MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Oral Public Comments Received
for the North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project
Docket No. TL-26-135

Public Meetings

- June 15, 2026 – Zumbrota, Minnesota, 6:00 p.m.
- June 16, 2026 – Virtual, online Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

In The Matter Of:

North Rochester to Skyway HVTL Project - 26-135

Zumbrota Public Meeting - 6-15-26

June 15, 2026

Zumbrota Public Meeting - 26-135 - 6-15-26

Shaddix & Associates

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SCOPING & INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 26-135

ZUMBROTA - JUNE 15, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and Echo Zone, LLC, for a Route Permit for the North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

MPUC DOCKET NO: E002/TL-26-135

Goodhue County Fairgrounds - 4H Building
44279 County 6 Boulevard
Zumbrota, Minnesota 55992

June 15, 2026

COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RMR, RPR

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I N D E X

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MS. SAARAH MAXON: Hello, everybody. Thank you for joining us today. This meeting is the public information and scoping meeting for the proposed North Rochester to Skyway 345-kV transmission line project. Tonight is the in-person meeting, and tomorrow we will also be holding a virtual meeting that starts at 6:00 p.m. Both meetings cover exactly the same topics and present the same materials.

So I'd like to start with just a quick agenda for the meeting. My name is Saarah, and I'm an analyst at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. I will give a brief introduction before I pass things off to the Applicant to provide a description of the proposed project. After the Applicants wrap up their portion of the presentation, we will switch gears back to my colleague at the PUC, Sam, who will explain the permit application review process before we open up the floor to comments and questions.

So before we kick things off, I just want to cover some meeting ground rules. We ask that you please be respectful of others, including both presenters and commenters. We want to make sure we can hear from everybody who wants to comment today.

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It's really important that we hear your feedback, and if you have a question that you have an opportunity to ask it.

So when we get to the portion -- the comment and question portion, please take turns commenting. One person at a time because we have a court reporter here who is transcribing the meeting and everyone's comments, and the Commissioners need an accurate record to help them decide on this docket.

So leading into why we're here today, we're here to receive public input and to compile the record for the Commission's permit decision. So what you can do today is you can ask us, State staff, about the review process, or you can ask the Applicant about the proposed project.

You can also share oral or written comments, including your thoughts on the project, additional information needs, possible permit conditions, anything like that. And your comments are going to help the Commission make an informed decision on the permit and any possible permit conditions.

So I'd like to also provide a brief overview of what we do at the Commission. We

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regulate electric, natural gas, and landline utilities. We also issue site and route permits for large electrical facilities. There are five Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. These Commissioners are the individuals who will ultimately decide on the permit issue.

Moving on to the next slide, the focus of the meeting today is on the North Rochester to Skyway 345-kV transmission line project that was proposed. The docket number for this project is TL-26-135. We, as Commission staff, are here to present information on the permitting environmental review process as it pertains to this project, accept public comments on the need for and scope of an addendum to the environmental assessment, and to answer questions.

The Commission is aware of concerns regarding potential impacts to ratepayers from proposed data centers. If you are concerned about rate impacts and costs from the proposed Skyway data center, there is a good avenue to express those concerns directly. The docket number for that project is M-26-170, and there's currently an open comment period.

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This concludes my portion of the presentation, and I'll hand it off to Xcel to continue on from here. Thank you.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Let me know -- that was way too loud.

Okay. Hi, everybody. Thanks for coming today. I'm Ellen Heine with Xcel Energy, and I've also got Jake Andre here who will -- going to help me with a little bit here, just to give a quick overview of the project that we're talking about before you, which is the North Rochester to Skyway transmission project.

So just a quick overview there, it's a 1.2-mile double-circuit 345-kV line. There's a picture on a slide in the other room. Double circuit just means that it's single poles with three wires on both sides. So it's one set of poles for two transmission lines. And the project also includes expansion of the existing North Rochester substation, which is to the west of Highway 52, just north of Pine Island there.

There's two existing transmission lines that connect at the existing North Rochester substation that will get re-terminated into the new expansion area. So we're just kind of rearranging

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where the wires connect at the existing substation that's part of that. And then construction of up to four small substations within the data center site on the east side of 52 that you can see there in the picture.

And I will make one note that we realized in the other room, if you were looking at maps in the overview over there, there was a weird line on the maps for some reason that cut diagonally through the parcels and kind of headed southeast, and that was some kind of weird mapping anomaly. This map actually shows the alignment of the proposed line, and there's not a strange line cutting at a diagonal there. So we'll make sure that the website has the correct map on it, which I think it does.

Next slide.

So just a quick overview timeline. The system impacts study and the feasibility study for this project were completed for -- this is something that always happens when there's a large load customer that works with us to get connected to the system. So those studies were completed in 2025.

And then this 2025 to 2026 period, we're done developing the preliminary route and engineering and do the environmental studies where

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that project is going to be located. Outreach to the landowners directly in the vicinity of the project, and then worked on developing an application that we're talking about here that was submitted to the Public Utilities Commission. And also the new large load tariff was approved by the PUC. That's that other docket that Saarah just mentioned, so that's all kind of happening.

2026 to 2027, anticipating executing the -- I think this did happen actually, the interconnection agreement and the --

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Electric service agreement.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Electric service agreement -- thank you -- with the PUC.

If you want to go ahead and note those other items? Those are probably your items. I'll take it over.

Okay. So the -- we're in this process now where the Public Utilities Commission is going -- is reviewing the application that we submitted and taking comments from you. So the public engagement, that's where we are right now.

Once we get further along in the process, then final engineering gets completed, and after a

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PUC order is issued, then we do additional required permits that we typically refer to as downstream permits. So other, like, road access agreements and stuff like that that we wait to get until we have an approved route.

Anticipating construction of the line in the 2027 to 2029 time period, and then expecting those facilities to be placed in service in 2029.

Next slide.

This just shows the typical construction processes. For such a short line, this will all happen relatively quickly. A lot of times on a longer transmission line, this is kind of phased out and these will be happening at the same time at different parts of the project.

But really it starts with the soil surveys and staking on the landowner property where the structures are going to go. And then that construction access and tree clearing piece, that's if there's temporary access driveways and things like that that need to get developed or tree clearing along the right-of-way, that's kind of the next step.

And then equipment gets mobilized, grading that needs to happen, especially on the

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substation site, and delivery of materials, the poles and conductors and things like that.

Then the foundation construction is the first step. The civil crews come out and install the pier foundations, and then that's -- once those are completed, then they come back in and install the structures and string the conductor on the lines.

And then that's followed up with restoration to just clean up, make sure everything is stabilized and re-vegetated and put back into kind of its original condition, other than the transmission line.

The infrastructure, as I mentioned, they'll be single pole, it's what we call weathering steel. They're a brown steel tower, double-circuit, so there will be circuits on both sides of that line.

The pole heights will range from 100 to 180 feet depending on the terrain, and I think there's -- it's where they need to cross lines and stuff like that. So there's kind of a range in the height depending on what it needs to go up or over.

Approximately .6 miles, that's kind of precise, but there's a piece of it, that east/west

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portion will parallel the existing double-circuit CapX2020 line that's there now, and also that's part of the Mankato to Mississippi River transmission project, as we've heard about that. The 161-kV line on that set of double-circuit structures is actually going to be moved off of those -- it's moving to its new location just south of that line. So this line will parallel, they're just double-circuit, as well as the new 161 in that location.

Next slide, please.

Jake.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Can everyone hear me? Yeah, perfect.

My name is Jake Andre. I'm on Xcel Energy's business development team. I'll be talking about, as was mentioned a little bit earlier, if you have concerns over rate impacts, generation outcomes, just kind of a separate petition filing that would probably be more appropriate to get tuned into there.

But we want to address customer protections, as ratepayer impacts are probably the most frequented concern that we hear from constituents, and so I wanted to provide a little bit of history as to what's going on at the

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legislature, how is the State and our partners with the Public Utilities Commission actively addressing this issue.

And so going back to the 2025 legislative session, specifically House File 16, it established written within Minnesota Statute an expectation -- I should say a requirement that all incremental costs that are identified as a result of very large customers, like data centers, need to be allocated to those large customers or data centers.

It ensures or requires a line of sight to the Minnesota Clean Energy Standards of 2040, and most importantly, reaffirms the authority of the Public Utilities Commission to work with their electric utilities, like Xcel Energy, to establish contract structures or tariff structures that meet these expectations and this outcome.

This outcome laid the groundwork, the legal groundwork. What was yet to be determined was, how does this trickle down to an actual contract that Xcel Energy was able to utilize when working with very large customers, like what we're talking about here.

And so the steps that occurred thereafter this last July, July 16th, we filed a proposal to

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the Commission for what we felt addressed these concerns and work in accordance with the State legislature.

Over the last couple of months, through stakeholder engagement, public comment periods all amounted to a decision just a few weeks ago in the middle of May where the Commission approved, with modification, our initial proposal. And so as of now, as of today, we have an approved tariff or a contract structure that adequately assigns costs to these users, while shielding existing customers on our system.

And then, additionally, this tariff that I keep referring to is effectively this umbrella, this outline or framework structure. Every time that we execute with a large customer, like Skyway, we would then file subsequent contracts to the Commission for specific and individualized review of those contracts.

And so we filed our contract approval just a couple months ago in April, and so we're very early in the stages, working through comment and engagement. We're expecting a decision on that potentially Q4 of 2026, and so I encourage folks to follow along with that decision.

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And then just to kind of round it out, Xcel Energy is a regulated utility. We do have an obligation to serve our customers.

And, lastly, we have established frameworks. Like this large load tariff, we were able to assign incremental generation costs to these customers. They're paying for their transmission service, and they're still contributing to the existing fixed cost asset that is the grid.

You can realize or predict significant savings to existing customers over the duration of that contract's life. So as of right now, we're forecasting over $1 billion in customer savings as a result of what we proposed with the new rule.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Okay. So I did add this slide as well just because I know a number of people in this area have heard from utilities about a lot of projects. So I just wanted to note that Mankato to Mississippi River transmission project that I mentioned, the docket number for that is on here. That one did receive an order from the PUC earlier this year. So we're in the process of doing landowner outreach and beginning some of those early steps that I just talked about with transmission construction.

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And then also it's just an intersection of a lot of things. The PowerOn Midwest project, the PUC docket is right now just a certificate of need docket number for that one. There will be route permit applications going in as part of that project. Those will be coming up, anticipated to be filed this coming winter. So that's the piece closest to here.

There's a second circle doubled along the Hampton to North Rochester line that's existing that you see on Highway 52, adding a second circuit to that one, and then there's a Pleasant Valley to North Rochester piece of that project as well. So I'm sure a number of you have heard about that.

And then the Gopher to Badger Link is a separate docket number, and that one is part of the larger MISO study that identified the PowerOn Midwest project itself, but a different group of utility owners on that one. So that docket number is listed there as well.

So there's information on the websites for those and ability to comment on those projects separately. I just wanted to note, they're not related to the project, but they are in the area and certainly something that folks have probably heard a

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lot about.

And I did want to make one other note, there are handouts in the -- in the other room on the table back there, if anybody -- I saw there were a lot of them left, but if you have any interest in going back and grabbing those, there's a couple of handouts about the Skyway project that are available in that room, so you're welcome to go grab those in there if you want.

And that is it. Yeah, so there's -- we do have a website that just went up for the transmission project that you see on the screen there. And the email address, that XEED@XcelEnergy.com, if you want to submit comments on the project, and I think that's also available on the website now as well.

And I will turn it back over to you guys.

MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay. So my name is Sam. I am with the Public Utilities Commission. I am the environmental review manager for the project, and I am going to be talking about how we review the application that we have received for this 1.2-mile transmission line and give you some more information about our process.

So we accepted the application as

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complete on May 12th, and once we accept a complete application, that kind of kicks off our process. We have six to nine months to reach a final decision -- "we" being the Commissioners, to reach a final decision as to whether or not to issue a route permit for this project.

So the next step after we accept it is to host public information and EA addendum scoping meetings. That is what we are here for tonight, that's what we're doing tomorrow night. And once we get through tonight's proceedings, we will take in all of your feedback, any questions you have, any comments. And we will then write up a draft site permit, and we will decide whether or not an EA addendum is needed. And then if it is needed, it would be issued shortly thereafter.

So if there is one, probably fall of 2026, we will come back out here again to have public hearings. So at that time, you'll have time to comment on the sample permits. If there is an EA addendum, you can comment on that then, and then there will be another comment period associated with that.

There will be a report on the public hearing written, and then finally the Commissioners

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will decide on whether or not to issue the route permit, probably fall or winter of this year.

And what are they considering when they're thinking about these route permit applications? We're primarily concerned with the potential human and environmental impacts of these projects, trying to figure out how we can reduce the impacts of projects, and then forging compliance with projects.

And how you can kind of help as we're considering all of these factors is by telling us about resources in or around the project area, and how the project may impact those resources, and suggest good practical ways to avoid, minimize, or offset those potential impacts.

So when we're developing a permit that we issue to the Applicants, the first step is starting off with a sample permit. We have those as handouts in the back. It basically has all the standard conditions, saying, all right, you're doing a transmission project, this is your starting point, you have to follow these rules and guidelines when you're building them.

We then develop a draft permit based on these public meetings that incorporate your

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feedback, your comments, and we identify basically where and how the permittee will construct the project. Specific to the project, we will update that sample permit to describe that project, we add special conditions based on input from the public, input from other stakeholders, info from our staff.

And, finally, I want to make sure you know when we issue that draft permit, that doesn't mean they can construct the project. That's just going to be the next step. You can comment on the draft permit, there will be a notice of that draft permit that's available. And then finally after all of this, if the Commissioners eventually do approve the project, the final permit would include all the standard and special conditions to make sure they comply with our permit.

So just, again, a high-level overview: Start at the sample permit, that first arrow, taking in your comments tonight. Then there will be a draft permit, and then we will take more comments on that draft permit and on an EA addendum, if that's necessary, and we will turn that into a potential final permit.

In trying to figure out if we need to do an EA addendum -- so that environmental assessment,

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right -- they have to include an environmental assessment in their application now. That environmental assessment is included as Section 6 of the application that they submitted for this project, and it includes information on all of the human and environmental impacts and ways to mitigate those impacts.

