

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON COMMISSION INVESTIGATION

Issued: September 23, 2024

In the Matter of the Investigation into Transmission-Curtailment Matters, Drivers, and Potential Solutions to Limitations Resulting from the Nobles County Substation.

Docket Number: E999/CI-24-316

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is accepting comments to develop the record on transmission-curtailment matters, drivers, and potential solutions for limitations resulting from the Nobles substation. The docket is intended to directly examine congestion in this portion of the service territory with the potential to facilitate a clearer understanding of possible solutions for further consideration.

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes **October 23**, at 4:30 p.m.

Reply comment period closes **November 12**, at 4:30 p.m.

Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Topics for Comment

1. What are the underlying causes of the stability, thermal, and congestion issues affecting the power grid in southwestern Minnesota, and how do these issues impact existing renewable energy projects as well as potential new projects in development or permitting?
2. What regional and local transmission studies on reliability and economic market congestion have been completed?
3. What current studies are being conducted by MISO and/or the Minnesota Transmission Owners (MTO) and/or others to assess the congestion and curtailment issues affecting the grid in southwestern Minnesota, specifically in Nobles County, and what potential solutions are being proposed for these limitations?
4. What is the timeline for completing the studies referenced in question 3? What funding source(s) have been identified for completing these studies?
5. Specifically for Xcel Energy and MTO: What is the status of the initiatives referenced in MTO's March 1, 2024 Reply Comments in Docket# M-23-91:

- a. 2023 MISO Informational Market Congestion Study with an estimated completion date of Q3 2024?
 - b. Xcel Energy/Electric Power Institute (EPRI) study to take an in-depth look at the stability concerns of the area and the possible solutions available to address the issues?
 - c. MISO Tranche 2 Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) projects currently being reviewed with an expected approval at the end of 2024 that will increase outlet from the Buffalo Ridge area?
6. What other related issues should the Commission Investigate?

Submit Comments

Online: mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

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

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc/edockets, select *Go to eDockets*, enter the year (24) and the docket number (316) and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait, at Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Leesa Norton, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON TRANSMISSION CURTAILMENTS

Docket Number **E999/CI-24-316; E999/M-23-91**

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2024

/s/ Leesa Norton

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	60 S 6th St Ste 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Ian M.	Dobson	ian.m.dobson@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall, 401-8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Jackie	Meier	N/A	Murray County Board of Commissioners	2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172	Paper Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Christine	Schwartz	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_23-91_Official
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@edf-re.com	EDF Renewable Energy	10 Second Street NE Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55410	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_23-91_Official

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First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
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Christine	Schwartz	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
Drew	Siebenaler	Andrew.W.Siebenaler@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	N/A	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
Adam	Sokolski	adam.sokolski@edf-re.com	EDF Renewable Energy	10 Second Street NE Ste 400 Minneapolis, MN 55410	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
Jason	Weiers	jweiers@otpc.com	Otter Tail Power Company	215 South Cascade Street PO Box 496 Fergus Falls, MN 56538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316
Christian	Winter	cwinter@mnpower.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 55802	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_24-316_Official 24-316

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Jaime	Arsenault	jaimе.arsenault@whiteearth-nsn.gov	White Earth	PO BOX 418 White Earth, MN 56591	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Amy	Burnette	amy.burnette@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	N/A	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Kade	Ferris	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org	Red Lake Region	PO Box 274 Red Lake, MN 56671	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Ashley	Harrison	ashley.harrison@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	190 Sailstar Dr NW Cass Lake, MN 56633	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Rob	Hull	thpo@g randportage.com	Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	PO Box 428 Grand Portage, MN 55605	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Gina	Lemon	gina.lemon@llojibwe.net	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	190 Sailstar Dr NW Cass Lake, MN 56633	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Samantha J	Odegard	samanthao@upper sioux community-nsn.gov	Upper Sioux Tribal Community	PO Box 147 Granite Falls, MN 56241	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Evan	Schroeder	evanschroeder@fdlrez.com	Fond du Lac Band of Superior Chippewa	1720 Big Lake Road Cloquet, MN 55720	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Cheyenne	St. John	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com	Lower Sioux Tribal Community	39527 Reservation Hwy 1 Morton, MN 56270	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Jaylen	Strong	jaylen.strong@boisfortensn.gov	Bois Forte Tribal Government	1500 Bois Forte Road Tower, MN 55790	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Leonard	Wabasha	leonard.wabasha@shakopeddakota.org	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	2300 Tiwahe Circle Shakopee, MN 55379	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Noah	White	noah.white@piic.org	Prairie Island Indian Community	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road Welch, MN 55089	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
Mike	Wilson	Mike.Wilson@millelacsband.com	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	43408 Oodena Dr Onamia, MN 56359	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL__Tribal Historic Preservation Offices