition of our county. As a county, we are concerned about any new projects located so close to the river which may negatively impact the work we have been doing to ensure clean water.

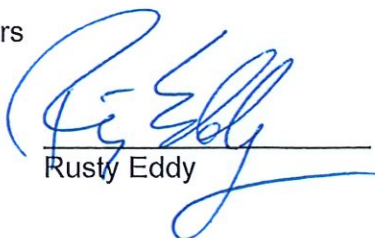
While we are not opposed to development, there needs to be appropriate consideration to the potential impacts of any project located this close to a waterway. Our biggest concern, as a downstream community, is the possibility of heavy metal contamination of the Shell Rock River. The possibility of a fire at the facility cannot be disregarded. If there is a fire, the likelihood of chemicals, including heavy metals, being washed into the river by firefighting efforts is very high.

We can see the only way to reduce the risk of heavy metal contamination from such an incident would be to deny the application for this project at the proposed location.

Sincerely,

Butler County Board of Supervisors


Wayne Dralle


Rusty Eddy


Greg Barnett