And so by needing an addendum for more information if, let's say, the environmental assessment missed potential human and environmental impacts or some unique characteristics about this project, if there are mitigation measures proposed by folks that need further evaluation on our part, and, finally, if there are any alternatives or route segments that could be considered.

So if you're thinking about what type of comments we are looking for from everybody tonight, we want to know about those human and environmental impacts, and here are some examples, right? Aesthetics, impacts to agriculture, farm equipment, impacts to wildlife, noise from construction disturbing people, road use, safety of workers. These are all types of impacts that we're looking at.

And then if you have any recommendations

how we can minimize, mitigate, or avoid those impacts from this transmission line that need further evaluation, right, this could include things like changing the alignment. If you want to not put poles in a wetland or something, you could recommend a new place for the pole to be placed to avoid that. Noise dampening, different construction techniques, bird flight diverters, these are all examples of mitigation measures to avoid impacts.

So just as a couple of examples of these comments that we will receive from people, right, so environmental impacts, and we've actually already received a comment to this nature on the docket, which is basically saying the proposed route goes through a wetland, there are waterfowl there. If this line could be located outside of the wetland, it can avoid impacting the birds. That's a useful comment, it says the resource and how it could be avoided.

Then human impacts, right, new poles will be placed near my home, near my next-door neighbor's home. I don't want to be looking at them every day, so an aesthetic impact. I would suggest moving it across the street into this big industrial lot where there wouldn't be as many aesthetic impacts. These

are just examples of impacts and mitigations that you can propose.

So what happens next, based on the information that we have in the record -- and this, again, incorporates all of your comments, we take your comments very seriously. I read every single one of them, reply to them. We will determine whether or not an environmental assessment addendum is necessary before the public hearing, and, finally, what types of conditions we should include in the draft route permit.

And just as an example of special conditions that we might include, we have another comment in the docket saying -- basically the commenter suggested that the project, this transmission line, not be built unless the data center was approved. And that is a reasonable thing that we could incorporate as being a condition to our draft permit.

And kind of on that note, thinking about the data center, I know that a lot of you are concerned about the environmental impacts of the data center.

And let me grab some water.

So an environmental review was done, an

AUAR. And I'm sure many of you know, there's a court ruling suggesting that was insufficient for environmental review of the data center. The Pollution Control Agency is now the regulating agency for the environmental review of that project.

So the PCA, Saarah and I talked to them. They will have a public comment period associated with their environmental review of this project, but they didn't have a timeline for us, right? This is a unique process. So they have not completed it yet, but once it is ready, there will be an opportunity for public comment. They're going to hold public meetings just like we're doing here tonight. So if you have environmental concerns about the data center, you can get in touch with them through this email address, but that is outside the scope of tonight, right?

We know the transmission line is serving the data center, but for tonight's meeting, we want the comments to be focused on this 1.2-mile transmission line and the impacts associated with the transmission line.

So with that in mind, we'll talk about how to comment. You can provide verbal comments at tonight's meeting. We have a few people signed up,

but there should be time after these speakers go if you would like to come up and make your verbal comments as well.

You can complete and submit a comment sheet. If you didn't already get one, those are on the table back there. You can comment online. We have our website where you can make a public comment, go to the Filing a Comment tab. You can email me directly, you can mail a comment form to me directly.

The most important part here is the comment period ends on June 26th at 4:30 p.m. So if you don't want to speak tonight, if you don't have any comments tonight but you think of something later, you will still have a week and a half or so to get comments in if something else, you know, pops into your head. So I just want you to know, get any comments in by June 26th.

And also, just for your information, these comments are available to everybody. We put everything on the public record for this project. So any personal identifying information that is in a comment you submit, we're not going to redact that. So just so you are aware, when you're submitting these comments, know that they're going into a

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public record. And, again, the comment period closes on June 26th.

And with that in mind, we can start with comments. So we have a speaker sign-up sheet here that we are going to call people up. We, again, need it to be one speaker at a time. So when someone is giving their comment, please don't chime in, please don't interrupt them. It's just very important the court reporter can understand what's being said. So one speaker at a time. When you come up, please state then spell your name for the court reporter.

Finally, we don't have that many people signed up to speak, so we can go for maybe a little bit longer than usual. But please try and limit your comments, again, to the scope of the transmission line, and we want to make sure we get through everybody. And then just maintaining respect for others. There might be some differing opinions in the room, but we need to be respectful of each other's opinions.

So with that, we'll take our first comment.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Our first commenter is Carol Overland, if you want to come up.

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MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Good evening. My name is Carol Overland, C-A-R-O-L, O-V-E-R-L-A-N-D. I've given you some documents, and I have them here and I'll walk you through to get it in the record.

The first one is the comments on Chapter 6 where it talks about reasonably foreseeable future actions, and there are some things missing. And I think it's important to note that cumulative impacts and phased and connected actions aren't included in the scope of the 25-117, the big 765 line coming across through here.

I'm getting feedback.

Anyway, so that's something that should be included in this.

Anyway, looking at Chapter 6, Section 6.10.2, it talks about U.S. Highway 52 construction that is planned. What was missing there is this project is going to eliminate the -- crossing the median at 480th, 490th, and 500th. 500th will definitely have an impact.

Can I maybe move this back some?

UNIDENTIFIED: Just get closer to the mic.

MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Well, I'm right here.

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Okay. So that's a big project and it's not there. And I have included both the DOT's depiction of the property for the construction of -- some issues like the culvert and the -- southbound and raising the level of it, but I've also included the project update, which shows which crossings are going to be eliminated. The 500th, I mean that's right at where the substation is and where it's going to go across and where the CapX is, so I would think that would have a big impact on the project.

The next one that I have is from the MCEA suit, which is a Court File 25-CV-25-2298, and it's a page from the Ryan Response to MCEA Temporary Injunction Motion. This is page 19. And what's important about this is that they responded about -- one question about the capacity or the energy usage. And under Scenario A in the AUAR, it was estimated to be 300 megawatts; Scenario B, the power consumption was estimated at 2,700 megawatts. I have my doubts that this 345 line will carry 2,700.

Also, the design is going across, in, and down into phase one, and there's phase two up at the top. And what's going to power that? It's a phased and connected action because we're going to need another transmission line going through there. So

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that's this exhibit, page 19.

At some point I was told -- and then the next one is my second comment in this docket, and then 25-117 (indiscernible) --

THE REPORTER: Ms. Overland, could you say those numbers again?

MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Sure, I'm sorry. CN-25-117, that's PowerOn Midwest; CN-25-121, which is the Gopher to Badger; and the ESA docket, M-26-170.

And in that I noted that at some point I was told that there would be a 345 line running from the new 765 substation to North Rochester, which is powering the data center, as you see from this project. And so it's like clear that these are connected, and as we say in transmission, yes, it is all connected.

The second page of that notes that the ESA states -- and that's the M-26-170. The ESA states that the 345-kV to the data center is one of two planned 345-kV lines, and in the Skyway application there's just one 345-kV line. And so you can find that under Section B of the project timeline. That's in the ESA, page 3. So we clearly have two. So we need to look at phased and

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connected actions here. That is a problem.
So the phased and connected actions that I've found so far are the data center, page 2 -- I mean, phase two and the transmission for that. Then, on the substation, we know that we have the North Rochester substation there and the CapX2020, but added to that will be the PowerOn Midwest line, the 765-kV line coming in; the Pleasant Valley to North Rochester to Hampton, that's another one going through North Rochester; Pleasant Valley to North Rochester, and that is part of the 117 as well; Gopher to Badger 765, and that's coming out of North -- out of above North Rochester, the 765, heading out in Wisconsin.
We have permitted the Mankato to Mississippi 345-kV transmission line. We also have the DOT Highway 60, Oronoco, in between there, resurfacing or repair. And then we have the closing of those lines -- those access roads going across the median. And those are things that need to be looked at, because it's really adding up.
I mean, they couldn't fit everything into that North Rochester substation, so they had to build another one. And this is a big impact, and the cumulative impacts need to be looked at.

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And then we get into the data center, but that's another story. So thank you.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you, Carol.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Can I just ask a couple follow-up questions to make sure I got everything here?
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Sure.
MR. SAM WEAVER: So I have the impacts to culverts and crossings over by the transmission line on the western side of Highway 52 were brought up?
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Wait, run that by me again. I missed that one. Sorry.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Sorry. I thought you said you were worried about impacts to culverts and road crossings?
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Oh, yes. Well, the DOT project is going to be working on culverts.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah.
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And then the DOT is going to be working on road crossings.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah.
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And, actually, the DOT projects are going to have an impact, I would guess, on this line if it goes across, because they've got to go across from one side to the other.

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The access roads down there, that could really be a problem. And if they're building frontage roads, how are they going to deal with, you know, I mean, frontage roads going miles around in circles? That's a problem.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yeah. I just wanted to follow up, Ms. Overland. That comment is filed under this docket, correct?
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Yes.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: I just wanted to make sure we have a copy. I know you've given the court reporter a copy, but --
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Yes, and she has a copy there and it's highlighted. It was June 2nd it was filed.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yeah, I just wanted to confirm. Thank you.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay. We're going to take a quick pause.
MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Oh, we need a pause? Okay.
MR. BRET EKNES: I just wanted to see if we get rid of some of the noise here, because it's really hard to hear.

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MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay. We're going to see if we can fix the audio issues, and we'll be back in five minutes, should we say?
Sure, five-minute recess.
(Recess taken.)
MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay. We are going to get started again. So if we could just -- who is our next commenter?
We have David Derksen. So, again, if you could please state and spell your name for the court reporter.
And then remember that while people are talking, just try to stay quiet so that the court reporter can hear the commenter, thank you.
REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: My name is Reverend David Derksen, D-A-V-I-D, D-E-R-K-S-E-N.
My first comment, I just want to go on record and concur with the example that you gave earlier that we would appreciate -- at least I would appreciate that condition being set in place on whether this gets built or not.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah.
REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: A clarification about the EAW slide. That's about power generation, and the MPCA is looking at the pollution when it

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comes to the MPCA. It's not the whole project. That's still under litigation.

MR. SAM WEAVER: I -- so sorry. I don't want to speak to what exactly is going to be within the scope of the PCA's review. They could limit it to just the power generation piece, they could expand it to the rest of the facility associated with it, but that is their review, and nothing else about the data center triggers environmental review from the Public Utilities Commission.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Okay.

MR. SAM WEAVER: So, yes, it's just a matter of, is there something that would trigger our review process. Right now, to our knowledge, we do not have anything in front of us that would trigger our environmental review, but the PCA is handling that. And I don't know if it's just going to be the generation or the rest of the facility, but that's a good question to ask them.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: The MPCA?

MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah, and I would reach out to them that via email. That's their environmental review team.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that clarification.

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My other comment is just something about the naming of this line: North Rochester. We're 15 miles -- one-five miles -- north of Rochester in the city of Pine Island, and so it's kind of insulting to us residents in Pine Island that we're called North Rochester. Like, I grew up in Rochester, I love Rochester, but I don't live in Rochester. I live in Pine Island.

And also it's -- we're not having the meeting in Pine Island, which is sad for transparency reasons. Like, these have real transparency costs. If I don't know North -- the North Rochester station is in Pine Island, I might not pay attention to this meeting.

If I have to get in a car and drive ten minutes to a county fair location 4H building to make comments, I might not do that, or I might not be able to do that, but the project is still going to impact me.

So that would be -- my comment would be, maybe a little more inclusive of the community where this is coming, as well as use more appropriate labels so that the costs -- information costs aren't so high for the project.

My next comment is about the actual

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transmission line that -- I appreciate that Google, as the document says, is going to pay for this mile and a half transmission line. I see that's in the document and that is the plan. My understanding, the double -- double-kilovolt [sic] line can transmit up to maybe 3,500 megawatts. I'm not sure if you guys know.

MS. VALERIE HERRING: Phone a friend?

MR. JASON STANDING: Sure.

MS. VALERIE HERRING: We're going to phone a friend and bring up Jason Standing, a transmission planner at Xcel Energy.

MR. JASON STANDING: Is this thing on?

Okay. Jason Standing, transmission planning for Xcel Energy.

Yeah. So what you had asked for, how much the amps were for MVA --

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Yeah, how many amps.

MR. JASON STANDING: Yeah, a double-circuit 345-kV line built to 3,000 amps is roughly about 1,700 MVA per line. So a double-circuit, yeah, roughly 3,450.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: 3,450, all right. Thank you.

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MR. JASON STANDING: Yeah.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: The reason I asked that is, just as the previous commenter talked about, those are all interconnected projects. And my concern is that while we see the new law being applied appropriately for this mile and a half transmission line, what is it doing as far as this other transmission line? Because that power is coming from the substation, it's not coming from nowhere, and we have one customer drawing that power. And by law they should be paying for the transmission of that, that energy to that substation because they're drawing that much.

So my concern as a resident is, am I going to be hit with indirect costs? Because we're just limiting it to this mile and a half line, but the reality is all those other lines are carrying that power as well just to one customer. Thank you.

MR. SAM WEAVER: So I can handle -- so there are two pieces. So the first part, regarding the meeting location, so we tried to find a venue in Pine Island proper. I don't know if it's wedding season or something, but basically we anticipated a large turnout, so we wanted it to have an over 100 person capacity.

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And there aren't that many places that can accommodate that, and the ones that could were booked for these dates. And there was one option, but there's an adjoining bar, and we've had tough experiences with public meetings in the past where you're adjoined to a place that serves alcohol.

So we were more in favor -- and this is still within ten minutes. And I know that it's not in Pine Island proper, and I'm sorry that it's not in Pine Island proper, but it is an eight-minute drive. This was kind of the closest venue we could find that would accommodate a large turnout while also not being adjoined to a bar, so that's why it's here.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Okay.

MR. SAM WEAVER: And then the piece regarding if they were to build another transmission line to the data center to somewhere else, if there is another transmission line built that would be over a mile or over 100-kV, that would again be a separate transmission line project. So that would open up a new docket and it would require a new permit.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: That's not what I'm saying.

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MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: So what I'm saying is that these other projects that were referenced tonight, the 765, the Gopher to Badger, all of these are coming to Pine Island's substation right now as they're written up.

What we are being told as a public is that all of these transmission lines have nothing to do with Project Skyway. What I'm saying is if we have a transmission line that's built to transmit 3,400 megawatts and we need to build the capacity to get back out to the substation, who is that power for then?

And so my concern is that we were shifting costs for those other projects to the residents, but not because we're -- we're just -- we're just saying, well, I'm just going to look at this minuscule part of the line but not the other parts they're being branched off from.

MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah, so those costs questions --

This is Michael from the PUC (indicating).

He was just telling us again, that those cost questions for these other transmission

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projects, for this transmission project, there would be a subsequent docket. So any of those costs question are -- sorry, I'm not able to able answer cost questions.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Okay. Fair enough.

MR. SAM WEAVER: Yes, there is that ESA docket, and those staff would be more appropriate for questions about that.

REVEREND DAVID DERKSEN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: And I'd also like to give the Applicants an opportunity to respond to that question, because they might be able to appropriately -- more appropriately address the questions.

MS. VALERIE HERRING: Thanks. And we're going to Jake Andre, who spoke earlier about the ESA, to talk about the analysis that was conducted as part of the ESA.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yeah, I think it will best addressed through that docket. However, all of the direct costs, if you go down the line to --

THE REPORTER: Jacob, can you just slow down a little bit?

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MR. JACOB ANDRE: I'm sorry.

Yeah. All costs we identified as a result of this project that will otherwise not have occurred but for this project is being allocated to this customer.

When you're referring to other, you know, planned transmission lines that are intra- -- interstate, you know, those have been in the works for many, many years and are contributing assets, and will be contributing assets to the surrounding system that all customers will benefit from.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you for your comments.

And also for your response as well.

I think we can move on to the next speaker now. On our list, we have Alan Muller, if you want to come up. And, again, please state and spell your name for the court reporter.

MR. ALAN MULLER: Alan Muller, I'm a resident of Red Wing, and my comments tonight are based on the handouts that have been provided by the proponents of this project and really nothing more than that.

There is a handout here telling us that this will help keep electric bills in check. And so

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being a resident of Red Wing, I'm used to living in a community where Xcel is the dominant source of public revenues, and Red Wing is not, I would say, famous for the low levels of taxation that exist. I don't think many residents feel that that's the case. So I would urge people to be cautious in assuming that there will be this sort of economic benefit to the community without a lot more detail.

It's also worth noting, I think, that Xcel Energy is well able, as I'm sure Google also, to go to the legislature and get a different deal than the one that people were promised when they went ahead with this. So I would urge caution.

I'd also point out that the cost of -- Xcel is going about this part of the country promoting, again, nuclear power. The cost of a kilowatt-hour of nuclear electricity is on the order of ten times that of a wind-generated kilowatt-hour or a solar-generated kilowatt-hour. So I would certainly like to see some detail on just what is being discussed here and how it should be supported by the local officials and school district officials and so on.

Okay. Now, there's another sheet here entitled Power Lines and Electric and Magnetic

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Fields, and it begins by saying the World Health Organization and research organizations have studied the potential for EMF to affect human health and have never found a correlation between exposure to EMF and negative health issues.

But if we skip down two paragraphs, I can read to you, quote, A number of epidemiological studies suggest small increases in the risk of childhood leukemia with exposure to low frequency magnetic fields in the home. Low frequency presumably means 60 hertz.

This seems to be sort of a contradiction between what is stated in these two paragraphs, which catches my attention as a person who has been treated for leukemia, and I wouldn't recommend that anyone support the exposure of themselves or their families to electro -- electric or magnetic fields when they can be avoided, which is probably the case here.

Bear with me.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Excuse me, Mr. Muller, before you continue on, which I encourage you to continue on if you have comments, I just wanted to clarify which handout you're referencing. The one about economic benefits to the community and also

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the EMFs, if you could just read off the top of the handout just so we know what you're referring to.

MR. ALAN MULLER: Okay. I'm a little hard-of-hearing, but there's a couple more points I would like to mention. May I do that now?

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yeah, of course, and sorry if I didn't speak up. I'm just wondering if you can explain which handout you're referring to with your comments about economic benefits and EMF. Just so we understand what you're pointing to, if you could read off the top of that handout?

MR. ALAN MULLER: Well, as I mentioned, I'm reacting purely to information that's been provided by those of you in front of the room this afternoon.

UNIDENTIFIED: Is it this one?

It's this one (indicating).

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ALAN MULLER: Many data center projects seem to involve backup power sources. In some cases, these have been an astounding number of large diesel generators, but there were other possibilities and I don't see any mention of that here. I don't see any mention of redundant connections to the grid, and I would like to know

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more about that and just what the intent is of the promoters of this project to provide backup power, or does not need backup power, I don't know.

But we see in here the discussion of noise and air quality, and I don't think I need to assure you that large numbers of diesel generators running in the background would not be beneficial to either noise levels or air quality. So I would like to see that explored in some greater depths.

There's mention of water, but there's no detail. Is it a consumptive use of cooling water? Is it a dry cooling that is implied by the paperwork in here? I don't know. I'd like to know more about that.

And, lastly, I don't see any mention here of Rochester Public Utilities, and what, if any, impact this might have on that organization or its customers.

Okay. I think I'm done.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you, Mr. Muller.

If you want to respond to anything, I can hand it over to you. If not, we can continue on.

MS. VALERIE HERRING: Thanks. I'm going to bring up Allen Gleckner from -- sorry, that surprised me -- from Google to talk about the

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questions you had about water usage and also backup power generation at the data center.

MR. ALLEN GLECKNER: Hello, Allen Gleckner, A-L-L-E-N, G-L-E-C-K-N-E-R. I'm with Google up in St. Paul.

And, yeah, so to the two questions, backup generation, as part of this transmission line permit, there's not any direct implication to the backup generation that would be part of the project. So it's not a direct tie to the transmission line in any way there. But just for transparency of the project, you can find this information in the AUAR, which is linked on the project website and the project fact sheets that are available online.

But as of right now, there's no final plans on the amount of backup generation that would be a part of the project, but it's planned right now to be less than 50 megawatts, and it would be handled through a different permit process at the State. That would be through the Pollution Control Agency.

So, yeah, sorry, the water part. So there's, again, information in the AUAR in the fact sheet, and there's no plans -- the plans for the water backup -- or, sorry, the water cooling is that

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it's not consumptive, air-cooled, and that there's no ongoing draw of water for the cooling. It will be called closed-loop air cooling.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you.

And then we can move on to our next commenter, Ted Galaty, if you want to come up. Please state your name and spell it for the court reporter. Ted Galaty, if you want to come up and make your comment, if you're still here.

UNIDENTIFIED: He's not.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Okay. Thank you.

And I know you might have thought about it and if anyone wants to make a comment or ask a question, we'll open it to everybody now. If you want to raise your hand and if you want to come up to the mic, please feel free to do so.

Yeah, please come up. And then when you get up here, please state and spell your name for the court reporter.

MR. ROD LANNERS: My name is Rod Lanners, Pine Island. R-O-D, L-A-N-N-E-R-S.

I came up here, I'm not sure what I'm going to say, but I'm going to say something. Maybe a couple comments to start out with. We've heard people say we want the detail, and this is a comment

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going to Google and Xcel, we see pieces of this thing, but we don't see the big picture. It would be nice to provide a map of the whole -- what's going on. Because we have phase one, that's what you're talking about tonight. People have already asked questions, well, what about phase two, what's the plan?

To me, you should have that in your plan, because you -- to me, I like to plan ahead. I would know what is planned for phase two if I was Xcel so I can maybe use some of the same infrastructure. A comment, okay.

And then there's all kind of rumors. I don't even know if you call them rumors, it's on the news. For example, last night or yesterday, Fox News said they were going to put an alternate -- or alternative power plant up for the data center. I don't know if that's true or not. It could be a rumor, but I would think -- so it's a question, is that planned or not, Xcel?

MR. SAM WEAVER: Did you want me to talk about that now?

MR. ROD LANNERS: What's that?

MR. SAM WEAVER: Do you want me to answer that?

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MR. ROD LANNERS: Well, no -- well, yeah, somebody should answer that.

MR. SAM WEAVER: I guess, I mean, I can't speak to whether Xcel has more generation for this plan, but I can assure you, so like you're worried about phase two, just, again, if anybody wants to construct any new transmission line or any new generation center, again, that would meet our thresholds of 50 megawatts for generation and then our transmission line regulations, they would have to come back and get another permit.

So us approving this transmission line -- which again, we don't touch the data center. If we approve the transmission line and they want to come back and add another one, if they want to add generation, that's a whole different process. We would go through this whole thing again.

So just on our end, we don't know about anything, but if they want to do that, they have to come back and get another permit.

MR. ROD LANNERS: And that's the problem, nobody can see the big picture. So I think there'd be some communication between Xcel and Google about what the long-term plans are, because it's more of a plan as you go.

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Because we hear about iron-air batteries. Iron-air battery storage, 300 megavolts [sic] of electricity are supposed to be provided for Google through Xcel for the data center.

It was on the news that land is being bought across the road from the data center for iron-air batteries. I come here tonight, I was told that's not true. Yet, I know landowners that signed nondisclosures that specifically stated that it is happening.

The news out there is all over the place. I would think, again, there would be communication going on and we could -- as residents, all of us would have a bigger picture of what is really happening.

You jump into the wind turbines -- okay, Google promised 300 megawatts of iron-air batteries, 200 megawatts of solar, and 1,400 megawatts of wind turbines for their green energy plan. Where are they located? It would be nice to know.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: I can answer that.

MR. ROD LANNERS: Go ahead.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: I can add a little to that.

UNIDENTIFIED: I can't hear you.

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MR. JACOB ANDRE: Within our portfolio, we are in various stages of, kind of, our generation allocation process. So it's not dissimilar to the processes that we go through in the transmission side. We have to demonstrate a need to the Public Utilities Commission, go out, secure bids for those projects. Then bring forth those bids to the PUC for additional review and sign off, and then each of those respective generation projects will have their own environmental assessment, permitting, and licensing processes associated with them.

You mentioned, you know, generation allocated directly to Pine Island. As I've said, we're still in the early stages, particularly on the battery component. I would say as of right now we're not identifying or looking to locate any portion of that battery within the city of Pine Island, and it's more likely than not that we would be looking for several locations to house that 300 megawatts of iron-air battery storage.

MR. ROD LANNERS: That would make sense, but I'm just saying what the news reported, that they were going to be located on the other side of Highway 52 from the data center. So everybody gets all excited about that, and there's some truth to

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that, I think, but we don't know what that is, so -- and you don't know yet either.

I just -- I'm a long-range planner. I like to see the whole picture. But here's one point I do want to make, because Google and Xcel have both stated this, and that is, there's no cost going to the current ratepayers for the data centers. To me, that's an outright lie.

Here's why: If you implement all the data centers in Minnesota that are planned, they would take as much electricity -- this is on the news -- as all the residents in the whole state of Minnesota. You go to the national news, they're saying the same thing. If we implement all the data centers across the U.S., they would take as much energy -- that is being proposed -- as the residents in the United States. I don't think that's false news there, because you start to see how much juice each one is taking.

So to build these transmission lines that you're talking about and saying us current ratepayers aren't going to pay a price for this, that's a lie. We're paying it now. Xcel did their big 13.2 percent increase for this last year and this year to help pay for infrastructure that

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seen -- see what's coming for data centers.

So to keep saying that ratepayers aren't going to pay a price for this is an absolute lie, we already are to get the transmission lines built. And data centers aren't classified yet and won't be until the end of this year, so we don't know -- at least the common customer doesn't know how much data centers paid towards these transmission lines.

So I just want to make a point on that, and I think everybody in this audience would agree when we say we're not paying a rate increase because of data centers.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: I think this goes back to, you know, the large load tariff that was just established and approved by the Public Utilities Commission just a few weeks ago, and so this establishes a framework that allocates the incremental costs that data centers bring to our system directly to these customers and other very large customers on our system.

So as I said, they're paying for their generation, they're paying for their transmission service, and they're contributing to the fixed cost asset that is the grid. And, therefore, that's how we're predicting or forecasting a savings or benefit

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to our existing customers that would be paying for that existing system over the duration of the 15-year contracts that we're contemplating with Google.

MR. ROD LANNERS: But you're eight years out, ten years out. I'm talking about today, who is paying for these transmission lines that are going up? It's the current ratepayers that are paying for that, correct?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yeah, I think you're referring to the system assets that would be benefiting the entire system, that's correct.

MR. ROD LANNERS: Okay. Thank you. I'm just saying, to me, it's a lie when you say that ratepayers -- current ratepayers are not paying for data center projects. False news.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you, Mr. Lanners.

Would anybody else like to come up to the mic?

Yeah, in the back of the room. And then, of course, please state and spell your name for the court reporter.

MS. MARCIA MATTHEES: My name is Marcia Matthees, M-A-R-C-I-A, M-A-T-T-H-E-E-S, from

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Mazeppa.

So I'd just like to -- just like to make some statements. I just feel like we've dealt with the 675 [sic] line coming through, my brother dealt with the 375 [sic] line going through the farm where I was raised. And it just seems like these small towns that we were raised, and we're the ones feeding the whole country or the state of Minnesota.

It just seems like we are so naive that we're the ones that get all this important stuff to make sure that everybody else has Google or they have electricity in Chicago. It just feels like we're getting taken so much advantage of, and what we've gotten out of it is not a whole lot, but it disrupts our whole life and it disrupts the peace and quiet of where we live.

And I think people have to really understand that. I don't live in Rochester for a reason. I used to work there. I don't live in the Cities for a reason, because it sounds like it's pretty crazy, but everything goes through the rural area of Minnesota.

And some of these people, now that -- my -- my sister lost her husband and she moved to Pine Island. She's in the process of possibly

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having to resell her house and move someplace else so that she can still get the money out of her house that she put into it because it's not going to be worth anything when the data center comes through.

So her net worth will drop so much, and some of her neighbors are moving as well. And it's like, how do you move these people? That we worked and we worked overtime and we worked hard on the farm, and you lose your husband, you lose your lifeline -- and she's still doing daycare at 69 because that's what she has to do in order to make sure she pays her taxes and her bills. And now she has to think about moving to another house, and that's just not fair.

You have to look at the people that live in these cities. Because once they get started, once you -- once you move in there, it's going to keep on, and we're just going to get more and more and more and more and more. Because we let the first one in, so why not let the second one in, you know? Well, it's already there.

So that's -- that's what my brother said, what else are they going to put through the land when the 375 [sic] went right through the farm. Does he have sick cows? Yes, he does from the line.

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And it was either, you give up your land or we're just going to condemn it, and then we did it anyway, and that's not fair. That's totally not fair.

And I'm just sick and tired of being the naive people. We know what goes on, we run businesses, we know what goes on in the world, but we are just to ourself and everyday we just keep on working, but then we get stuff taken away.

And another thing is all of this water goes into the energy of, you know, cooling these stations. What happens to the water? Once a human gets into anything that they do, you know, like running water, it has to come out polluted. So are our animals now going to suffer because we get polluted water from going through this cooling station?

It's just questions that, you know, we just need to know. Maybe we'll have to move to Kansas or something, because it seems like maybe we can make a living there. Because we're getting everything going through Minnesota so that Chicago can get electricity. Thank you.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you, Ms. Matthees. We appreciate your comment.

Would anybody else like to speak?

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Yeah, we'll come to you next.
Yeah, please feel free to come up, and then state and spell your name for the court reporter. Thank you.
MR. TREVOR SCRABECK: Trevor Scrabeck, T-R-E-V-O-R, S-C-R-A-B-E-C-K.
So I guess this particular section of line doesn't affect me -- directly affect me, the 1- -- yeah, I guess it's 126, 135. The 117.25 -- or, yeah, 25-117 directly affects me, but there's, what, I guess, six -- at least half a dozen of these dockets now that we all know are connected.
And it seems like they -- one depends on the other, and that's why this one seems like it's assuming that the data center is going through and these other projects, Gopher to Badger and PowerOn Midwest, are all happening. I don't know. It seems like your timeline was ahead of even when the certificate of need is even being approved for 117, for example.
Maybe I -- I guess, it's all kind of confusing, but I guess the comment I'd like to make, just my own sad story, I've lived in the country for 25 years. I moved from my last country property, sold that because of wind farm development. I go

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out at night and see a sea of blinking lights and developers trying to move in on my land, and so I move out here, 30 miles away, and now I'm dealing with this transmission line. And it makes me sick and disgusted, but I've worked my whole life to build my home in the country and it feels like it's being taken away from me.
There was something else I was going to bring up, but -- and I probably should have written it down. I didn't plan on coming up here to speak, but here I am and that's all I can think of, so thanks.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you for your comment. We appreciate it.
MR. SAM WEAVER: I can respond to that comment, too. So the questioning about, like, the timeline and how this combines with other projects, so the approval of this project is completely independent of any other project, with the exception of, right, I talked about, we can include a special condition that says if the data center isn't built, right, we would not begin construction on this transmission line specifically.
And, again, I kind of talked about earlier with the new law, our permitting schedule

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is, once we receive a permit application and accept it as complete, we have to do our review within six to nine months, and the Commissioners need to make a decision in that time frame.
So it -- right, all these other projects may or may not happen. We are just looking at the merits of this specific project because that is what the law tells us we have to do in this allotted amount of time, if that makes sense.
MS. AMY MADSON: I have a question for you, so --
MR. SAM WEAVER: Hold on.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: If you would like to ask a question, we ask that you please come up to the front so you can speak, and then please state and spell your name for the court reporter.
MS. AMY MADSON: Hi. I'm Amy Madson, A-M-Y, M-A-D-S-O-N. I live out in Roscoe Township on 490th Street.
I have one question for all of you, how many of you want to live next to a transmission line? Do you live next to a big huge transmission line? Any of you, would you want your kids to grow up next to a giant rig? Anybody? You live next to one?

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You, do you consider -- when you do your environmental study, do you look at other states and the health risks that other states have experienced when they have built any of these transmission lines?
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah. So if you read, I believe, in the application, the environmental -- the environmental assessment in Section 6, they talk about potential health impacts associated with these --
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: Oh, wait. I have to make sure -- wait -- I have to make sure --
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: I'm not getting any of this.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Sorry, I don't mean to cut you off, but if you could speak slowly and not get into such a quick back and forth. This has to be recorded so that we have a full record so the Commissioners --
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
MS. AMY MADSON: I was waiting for an answer.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: I understand --

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(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: Wait, everybody's -- everybody's going.
MS. AMY MADSON: I'm just pointing it out to Google. Anybody? Do you live next to any of this stuff?
MR. SAM WEAVER: Excuse me, ma'am --
MS. AMY MADSON: I'm just --
MR. SAM WEAVER: -- I appreciate what you're getting at --
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: Wait --
MS. AMY MADSON: That's an honest question. Do you live next to a data center or a giant transmission line, do you?
MR. SAM WEAVER: I mean, I have a distribution line in front of my house.
MS. AMY MADSON: Do you have a giant mega transmission line by your house? Do you have a transformer within five miles of your house?
MR. SAM WEAVER: Ma'am, I do not, but the Applicant has written their environmental assessment about the potential human health impacts that may occur as a result of things like, I know EMF is a really big concern, electromagnetic field. And they

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have a lot of charts showing the exposure that you might get to a transmission line's EMF depending on how far away you are, directly underneath, to the side of these transmission lines.
And I know it's a very important question. There are a lot of questions about it, but I would encourage you, they have copies of the application --
MS. AMY MADSON: Well, you can come out and stand under one of them, and you can feel -- you can feel it. You can hear it, zzzzz (phonetic). There is no doubt that there was juice getting lost.
Anybody that works with electricity knows when you transmit it, you lose it. I've worked on two wind farms. They told us, Don't tell anybody about all the dead bats. They don't tell you about the chemicals that are in those blades and that they are not green. They don't tell you about the chemicals in the solar panels.
This is just part of all the BS, bigger is better. We have lost 70 percent of our dairy farms in Minnesota, but we now have mega farms. So what happens when you have a disease come through? Your turkey farm, your dairy farm, and your swine, wow, we can destroy millions of animals.

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So this lie about bigger and better and AI is going to solve the world is bologna. Everybody's talking about green. You want to be green, well, then let's live like the Amish. That's as green as you're going to get in Minnesota.
There are over 4,000 data centers either being built or already built in the United States. That's more than how many countries put together? Probably everybody. Australia only has hundreds; we have thousands. Why?
If Google is going to spend $500 million -- oh, because we're going to bribe the city council, oh, we're going to donate money to the school. If you spend that kind of money, you know darn well you're going to need backup batteries, you've got a plan.
And this piecemeal, oh, well, this isn't connected to that. Well, would you trust the surgeon that cuts off your hand to say, oh, we're just going to operate on this finger and then we'll reattach it? It's connected. Everything is connected in this world.
We have lost our butterflies, we have lots our bats, we are losing our trees, we are losing our -- we can't see the night's -- the Milky

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Way anymore. And now you want to have more humming, more lights, more pollution, for what? For money.
I don't need AI, I can live without it. I don't have a smartphone, I don't have a computer. So why the heck should I have to have all this crap within five miles of my house? Because I moved out in the country, back from California to get away from all the people and all the highways and infrastructure.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah, so I understand your larger --
MS. AMY MADSON: Oh, one other point. I went back and visited the farmers in Iowa after they built the two wind farms -- well, one was in Minnesota, one was in Iowa, but I went back to the Iowa farmers. They were told to give up their property because this was their patriotic duty to put a wind turbine up. And then they had to deal with -- and I know what it's like because I worked underneath one -- whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. I saw the dead bats.
MR. SAM WEAVER: Ma'am, I understand your concerns about the wind farm --
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: Wait, you have to -- one

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person at a time.
(Indiscernible cross-talking.)
THE REPORTER: Wait. Nope. No. I'm --
MS. AMY MADSON: The next year -- their electric rates, then the following year they went up. Oh, it doesn't cost you anything. After we built it, oh, guess what? We've got to recoup. So don't tell us it's not going to cost us. It always gets passed on to the consumer, you know that. Anyway --
MS. SAARAH MAXON: And thank you for your comments. We hear what you're saying and we appreciate it.
We're going to take a quick five-minute break. We'll reconvene at 7:35.
(Recess taken.)
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Okay. We'll get started again. Thanks for joining us, if you stuck it out through the little break.
I just wanted to say that we understand that you're frustrated, we understand if you're emotional, we're here to listen, and I appreciate your comments. I'm here to listen. I swear we are. But our court reporter, Christine, can only type so fast, and I just want to reiterate that the

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Commissioners read through the entire record. They read through all the comments.
You want to make sure that your voice is heard, you want to make sure it's on the record accurately, and, again, we'd just ask that you maintain respect for others. Again, it's just to get everything out in the open and make sure that we can hear you properly.
So we'll open this back up for comments, if you want to raise your hand.
Carol, we'll come back to you in a bit. There's a couple other people. Since you already spoke once, but if there's still time, we'll bring you back.
Yes, please come up and state and spell your name for the court reporter, and as a reminder, just a little slower.
There is a twist in the middle that you can make that shorter. Sam will help you.
MS. LORI JONES: Hopefully that works. My name is Lori Jones, L-O-R-I, J-O-N-E-S. I'm from Pine Island, I live in Roscoe Township.
Now that I know Google is here, I have questions for you guys. So this all goes to cloud computing and AI and such. And so it used to be

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that servers were located within the companies and that's where all of the data was stored and was run and retrieved and computed and all that.
So now we're moving to cloud computing, now we're moving to AI, and so now I'm wondering why is it beneficial to build a huge mega building, several of them, that have all of the detrimental effects to human life, anything that's life, the environment, you name it.
I haven't heard anything yet that shows any kind of benefit to having these huge buildings and all of their draws, requirements, resources, and everything that's needed to have this be functional for the United States, for the world.
You're Google, why do we need these huge buildings when this is cloud based? This is AI. Cloud, to me, means it's up there (indicating). It means it should be satellite based, right? So why are we moving away from servers that were -- or maybe still are in some cases -- located within companies, probably you guys have them in your facilities. And I even know the military used it and know they use satellites as well for their communications. I'm not seeing where this makes any sense. I'm not seeing where this is beneficial.

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I'm not seeing where it's cost effective. I -- I don't get it.
And I am thinking that we'll probably have meetings with people in various capacities within your company, and I know that you're all technologically based, but it still doesn't make any sense; am I right?
MR. ALLEN GLECKNER: Excuse me. Thank you for the question. Again, I'm Allen Gleckner with Google. I appreciate the concern, and I have to say, it's pretty outside the area of my expertise, which is electricity and energy supply for these projects.
But the project is the servers, you know, a data center is a big building with computers and servers that host the cloud, as you said. Right now, to my knowledge, there's no space-based option to do that. There's some people thinking about that, but there's not an option for that right now.
And with all the digital parts of our lives, between the services we use, different, you know, companies, medical records, streaming, you name it, it's all part of this infrastructure. And it's really just the scale of how digitized our world has become that is driving the demand for

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these buildings and these types of projects.
Like you said, it's the same thing that -- you know, on a smaller scale, is potentially -- or it was, like, housed on-site in a lot of places. A lot of places are moving away from that and hiring companies like Google to host their -- all their, you know, things with small businesses, big businesses, hospitals, 911, military, and all those things.
And so it's just -- the simple answer that I can give is that it's a product of the products we offer and the companies we serve through those things. So it's a demand-based situation.
I hope that helps, and we can, you know, try to provide more information to folks if that's helpful on that front.
MS. LORI JONES: It does initially, but like you just mentioned, so the demand's there. And it's not -- the technology doesn't exist just yet, but people are looking at it.
So hearing what everybody has to say, what their concerns are, many are really emotional and, you know, they're not out of line. And, you know, this would be like with the resources, the effects, and everything that's considered here.

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So we're functioning now, and, you know, maybe it isn't what people want or desire right now, but if the technology is coming for satellite-based cloud computing, AI, whatever, then it seems best to wait until that technology -- and investment through that technology, that should be the focus. Not taking over our land that we need for food and for livestock and for, you know, homes and our health.
I mean, this is a huge effect on resources all the way around, and it seems to make a whole lot more sense to have cloud-based technology in the cloud and housed in the satellites. It doesn't make any sense to make these huge buildings with all the resources and all that they require when companies already have their own facilities and we already have servers.
So I guess, I think there needs to be -- I think there needs to be another look at just cooling it for a little bit, you know what I mean? So, yeah, thank you.
MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you for your comments.
I want to open it up again, if anybody has comments and questions.
Sir, you'll -- I apologize. I don't know

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your name, but I remember that you wanted to speak earlier, and then please state and spell your name.
MR. STEPHEN HACKMAN: Hi, my name's Stephen Hackman. I'm a little bit taller, how's that? Stephen Hackman, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, H-A-C-K-M-A-N.
I just have a few comments, and I'd like to get back to the routing a little bit. I'm not real familiar with the data center, other than I understand that it is a big power use. And there's a recurring theme going on here, all of these projects are connected. Especially when we get into the dockets, the 117, 125, and the -- which is the 765, and we also have the Mississippi to Mankato, which just located the 161 in this area.
And I realize that some of these projects are on different timelines. The 161's location -- granted, it's a whole different timeline than the 765 project. However, if we -- the PUC, the public, we all know they're here, we can see this docket, we can see this docket, so we need to consider them somewhat together.
Because we might miss a lot of opportunities for parallel alignments, co-locations, if we look at -- in fact, the 161 that was

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dislocated with the Mississippi to Mankato, prime example, we could bring that across 52, on the underlying situation with the 765.
It's opportunities like that that we, the public, and us utilities -- and I say "us." I've been a shareholder for 30 years, not a big one, but I've got my couple hundred shares that I think are going to pay my utility bill. So I'm not an antagonist, I'm just trying to present my perspective.
And what I've seen, I was involved with the CapX project, and every time that we move further out and proliferate out into where there's no public infrastructure, and more importantly possibly, transmission, we lose all those opportunities to mitigate the effects of these transmissions.
So in this particular case, this particular docket, I guess I would have no complaints. Basically, you're going from a substation, crossing a public road, and immediately into the end-user. The person that has been -- the entity that is benefiting from that power in this project is also taking the burden. So don't -- it's far superior than shifting the burden as far away

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from where the need is on the people that really don't benefit from it.

And I'm especially thinking of the larger 765 lines. I don't know where each electron was generated; we're never going to know that. But I think it's fair to say that those large transmission lines are not going to light one light bulb in the state of Minnesota, it's a passthrough. We may blend on our renewables, we may blend on our nuclear from Prairie Island, we may blend on our coal, so we'll never know where it came from, but we are not the beneficiaries of that project.

And those are the types of things -- again, I'm a member of the public, I'm a small shareholder in the company, in this particular Applicant, and I'm a potentially affected landowner. So I can say "we" and look at any one of you, so we're all in the same boat here.

So what I -- but the main point I wanted to say was, you saw here, there's a lot of things coming together, and the faster -- the more we separate them, the more we're going to miss opportunities for co-locations and parallel alignments.

Because if we had known this -- where

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exactly this Mankato project -- Mankato-Mississippi was going, we could have considered that in routing. In fact, I think one of the earlier previously considered routes east of the sub towards the river was exactly in that area.

But if you stopped considering that route, you would leave only a route that is green. So that just demonstrates -- I know we're not here to talk about routing the 765, we're not here to talk about routing other than this particular project, but it does demonstrate why we need to look at the big picture and optimize every single opportunity for public right-of-ways, existing transmission, and what really lays into that is the topography.

If we looked at the state of Minnesota, out west, it's broken up into section by section by section, mile by mile by mile in almost perfect squares, and there's a road on every one. And I know we don't like 90-degree angles because they're expensive, but we can keep the footprint out of the field.

Again, we're not here to route any -- any large transmission. It's the concept, and I'm trying to get across -- and I know I'm not a good

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public speaker, but that's what I'm here to do. And you can see it tying in with other issues. What is this? Two 345 lines going into one user. That's some power, that's some usage. I'm sorry, it is. We can't deny that, but that's another issue.

But, again, so as far as the routing or the project that's being discussed today, it would appear to me that the Applicant did a fairly good job because there was really no choice. A half-mile, you're basically going from your -- our sub, across a public road into the end-user. So awesome, great job.

Now, we're going to have to see when we get out on the bigger projects where we go with this. So thanks a lot, and I -- again, just, we need to consolidate. We're confusing too many issues here. The more we can -- especially, now I understand east of 52 is these particular corporate entities, west is these particular -- but that does not make it a separate project, that makes it separate owners. So thanks.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you for your comments.

Anybody else who would like to come up?

Why don't we do this lady upfront first,

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and then if there's still time, we'll come back to you, of course, because you've had a chance to speak.

Yes, please come up, and state and spell your name, please.

MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: Aubree Derksen, A-U-B-R-E-E, D-E-R-K-S-E-N. I guess, kind of a question slash comment. I'm just kind of looking -- well, I guess one comment. One comment for the docket, as far as the environmental review, I noticed that in the paperwork it mentioned that the environmental review is for one data center, and I want it on the record that it is not one data center.

And if that is not abundantly clear at this point, I don't know how to make it more clear without Google maybe coming on the record to acknowledge that there are four data centers, Allen.

MR. ALLEN GLECKNER: Oh, sorry. So the project site that this transmission tie line is serving has four potential buildings on it. There's a commercial agreement for Google to be in one of the buildings, but the environmental review and all the other work towards it contemplates up to four buildings. So I can see how there's some -- bit of

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confusion there.
MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: It's four data centers. One data center that was approved in January by the city, right? Vernon Pahl, city council member, right? And they said three potential future buildings, which you were very careful to identify not as data centers, even though we also have nine data centers being in the plan.
But if you look at the docket, which is also dated even prior to that January approval, here you see substations, actually four, which would fit with four data centers. And when you look at your docket, you have -- 26-170, which I know it is separate, but it is connected to this because it has three Echo Zone, LLC, data centers and the 50-megawatt backup generators that you have been talking about that triggered the MPCA environmental review that is only looking at those backup generators and not the rest of the data center (indiscernible) --
THE REPORTER: I'm sorry, can you slow down just a little bit?
MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: The backup generator for that 50-megawatt -- as he said, the 50-megawatt is what triggered that EAW.

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But then the court record in March, you said, three more data centers for those three potential future buildings. Which again, you were very careful to identify not as data centers. Now we have the PUC docket, plus the court records, clearly identifying it all as three data centers.
So now we have four data centers for this phase one clearly identified on the official record, but you split it up into different regulatory bodies. So I think it's appropriate, given that all of the city, plus Google, plus Ryan Companies are all here to publicly state that there are four data centers. So that your docket, this one, can be accurate with the environmental review to say that there are four data centers to match with your four subsequent substations and the environmental review that you have on the screen that is being triggered by the backup generators to power them.
MR. PETER FITZGERALD: Peter -- oh, sorry, Peter Fitzgerald, Ryan Companies, spelling is P-E-T-E-R, F-I-T-Z-G-E-R-A-L-D. I'm the lead developer with Ryan Companies, vice president of development at Ryan Companies.
And, Ms. Derksen, I appreciate your question about one versus four. I will reiterate

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that we've come to a commercial agreement with Google, a signed lease for the initial project. The initial project was approved by the city council in January of '26, and we are actively courting Google and other prospects for the remainder of our business park, which again was approved in January of '26.
So as we develop our site -- and Ryan has done this for 85 years, we build business parks, and we develop more than just a single pad. We are grading and preparing the entire southern campus and actively courting Google for three additional buildings. I'm certain they're doing their due diligence, Ms. Derksen, on whether or not they want to expand this location.
MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: You did not answer the question, which was simply to confirm that this docket and the map that is on it and the environmental review in this Docket 26-135, to be accurate, it is not one data, it is four. That's not a hard answer. Was that a yes, that is correct?
MR. SAM WEAVER: So I can jump in our end again. So when I said that the PCA is doing the environmental review, I can't speak for sure about what the trigger is for their review. That's for

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the PCA to decide. I just know the PCA is doing environmental review of this project.
And then as far as the four substations goes, serving four data centers, again the data center is outside the scope of this docket, but we do have four substations listed in the review of the project. So we do consider all four of those substations as part of this application.
MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: Right, and they are for four data centers, but your environmental review in this docket specifically only mentions one.
MR. SAM WEAVER: We aren't reviewing the data center.
MS. SHANTAL PAI: Ms. Derksen, my name is Shantal Pai. I'm an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, and that's S-H-A-N-T-A-L, P as in Peter, A-I.
You're correct. The transmission line and the four substations, they are contemplated that the application would serve four data center buildings.
MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: Thank you.
MS. SHANTAL PAI: And I will say that on the record that the intention of having four substations to serve four data center buildings, I see that this is frustrating because I can see why

you're frustrated, it is for four separate buildings.

The confusion is for the folks who do data center work every day, they would refer to the campus as the data center and not the buildings. So in their mind, the data center is the data center, but I see why that's different for you. And so to make sure I'm very clear on the record, it can support up to four data center buildings. Google only has commercial entitlement to the one right now.

MS. AUBREE DERKSEN: Thank you.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: So thank you for your comments. We're out of time now. I just want to say we appreciate all the comments that we heard today. We've heard you, we appreciate you taking the time to make it here.

I just want to remind you that it's not too late to submit comments. The comment period is open through June 26th. All the comments you make here verbally are considered the same way as written comments, so we encourage you to reach out and submit your comments. Thank you.

MR. SAM WEAVER: And also, one more thing, sorry, if you do have a written comment form

that you filled out, let us know before we leave just to make sure we have that.

(Public comment concluded.)

Skyway Application 4/28/2026
117 - Filed 2/2/26, Exemption Req 10/1/25
Notice of Intent 2/7/25
121 - Filed 2/6/26, Exemptions 10/8/25, Notice 2/1/25

6.10.2 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

In general, "reasonably foreseeable" future projects are proposed projects or developments that have applied for a permit from a local, State, or federal authority, or planned projects that have been publicly announced, such as in comprehensive plans. Other foreseeable future actions may also be identified by agencies or based on known trends, such as population changes. Projects must also have sufficiently detailed information available to contribute to the understanding of cumulative potential effects to be considered in the analysis.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions within the geographic scope of the Project are described in **Table 6.10-1**.

Table 6.10-1. Current and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Plans, Programs, or Project	Description	Type	Source
Project Skyway *(Under review for and annexation, rezoning, platting, and related permitting)*	Project Skyway refers to an area encompassing approximately 482 acres located east and within the Project Area, partially in the city of Pine Island. Ryan Companies, US, is a developer working with the City to prepare the land for future development. An Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) was adopted by the city council which outlined a framework for the development of two potential project types. The two studied project types were General Light Industrial and Technology Center. At present, a single data center is planned on about 88 acres, with an approximately 2,850,000-square-foot data center building. Google is also applying for an Option D air permit from MPCA for less than 50 MWs of related backup generation at the site.	Development (A portion of the AUAR area is being planned for industrial development, including a data center campus, into a data center facility, which houses computing infrastructure, including servers, storage systems, networking equipment and other components necessary to store, process, and distribute large amounts of data.)	Project Skyway - Pine Island, MN (City of Pine Island website) See also Home - Project Skyway (Ryan Companies, US website)
U.S. Highway 52 - Pine Island to Oronoco Construction *Planned*	MNDOT plans to improve U.S. Highway 52 from near the Highway 60 interchange to north of Rochester. The work includes resurfacing southbound U.S.	Road and Bridge Construction	https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-52-pine-island-oronoco

PENGAD 800-631-6989 Carol Overland Public Comment

Missing: Elimination of access roads
480th
490th
500th - NRoch, CapX, & Skyway

Plans, Programs, or Project	Description	Type	Source
	Highway 52, constructing a new frontage road to help with safety and access, replacing a culvert bridge north of the city of Pine Island, raising southbound U.S. Highway 52 to reduce the risk of flooding near the middle fork of the Zumbro River, and minor bridge repair work on the 5th St NW bridge over U.S. Highway 52 in Oronoco, and over U.S. Highway 52 south of Oronoco. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2028.		
Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project (MMRTP) *Permitted. Written order pending.*	Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Rochester Public Utilities, and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency are proposing to construct an approximately 130-mile-long, 345 kV transmission line between the Wilmarth substation in Mankato and the Mississippi River and a new, approximately 20-mile-long, 161-kV transmission line between the North Rochester Substation near the city of Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester. Construction is anticipated in 2026–2030.	Transmission Line	https://mmrtproject.com/
Pleasant Valley - North Rochester-Hampton Transmission Project (MISO LRTP #25) *In Permitting*	Xcel Energy, Great River Energy, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and the City of Rochester are proposing to construct a 345 kV transmission line that will double-circuit the existing Hampton-North Rochester and Pleasant Valley to North Rochester transmission lines. The Route Permit application is anticipated to be filed in 2027.	Transmission Line	https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/long-range-transmission-planning/ https://www.poweronmidwest.com/pv-nr-hampton/
Pleasant Valley to North	Xcel Energy and Great River Energy are proposing to	Transmission Line	https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/long-

Plans, Programs, or Project	Description	Type	Source
Rochester Transmission Project (MISO LRTP # 24) *In Development*	construct a 765-kV transmission line from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The Route Permit application is anticipated to be filed in 2027.		range-transmission-planning/ https://www.poweronmidwest.com/pv-nr-hampton/
Gopher to Badger Link Project (North Rochester to Columbia (MISO LRTP #26) *In Development*	Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative are proposing to construct a 765-kV transmission line that will run from the North Rochester Substation to the MN/WI border. The Route Permit application is anticipated to be filed in fall of 2026.	Transmission Line	https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/long-range-transmission-planning/ https://gophertobadgerlink.com/

6.10.3 Resource Effects

The surrounding environment already includes various modifications, such as residential homes, transmission lines, highways, county roads, and a substation. By paralleling existing infrastructure as much as possible, the Project minimizes the potential for cumulative effects by minimizing the creation of new transmission corridors and the overall potential for resource effects. **Table 6.10-2** summarizes the length of each existing linear infrastructure paralleled.

Table 6.10-2. Existing Linear Infrastructure Paralleling the Project

	Project
Paralleling Existing Transmission (miles)	0.55
Total Linear Feature Sharing (miles)	**0.55**
Total Linear Feature Sharing (percent)	**45.83**

The Project and the projects listed in **Table 6.10-1** are anticipated to affect similar resources and have the following impacts:

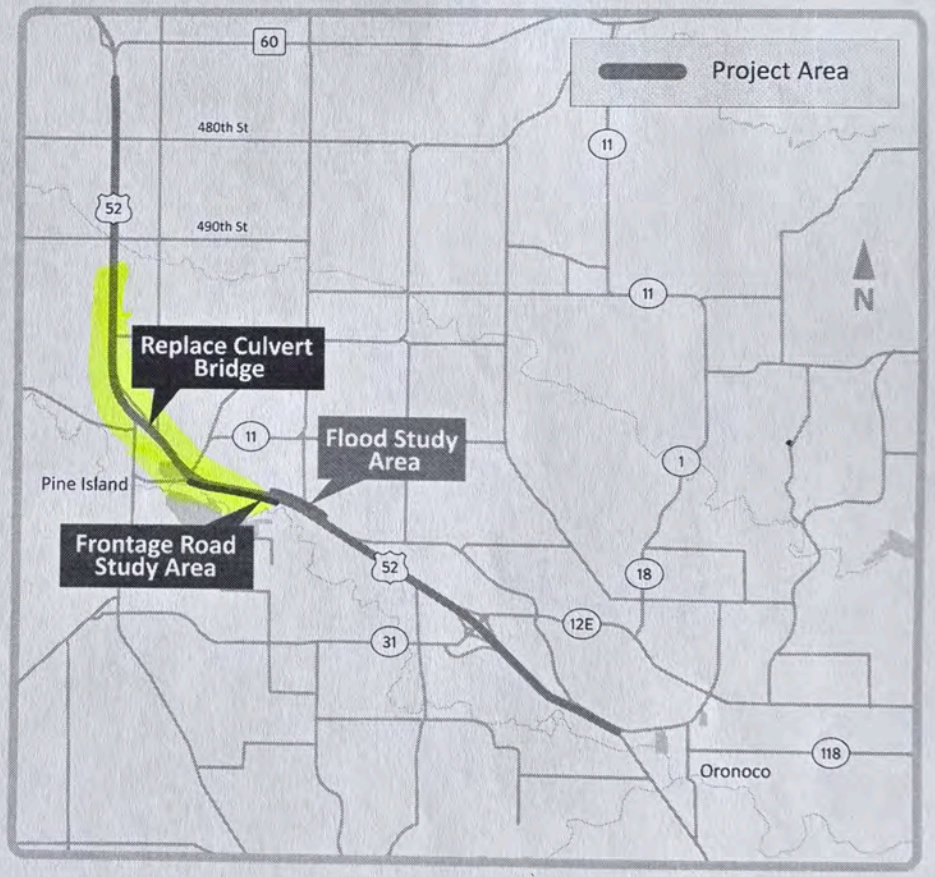
- Conversion of land use and land cover (i.e., agricultural land);
- Construction-related noise;
- Visual impacts from construction activities;
- Construction-related traffic;
- Criteria pollutant and GHG emissions from construction activities;

Hwy 52 — Pine Island to Oronoco construction

In 2028, Hwy 52 will receive improvements from Hwy 52 from near the Hwy 60 interchange to north of Oronoco.

The work includes:

- Resurface southbound Highway 52
- Construct a new frontage road and shared use path to help with safety and access
- Replace a culvert bridge north of Pine Island
- Raise southbound Highway 52 to reduce the risk of flooding near the middle fork of the Zumbro River
- Minor bridge repair work to the 5th St NW bridge over Highway 52 in Oronoco



We will continue to pursue funding opportunities for other improvements with our local partners. Including raising the northbound lanes near the middle fork of the Zumbro River to reduce the risk of flooding.

INFORMATI...	MAP	SURVEY	QUESTIONS...

Noise study, Summer 2026

06 May 2026

MnDOT is studying highway noise. The data from this work will help us determine if noise-reduction solutions, such as noise walls, are needed now or in the future.

WHAT IS A NOISE STUDY?

Noise analysis is a required process to assess how a transportation project affects noise levels in the area. It involves measuring traffic noise and then modeling how various project changes could improve the noise levels.

Noise barriers may be suggested for mitigation, but must be practical and effective, considering cost, safety, and site conditions. They will only be proposed if they can reduce noise by at least Continue reading

Project update, Spring 2026

06 May 2026

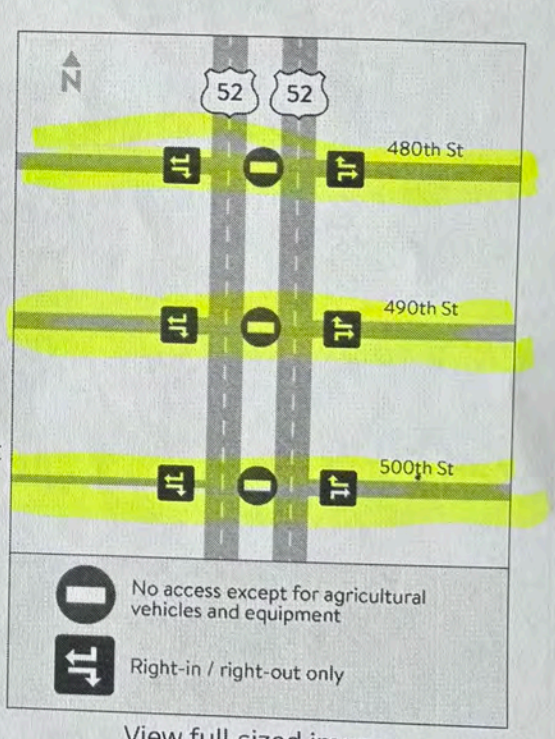
Access Changes at 480th St., 490th St. and 500th St.

To improve safety and traffic flow, the project will close the medians at 480th St., 490th St., and 500th St.

The closure of these medians will restrict left-turn movements on and off the highway, as well as any crossing movements at these streets.

The following improvements are no longer moving forward with the project and may be incorporated into future projects:

- The unbonded overlay south of Oronoco
- Snow fences will not be included in the proposed project



View full-sized image

Xcel Energy has recently entered into an Energy Supply Agreement with Project Skyway's users. Olson 2nd Decl. ¶ 9. Xcel will have an obligation to ensure adequate and reliable service to the users and other customers under the oversight from the PUC. Minn. Stat. § 216B.03 ("Every public utility shall furnish safe, adequate, efficient, and reasonable service.")

Moreover, the AUAR did explain that the City determined the amount of energy consumed by reference to a typical data center. Relying on an example development is exactly what the AUAR rules direct. Minn. R. 4410.3610, subp. 4. (directing RGUs to rely on information regarding a "typical . . . light industrial development."). Using estimated data center power consumption to determine GHG emissions allows reasonable environmental review to proceed before detailed design specifications are available. Despite not needing to include this information in the AUAR, as a courtesy, Ryan responded to informal information requests from MCEA regarding the power use assumptions. Dry. Decl., Ex. C. In these responses, Ryan noted that, under Scenario A, power consumption was estimated at 300 MW. *Id.* at 3. Under Scenario B, power consumption was estimated at 2,700 MW. *Id.* From these, the GHG emissions were estimated using the current and forecast energy generation portfolios of Xcel Energy. AR 1128-29. The AUAR's analysis was adequate for the RGU and public to assess the environmental impacts of the Project, and the fact that specific megawatt figures were not included is not an error, much less a material one.

(c) The AUAR's Discussion of Water Usage Was Lawful.

Similar to its argument regarding GHG emissions, MCEA argues the AUAR's water-impacts analysis is deficient because "the City does not provide any of the inputs required to perform these calculations." MCEA Br. 18. As stated above, AUAR's are not data dumps; they are analytical documents meant to inform the RGU and public about the environmental impacts of a project.

Socioeconomic impacts? No mention of costs!!! 25-24-25-2248 Rec'd 2/12. Hours State of Minn 3/23/2026 2:0 P.I. City Administrator

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic impact of a data center: Goodhue County, Minnesota

Aiden Opatz, Extension Educator, December 2025

Introduction

In late 2025, the City of Pine Island, Minnesota expressed interest in understanding the potential economic impacts of the construction and operation of a data center. They engaged University of Minnesota Extension to complete this basic economic impact study.

Key findings

Key findings include that the data center construction is estimated to have an impact of around 700 employees each year during the construction phase. Meanwhile, the operation of the data center will support between 40 and 235 jobs annually, depending on how many employees are located in-person at the facility. This analysis is a basic economic impact study, as it is meant to provide leaders in Pine Island with a starting place to discuss the economic impacts. Should city leaders pursue this economic development strategy, Extension strongly recommends a more in-depth study be conducted. The results of this analysis are specific to the economic situation in Goodhue County and should not be applied to other jurisdictions. The results of this study are based on a 300,000 square foot data center in the county and are not specific to any company.

Economic impact

Economic impact includes direct, indirect, and induced effects. The direct effect is spending directly on the project or activity. In this analysis, it is the construction and operation of the data center. To quantify the direct effects, Extension used the construction cost and projected operating employment of the data center received from the City of Pine Island.

Indirect and induced effects are also known as "ripple" effects. Spending on goods and services in the supply chain generates indirect effects. For example, construction companies purchase goods and services, such as sheet metal and concrete bricks. Spending by the construction company's employees — spurred by their paychecks — generates induced effects. Workers are paid and then purchase items, such as health care, housing, and groceries.

Economic impact terms
Direct effect: initial change
Indirect effect: business-to-business impacts
Induced effect: consumer-to-business impacts

Extension used the input-output model IMPLAN to measure the economic impact of the data center's construction and operation. Input-output models capture the flow of goods and services within an economy. Once the pattern is established, the model can show how a change in one area of the economy (say spending by the construction company) affects other parts of the economy (such as retail and health care).

As mentioned, the direct effect is employment during the construction of the data center and employment at the data center once it is operational. In economic impact analysis, construction and operations are

presented separately. Construction has short-term impacts that last during the project period. Operations provide on-going economic activity, so long as the facility is operational at the anticipated levels.

The economic impact of data centers is highly dependent on the final business use of the facility. Projects being proposed in Minnesota, and across the nation, can fall into different categories, including enterprise data centers, colocation (many independent companies all leasing from one data center), cloud computing, and a data center leased by large internet companies.[1] The final use affects many aspects that influence the economic impact – including how big the building is, what types of equipment need to be purchased, and how many employees will be housed in the facility. At this time, Extension does not know the exact details of the final building use (i.e., it is unknown what kind of data center will be operating on this site); therefore, this analysis includes multiple scenarios to provide some insights to the City of Pine Island.

Construction impacts

The costs of data center construction can be highly variable, which complicates an economic impact analysis. First, the potential use of the data center affects size and layout. Second, according to industry experts, "between 70 and 80 percent of estimated input costs go toward mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP)."[2] That percentage varies based on the planned use of the facility. At this time, the future use of the facility is being determined, so Extension ran three construction-related scenarios – 1) MEP is 70 percent of the budget, 2) MEP is 75 percent of the budget, and 3) MEP is 80 percent of the budget.

Construction employment was estimated with the IMPLAN data model with some insight provided by the City of Pine Island

Table 1: Direct effect of data center construction for each MEP scenario

Scenario	Employment	Wages
MEP = 70 percent	755	$76,955,000
MEP = 75 percent	700	$71,350,000
MEP = 80 percent	640	$65,746,000

Under scenario one, the proposed data center would support 1,120 jobs and $99.5 million in labor income during the construction phase (Table 2).

Table 2: Economic impact of the construction of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (MEP = 70% of budget)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	755	$76,955,000
Indirect	200	$14,174,000
Induced	165	$8,384,000
Total	**1,120**	**$99,513,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN model

[1] Rhonda Ascierto, "Global Data Center Staffing Forecast 2021-2025," Uptime Intelligence report 43, January 1, 2021, https://uptimeinstitute.com/uptime_assets/f7fdc06fd6dd53d60f4b3a6ea2b75f5a4ab874d6e52bd727833b29426a245d3e-staffing-forecast-2021-2025.pdf/

[2] I. Paul Barry, "Data Centre Cost Trends - Data Centre Construction Cost Index 2025," Data centre cost trends - Data centre construction cost index 2025, 2025, https://reports.turnerandtownsend.com/data-centre-construction-cost-index-2025/data-centre-cost-trends.

Under scenario one, which assumes all the employees live and work in Pine Island, the data center operations will support an estimated 235 jobs (Table 3). The jobs will pay an estimated $15.7 million in labor income.

Table 3: Economic impact of the operation of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	100	$9,650,000
Indirect	105	$4,658,000
Induced	30	$1,403,000
Total	**235**	**$15,711,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN and Lightcast models

Under scenario two, the data center operations will support an estimated 160 jobs (Table 3.1). The jobs will pay an estimated $10.3 million in labor income.

Table 3.1: Economic impact of the operation of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (25% remote or 25% fewer new employees living in Pine Island)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	75	$6,535,000
Indirect	65	$2,859,000
Induced	20	$922,000
Total	**160**	**$10,316,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN and Lightcast models

Under scenario three, the data center operations will support an estimated 85 jobs (Table 3.2). The jobs will pay an estimated $4.8 million in labor income.

Table 3.2: Economic impact of the operation of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (50% remote or 50% fewer new employees living in Pine Island)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	50	$3,324,000
Indirect	25	$1,053,000
Induced	10	$428,000
Total	**85**	**$4,805,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN and Lightcast models

Under scenario two, the proposed data center would support 1,060 jobs and $93.4 million in labor income during the construction phase (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Economic impact of the construction of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (MEP = 75% of budget)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	700	$71,350,000
Indirect	205	$14,270,000
Induced	155	$7,820,000
Total	**1,060**	**$93,440,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN model

Under scenario three, the proposed data center would support 990 jobs and $87.4 million in labor income during the construction phase (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Economic impact of the construction of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (MEP = 80% of budget)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	640	$65,746,000
Indirect	205	$14,366,000
Induced	145	$7,256,000
Total	**990**	**$87,368,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN model

In addition to the 640 to 755 construction jobs supported by the data center, its construction is projected to support between 350 and 365 workers at businesses throughout the community for each year the construction is happening. The types of businesses that are predicted to experience the largest indirect and induced impacts from the construction of the data center include durable good wholesale, food service and drinking places, and professional, scientific and technical services (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Economic contribution of the construction of a data center: top industries affected sorted by employment Source: IMPLAN

Operations Impacts

As with construction, the impact of a data center's operations depends on the final business purpose of the building. The business purpose, in turn, determines how many workers might work physically in Pine Island versus those that might work remotely. In addition, it is not clear that all the new workers would move to Pine Island.

Based on the data provided by the staff from the City of Pine Island, the facility will employ 100 people. There are some patterns that can be seen across data center projects, such as that enterprise data centers tend to have higher staffing requirements while colocation, cloud computing, and a data center leased by large internet companies tend to have lower staffing requirements and rely on more remote monitoring.[3] The analyses here represent a likely scenario based on the data provided by the City of Pine Island. To get an estimate of wages, Extension used data from Lightcast and ZipRecruiter to find the mean and median wages of a range of people who are employed by data centers in Minnesota. This data was then used in conjunction with the median household income of Pine Island, found in the American Community Survey,[4] to estimate which employees were likely to live in Pine Island given the current economic make-up of households in the city.

To account for these factors and the current unknowns, Extension ran four operations-related scenarios – 1) all workers live and work in Pine Island, 2) 25 percent of projected employees do not live and/or work in the city, 3) 50 percent of projected employees do not live and/or work in the city, and 4) 75 percent of projected employees do not live and work in the city.

Due to the necessity of employees who work directly with the data center hardware and infrastructure it is unlikely that the number of remote workers and/or actual total employees will fall below 25 percent of the estimated total number of employees. But unfortunately, there are no clear answers regarding the prevalence of remote workers until it is known what type of data center this will be and who will be leasing the space. And even then, the question of how many employees will telecommute, or even the total number hired, before the operations of the data center are underway can only be answered with high degrees of uncertainty.

In total, the creation of the annual operations of the data center is estimated to impact up to 233 jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota, although this may change depending on the viability of remote work and the type of data center constructed. The start of operations will also result in an increase of up to an estimated $15.7 million in labor income for those workers.

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[3] Rhonda Ascierto, "Global Data Center Staffing Forecast 2021-2025," Uptime Intelligence report 43, January 1, 2021, https://uptimeinstitute.com/uptime_assets/171dc06fd6dd53d60f4b3a6ea2b751a4ab874d6e52bd727833b29426a245d3e-staffing-forecast-2021-2025.pdf?

[4] U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, "Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)," American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1903, accessed on December 29, 2025, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1903?t=Income+(Households,+Families,+Individuals&g=860XX00US53963

Under scenario four, the data center operations will support an estimated 40 jobs (Table 3.3). The jobs will pay an estimated $2.3 million in labor income.

Table 3.3: Economic impact of the operation of a data center on jobs in Goodhue County, Minnesota (75% remote or 75% fewer new employees living in Pine Island)

	Employment	Labor Income
Direct	25	$1,650,000
Indirect	10	$480,000
Induced	5	$209,000
Total	**40**	**$2,339,000**

Source: University of Minnesota Extension estimates, labor income estimated using the IMPLAN and Lightcast models

In addition to the 25 to 100 jobs directly supported by the data center in the region, its operation is projected to support between 15 and 135 workers at businesses throughout the community for as long as operations continue as planned. The types of businesses that are predicted to experience the largest indirect and induced impact of the operation of the data center include administrative and support services, food service and drinking places, and real estate (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Economic impact of the operation of a data center: top industries affected sorted by employment Source: IMPLAN

Discussion and Considerations

As mentioned, there are many unknowns related to the proposed data center in Pine Island. Here are three things to consider.

Collocation

Unfortunately, there is not much data on what businesses collocate with data centers, so the best estimates for what may happen can be found in Chart 2 as these are the industries that are likely to see the greatest impact of data center operations in the City of Pine Island.

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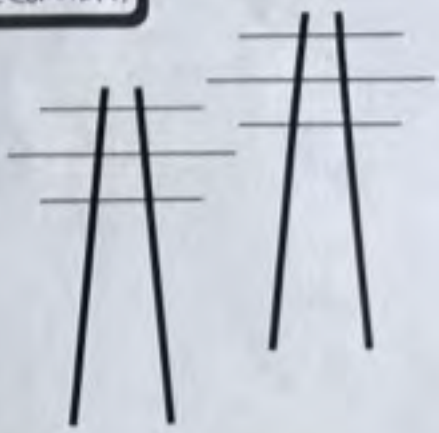

June 2, 2026

Sasha Bergman
Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
121 – 7th Place East, Suite 350
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Sam Weaver
Environmental Review Manager
Public Utilities Commission
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RE: Considerations for Environmental and Substantive Review
Application of Xcel Energy and Echo Zone LLC for Route Permit
PUC Docket E002/TL-26-135
PUC Transmission Dockets CN-25-117; CN-25-121; and ESA Docket M-26-170

Dear Ms. Bergan and Mr. Weaver:

Although I am representing clients in two of the above-captioned dockets, **I am filing this comment as an individual** noticing the connections and issues that are tied to this short data center transmission line that should be addressed. As facts come out, my clients may incorporate these matters into their advocacy in the 765 kV dockets.

There are multiple "phased and connected action" considerations that should be incorporated in the Skyway data center 345kV transmission line's Environmental Review and the Application, and also in the other dockets listed above, the 765 kV lines and the Xcel Energy ESA docket.

One issue is that at one of the recent open houses in Zumbrota, and I confess that I'm not sure whether it was for "PowerOn Midwest" CN-25-117 or "Gopher to Badger Link" CN-25-121, I asked about connections between the 765 kV lines and the data center. Many both in my client groups and generally in this area, have questions about whether there is a connection. Repeatedly we've been told at Open Houses and Commission meetings that there is no connection between the 765 kV lines and the data center, that the Pine Island data center was not dependent on the 765 kV lines and that the data center was not part of the planning for the 765 kV lines.[1] However, at one of the meetings, I was told that there would be a 345kV line running from the new 765 kV substation to the North Rochester substation powering CapX 2020 Hampton to La Crosse and the data center line originating at this same substation. That's a very relevant factoid that should be in all the dockets.

[1] Similarly, I've also been told that there is no connection, no plan, no dependence, of the Hermantown data center on the Iron Range-Arrowhead 345kV transmission project, PUC Docket CN-25-111 and TL-25-112.

If these 765 kV and 345 kV substations are indeed connected together, if the 345kV "North Rochester" substation powering the data center, per the lines on the "Project Overview Map,"[2] has that link from the 765kV substation to the 345 kV substation, it should be shown on that Skyway map and be addressed in the application, and in all the applications, including the CN-25-117 and CN-25-121. Why? Well, they're "phased and connected actions," and as we say in transmission "It's all connected."

Second, many concerned with the 765 kV transmission line, and many concerned with the Google Echo Zone data center, and many concerned about the Electric Service Agreement (hereinafter "ESA") want to know where the electricity is coming from. Transparency matters.

Another issue is that the ESA states that the 345 kV to the data center is one of **two** planned 345kV lines, and the Skyway application is just one 345kV line:

> **B. Project Timeline**
>
> The facility is targeted to achieve initial service with one (1) of two (2) planned 345kV lines to its facilities by the Early Energization Target of **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]**.

Petition for ESA, p. 3. The where, what, why, and when of this second 345kV transmission line should be disclosed and addressed in the Environmental Review. This appears to mean that the data center will be built in multiple phases, with a second 345kV line planned for the future. If this is correct, that should be clearly stated in all the dockets, with the ultimate planned need for two 345kV lines explained.

Third, the capacity of this transmission line, amps and MVA rating, should be clearly stated, particularly where this is one transmission project of two that are planned. At an open house, I think in Zumbrota (but when, which project?), I was told that the data center would need 1,100 MW, and the Skyway application states a similar upper range for that one 345 kV project:

Structure Type	System Condition	Current (Amps)
345 kV/345 kV Double-Circuit Monopole	Peak System Energy Demand (1100 MVA/1100 MVA)	1850/1850
	Average System Energy Demand (660 MVA/660 MVA)	1100/1100

See Skyway application, **Table 6.4-4. Magnetic Field Calculation Summary (mG).**

[2] Page 6 of the Commission's Notice of Complete Route Permit Application and Public Information Meetings, June 2, 2026.

As above, if the plan is for two 345 kV transmission lines crossing Hwy. 52 from the substation to the data center(s), that should be stated, and environmental review should take that into account.

Fourth, the ESA states planned additions of 1,400MW wind, 200MW solar, and 300MW iron air battery. It is likely some or all of these resources will be sited nearby, using the available transmission and powering the data center. A relatively large solar proect is nearby, and with all the transmission coming into and going out of the "North Rochester" substation, it would be an ideal site for a battery installation. The details of the wind, solar, and battery installations should be disclosed and impacts considered in the 345 kV Skyway transmission docket, both 765kV transmission dockets, and Xcel's Electric Service Agreement docket, substantively and in environmental review.

Fifth, the DOT has announced that crossings of Highway 52 will be closed, including 500th at the planned transmission line crossing and next two median crossings heading north.

Project update, Spring 2026

06 May 2026

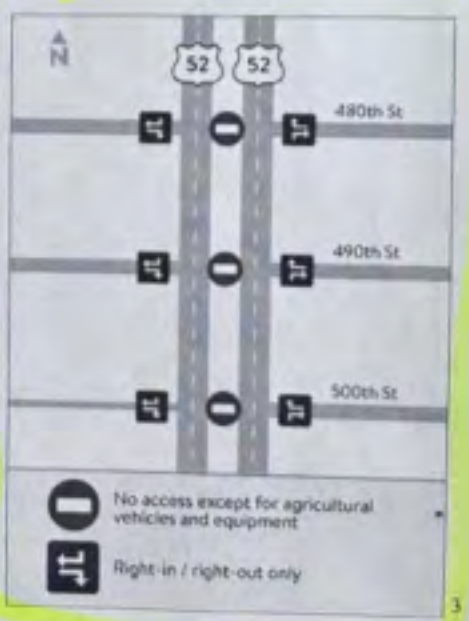
Access Changes at 480th St., 490th St. and 500th St.

To improve safety and traffic flow, the project will close the medians at 480th St., 490th St., and 500th St.

The closure of these medians will restrict left-turn movements on and off the highway, as well as any crossing movements at these streets.

The following improvements are no longer moving forward with the project and may be incorporated into future projects:

- The unbonded overlay south of Oronoco
- Snow fences will not be included in the proposed project



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The Skyway transmission application does include some information on MN DOT plans between Pine Island and Oronoco[4], including planned creation of a frontage road, but does not include the Spring 2026 plan above, closing medians and eliminating access that directly affects the area of the transmission project. Closing these median crossing, particularly on 500th, directly east of the "North Rochester" substation and along the CapX 2020 route on the south

[3] Online at talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-52-pine-island-oronoco/news_feed/spring-2026
[4] Skyway Application, Section 6.10.2, Table 6.10-1, p. 115-116.

side of 500th, may affect construction activity for the not only the Skyway transmission project but the 2nd circuit on the CapX 2020 line and the 765 kV projects as well.[5]

In short, all these dockets, these four projects, are electrically connected, and appear to be working together with joint "need," they're reliant on each of them for the larger plan to work. Each of these projects has aspects that affect the others and each interconnected aspect should be included in environmental review as the interdependent phased and connected actions that they are. Once more with feeling, in transmission, "It's all connected!"

Thank you for the opportunity to file this Comment. I'll follow with others going forward, individually and/or on behalf of clients.

Very truly yours,

Carol A. Overland

Carol A. Overland
Attorney at Law

cc: eFiled and eServed

[5] See Skyway Application, p. 115-116, Chapter 6, Table 6.10-1 Curent and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions.

In The Matter Of:

North Rochester to Skyway HVTL Project - 26-135

Virtual Public Meeting - 6-16-26

June 16, 2026

Virtual Public Meeting - 26-135 - 6-16-26

Shaddix & Associates

7400 Lyndale Avenue South

Suite 190

Richfield, MN 55423

SCOPING & INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 26-135

VIRTUAL - JUNE 16, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and Echo Zone, LLC, for a Route Permit for the North Rochester to Skyway High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

MPUC DOCKET NO: E002/TL-26-135

Hearing held remotely via:
Webex & Telephone

June 16, 2026

COURT REPORTER: Christine Simons, RMR, RPR

I N D E X

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Okay. Well, I'll get started. Hello, everybody. Thank you for joining us today. This meeting is the virtual public information and scoping meeting for the proposed North Rochester to Skyway 345-kV transmission line project. We also held an in-person meeting last night, but both meetings, today and yesterday, will cover the same topics and present exactly the same materials.

So I'd just like to start with a quick agenda for the meeting. My name is Saarah, and I'm an analyst at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. I'll kick things off before passing off the microphone to the Applicant to provide a brief description of the project. And then we'll switch gears back to my colleague at the Public Utilities Commission, Sam, who will explain the permit application review process, and then we'll eventually open up the floor for comments and questions.

So before we really get into things, I'd just like to cover some ground rules. We ask that you please be respectful of others, including those presenting or commenting today. We want to make sure that we can cover all information regarding the

proposed project and we also hear from everyone who wants to comment today.

Additionally, when we get to the comment period, we'll give the floor to one speaker at a time. I'll have to give you the ability to unmute yourself once we get to that portion, but we'll talk through that in a little bit. And I'd just like to note we have a court reporter here who's going to be recording everyone's comments to help develop a record for the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission.

So leading into why we're here today, we're here to receive public input and to compile a record for the Commission's permit decision. What you can do is you can ask State staff about the review process or you can ask the Applicant about the proposed project.

Your comments will help the Commission make an informed decision on the permit and possible permit conditions, and I will say that the Commissioners at the PUC -- is what we call ourselves -- they do read through all of the comments in the record in great detail.

So I'd also like to provide a brief overview of what we do at the Commission. We

Page 5

regulate electric, natural gas, and landline telephone utilities. We also issue site and route permits for large electrical facilities.

And as I mentioned, there are Commissioners. There are five Commissioners. They're appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and they are the individuals who ultimately decide on the permit issue.

So moving on to the next slide, the focus of this meeting is on the proposed North Rochester to Skyway 345-kV transmission line. The docket number for this project is TL-26-135. And we, as Commission staff, are here to present information on the permitting and environmental review process, again, accept public comments on the need for and scope of an addendum to the environmental assessment, and to also answer questions.

The Commission is aware of concerns regarding the potential impacts to ratepayers for proposed data centers. If you are concerned about rate impacts and costs from the proposed Skyway data center, there's a good way to express those concerns directly under that docket. And the docket number for that is M-26-170, and there is an open written comment period for that available right now as well.

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And then I'll pass things off to Ellen at Xcel Energy to continue on from here. Thank you.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Thanks, Saarah.

So, yeah, as Saarah mentioned, my name is Ellen Heine. I work at Xcel Energy. I'm in the siting and land rights group, which is in charge of the environmental permitting and other kind of state and federal types of permitting for transmission projects and other large energy facilities. So I'm just going to give a brief overview of the project, kind of from the route permit standpoint, and then Jake Andre is here with us as well who can talk more about some of the rate impact stuff related to the large load data center project.

Go ahead to the next slide.

So an overview of the project that we're talking about here, it's an approximately 1.2-mile double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line. Double-circuit means single -- it's a single set of poles, monopoles. There'll be one circuit on each side of the line, so two sets of 345-kV lines on one set of structures.

It also includes an expansion of the existing North Rochester substation, which is west of Highway 52 and north of Pine Island. The

Page 7

expansion of the substation is necessary due to connecting the new Skyway lines into the substation footprint.

And we're doing some rearranging, so two other existing transmission lines that currently connect in that footprint will be reconnected into the new expanded portion of the substation. It also includes construction of up to four smaller substations located on the -- within the data center site that is on the east side of Highway 52 there as you can see on the map.

So what you see on the map is the -- kind of the yellow boundary is kind of the project impact area. The larger pink bubble is the route width, which is kind of the study area, essentially. The expansion area of the North Rochester substation is shown in that pink rectangle there.

And then you'll also see there are existing transmission lines, the kind of black dotted lines that go north and south from the existing substation, and to the east from there, those are a number of different existing transmission lines that are located in that area.

I think it might be on the next slide, there's a portion of this proposed line that will

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parallel a couple of existing lines that are located there that go from -- the part that heads east/west, as you can see there, there's some existing black dotted lines there that this line will parallel.

Next slide.

Overview of the project timeline, there was a system impact study and a feasibility study, which were completed for this, which is a standard practice for any large load customer that applies to be connected to the system. So that's just the -- the team does an analysis to determine if it's feasible to connect and if there are impacts to the system that need to be upgraded as part of connecting that load to the grid, and so those were completed in 2025.

We're in this period, this 2025 to 2026. Develop the preliminary route, which in this case is fairly straightforward because it's quite short, but then also preliminary engineering, and then complete environmental and field studies as part of that. So that work has all been done, as well as outreach to landowners that are directly impacted by the project.

And then the application for the route permit was -- for the Public Utilities Commission

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was developed and has been submitted, and also the -- Jake will talk more about this later, the new large load tariff was approved by the PUC recently during this time period.

This is kind of looking forward, 2026 to 2027, the IA and the EA -- ESA, Jake is going to have to remind me what the acronyms stand for again. I'm blanking out. You can just say it when it gets to your slide. Those are filed with the PUC for review as part of the large load to be able to connect to the system.

Generation resource review for a number of generation projects are underway by the PUC. Now that is kind of part of the larger portfolio. We're in this Minnesota PUC permitting review for this transmission line, which is -- this is part of that key step for that, which involves the public engagement that we're talking about.

Once we get an order from the Commission, then final engineering gets completed for the project, and any additional required permits, we typically obtain those after we have the route permit. We know we'll need a permit from the Department of Transportation crossing the highway, and then other, kind of, what we call downstream

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permits, like stormwater permits and things like that follow after we get the Public Utilities Commission permit.

Construction, we're looking at 2027 to 2029 for construction of the substation and the transmission -- substations and transmission line, and then expecting the service to be placed into -- or the facilities to be placed into service in 2029.

Next slide.

This slide just kind of shows a typical process for construction of any transmission project, starting with soil surveys and property staking. A lot of times they'll do geotech to get more detail on the soils when they're doing the final design on foundations.

Once those steps are completed, then construction access and tree clearing -- construction access essentially means building any access roads or driveways to get to the construction site. Those things come before the -- essentially that next step, where they mobilize equipment, begin grading the substation, and delivering materials, which would be like the equipment within the substation or the poles themselves, the conductor.

Foundation construction, as I mentioned,

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then that -- they'll be drilled pier foundations, so those get drilled and poured, and those need to cure. Once that's complete, then they install the transmission line structures and string the conductor. And then once the lines are put up, then restoration always happens afterwards, getting things all cleared up and removing any construction materials that were there and making sure that everything is reseeded and stabilized at the end of that.

Next slide.

The infrastructure, as I mentioned, that we're talking about, they'll be steel structures that will be put on drilled pier foundations. Mostly single pole steel structures, some dead-ends are double pole. Which instead of the -- like you see there, it's a single pole with one circuit on each side. Some dead-end structures are a two-pole structure where each circuit is on a separate pole. The heights will range between 100 and 180 feet depending on terrain and other features that they need to cross depending on the location.

And as I mentioned, approximately .6 miles of that is paralleling those transmission lines that I mentioned, that's the CapX2020

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double-circuit line that is currently there. And also a 161-kV line has been approved, but isn't constructed yet, from the Mankato to Mississippi River transmission project that will be adjacent to the CapX line.

Next slide.

At this point, I'm going to hand it off to Jake to talk more about the details of the tariff.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yeah, I'm happy to. Thanks, Ellen.

Can everyone hear me okay? Yeah, I see some head nods.

And that was -- you were referring to Google's interconnection agreement and electric service agreement, which I'll talk a little more about here shortly. But I want to briefly address, you know, as was, you know, mentioned at the start of the meeting, concerns over potential rate impacts as a result of this type of development.

I wanted to provide kind of a little bit of a history as to, how is the State, how is Xcel Energy, and how is our regulator -- the Public Utilities Commission -- actively addressing these concerns. And so coming out of the State

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legislature -- legislation, last session, House File 16 in particular laid out the expectation written within Minnesota Statute that all incremental costs identified to support these types of customers must be allocated to them or to that general class that's to be created. It ensures that we need to maintain an alignment to the State energy standard of 2040, with some additional provisions for financial commitments.

And so what this did is it -- you know, it established the law, the legal framework, if you will. What was yet to be determined was, how does this kind of trickle down into an actual customer contract structure or tariff that would be reviewed and approved by the Commission and would be something that would be leveraged by Xcel when we're working with large customers, like Project Skyway for example.

And so last July, Xcel filed a proposal for what we felt met this statute's requirements, as well as what was in line with what we believed the PUC's expectations were. And so over the last several months, we worked through stakeholder engagement, various comment periods, all amounting to a decision just a few weeks ago in the middle of

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May where the Commission reviewed and approved, with some modification, our initial proposal.

And so this established kind of the contractual framework that the PUC deemed was in alignment with the law. As we were just talking about, you know, each project that materializes that meets the size thresholds will have their own individual service agreement and interconnection agreement that will then be filed underneath this large load tariff for more specific reviews on the corresponding timelines and, you know, project details and specifics.

And then lastly, you know, I just kind of want to call out, you know, Xcel Energy is a regulated utility. We do have an obligation to serve our customers, that we're working closely with the State and the PUC to do so prudently and in a way that adequately shields existing customers on our system.

And when you have established a framework such as I've described, where you're, you know, allocating incremental costs to these customers and continue to contribute -- or will contribute to this fixed cost asset that is the system, it actually results in a -- what we're forecasting a

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$1.1 billion savings for existing customers, effectively given we now have more kilowatt-hours on our system to divvy up or spread those costs throughout.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Okay. And then I just -- I also added this slide just to note there are a number of projects going on in the southeast part of the state. One of them that I mentioned, the Mankato to Mississippi River transmission project, the PUC docket number for that is TL-23-157. That is a 345-kV and a 161-kV line, and that order came out just earlier this year for that project. So we're in the process of landowner outreach and doing additional engineering and details on that project now and expect construction to start next year on that one.

Also, there's been a fair amount of outreach recently for two other larger projects. PowerOn Midwest and Gopher to Badger Link are both part of a MISO Tranche 2.1 group of projects that are coming up, and the docket numbers for those are shown there.

The certificate of need docket has been filed for the PowerOn Midwest group of projects, and there's been a number of open houses and a round of

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scoping meetings for the certificate of need on that. And there's several pieces of that that will end up being separate route permits once those get filed. They're breaking that into separate pieces, and those will be expected to be filed this coming winter.

The Gopher to Badger Link, that is going to be -- the certificate of need was also filed. They're going to sync up the timing on the CON and the route permit for that one, so that they -- the meetings happen together, rather than just starting with the certificate of need.

That route permit is expected to go in sooner, so that will be some time this fall. And both of those groups of projects include a 765-kV transmission line. And PowerOn Midwest also includes a second circuit 345-kV that goes up to the Hampton substation, which you can see on that map there, kind of that black line.

And also just to kind of put it into context that the little blue dot where the North Rochester substation is shown, that's kind of right in the location of where this project is located, but it's just a mile -- just over a mile long. So it's not highly visible on this screen, but I just

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thought that's useful to have some context for other things that folks are hearing about in the same area as this project, but different docket numbers, obviously, and different processes going on for those as well.

And that was all I had. There is a website listed on this last slide that, if -- for more information on the scoping project -- for the transmission portion of the Skyway project, you can go to that website. And there is some contact links and some information on there as well, and that was all I had.

MR. SAM WEAVER: All right. Thank you, Ellen.

So my name is Sam Weaver. Again, I am with the PUC. I'm the environmental review manager for the project, and I am going to talk about our review process for this route permit application for the 1.2-mile transmission line and, just, what the schedule's going to look like.

So we accepted the application as complete on May 12th, and once we accept that application as complete, it starts kind of a six-month timer for the Commissioners to make a final decision on the permit, which we have to do by

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law.

So the first step after that is to hold public information meetings and scoping meetings. So we had our first in-person meeting yesterday, we have this meeting tonight. And once we get all of your feedback from these meetings, we will determine whether or not we need an EA addendum -- an environmental assessment addendum -- and also issue a draft site permit that will hopefully be able to incorporate some of the feedback from these meetings, and then we will issue an addendum if it's necessary.

And we eventually hold public hearings. So the public hearings will address the draft site permit and the EA addendum if we do one. And then there'll be another comment period associated with that hearing. And then after the hearing, there'll be a report on the hearing based on your comments, and then the Commissioners will decide on whether or not to issue a route permit for this project.

And so what does the Commission consider when looking at a route permit? We're basically looking at their application, looking at the environmental assessment, and figuring out what are the potential human and environmental impacts of

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this transmission line, what are the ways we can avoid the impacts of that transmission line, and then we focus on compliance, right, making sure they follow what is in the permit.

And in order to do all this, it's important that we get feedback from the public to tell us about resources in or around the project area, how the project might impact those resources, and then you can suggest ways to avoid, minimize, or offset any of the impacts that we identify.

So every project starts with what we call a sample permit. It is basically just a standard document showing, these are the things that we make every transmission line follow when they are constructing a project. And once we get some feedback from the public during this scoping phase, we will then use that feedback and those comments and feedback from agencies to develop a draft permit.

So in that draft permit, we're going to get a little more specific to this project. We'll identify where and how the permittee would construct and operate the project. We include some special conditions based on input from stakeholders and the public.

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And it's also important to note that when we put out this draft permit, that is not permission to construct the project, right? We still have a whole hearing after that, we have more comments on the draft permit. So a sample permit does not mean they get to construct the project.

We will provide notice of that draft permit, we'll take comments on it, and then eventually, if the Commissioners do approve the project, there is a final permit, which would include all of the standard and special conditions just to make sure that the Applicant would be complying with all legal requirements.

So, again, just a high-level overview. We always start with a sample permit. That first arrow is where we get feedback during these meetings. We turn that feedback into a draft permit, and then we get more feedback from the public, from agencies, and we turn that into a final permit.

And I mentioned earlier that we might need an environmental assessment addendum. And when is that necessary? So now under our new law, route permit applications include an environmental assessment. That includes all the information on

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human and environmental impacts and ways to mitigate those impacts.

The EA for this project is included as Section 6 of the application, if you've had a chance to look at that. And basically we would need an addendum if there are any human or environmental impacts or unique characteristics that were missing from that application, from that environmental assessment.

And then if you can think of any mitigation measures that need to be further evaluated, whether there are alternative routes or route segments that could be considered. This is a pretty short line, but, you know, maybe if you have an idea of where the route could go that could avoid or mitigate some of the proposed impacts. Those are kind of the triggers for an EA addendum.

And so, again, we've been talking a lot about wanting your comments, and these are some of the topics that we typically get comments on and things that are appropriate to comment on. So we're looking at what are the potential human and environmental impacts of this project, if they're not adequately addressed in the EA.

So things that we're looking for are

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things like aesthetics, impacts to agriculture or the agricultural equipment, maybe impacts to wildlife or impacts to roads, safety of workers, increased noise from construction. These are all things that we hear about.

Sorry, crying child in the background.

So the examples, again, for comment, so once you've identified a resource that could be impacted as a result of this project, we want to know if you have any suggestions as to how we could minimize, mitigate, or avoid those potential impacts.

So examples could include things like changing the alignment. If you're worried about noise, different techniques to dampen that noise, different construction techniques that might be more environmentally friendly, bird flight diverters to avoid wildlife impacts. Just kind of things like that, where we know that this impact could happen, here are ways to prevent that from happening.

So just as a couple of examples of helpful comments that we would love to see, so environmental impacts something, like, oh, I know that this proposed route is going through a wetland that contains waterfowl. If you were to move the

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alignment over to the opposite side of the road, you could avoid impacting these birds. And we've actually had a great comment already on the record to this effect stating that there is a wetland in the substation expansion area, and just requesting that expansion into that wetland be avoided. So comments like that, right, here's the resource, here's how you can avoid it, those are good comments.

And then for things like human impacts, right, new poles will be placed near my home and my neighbor's home, I would need to look at them every day. You could look for a different route that would avoid residences, maybe just in more of an industrial area, basically something like that.

So what happens next? Based on all the information that we have on the record, the Commission -- so after these public meetings, the Commissioners will make two determinations. The first will be, do we need an EA addendum; and secondly, what are the types of conditions that the Commission could include in a draft route permit.

And just as an example of a special condition that might be implemented, we had a comment basically recommending that if we were to

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issue a permit for this transmission line that construction on the transmission line not be allowed until the data center is approved or permitted. That's something that we can work in as a special condition. Basically, this project cannot be constructed until the associated data center would be constructed.

And, then, so speaking of the data center, I'm sure that a lot of people are worried about the environmental impacts of a data center. It's a facility that has a lot of unique environmental demands, and we are well aware of that. It's just not what we are reviewing tonight, and it's not the PUC's, the Commission's, responsibility to conduct environmental review of that facility.

So they did an AUAR, that was deemed incomplete by a judge's ruling -- or insufficient by a judge's ruling, I should say, and actually there is a more extensive form of environmental review happening for the data center. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a state agency that is conducting an environmental review in the form of an EAW, which is an environmental assessment worksheet.

So they are going to have a public

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comment period just like we are doing here for the transmission line tonight, and public meetings associated with their environmental review. They are early on in their environmental review process, so I, unfortunately, don't have a timeline. I don't know when that comment period would be open or when they would host public meetings, but they are doing a more extensive form of environmental review, the PCA is doing that.

If you do have questions about the environmental impacts of the data center or the PCA's review process, I encourage you to email the environmental review team over at the Pollution Control Agency. We have their email address here.

So, again, we understand that this transmission line would service the data center, but we want the subject of comments for tonight's meeting to focus on the impact of alternatives that could be associated with this 1.2-mile transmission line, not with the data center. Because, again, the PCA is handling their review of the data center. We don't want to, you know, duplicate their efforts. So I know it's confusing, I know it's an odd, piecemeal process, but the legislature tells us what we review, what the PCA reviews, and so we have to

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follow those guidelines.

And so if you are interested in commenting on the transmission line, this North Rochester to Skyway project, I encourage you to either provide verbal comments at today's meeting, you can complete and submit a comment sheet, you can comment online. So there's the link to comment online for this project. You can email me if you would like, you can send me a letter. And the most important thing to note here is that the comment period for the scoping period ends on June 26th at 4:30 p.m.

So however you want to get your comments in, just make sure you do it by then. And it's worth pointing out, this is ten days from now, so if something comes up, you know, in the next week, you think of something that you wanted to say at these meetings but you forgot or you didn't know about, you are completely welcome to make that comment until June 26th.

And I also just want to remind people that all of your comments are going on the record, which we make available to the public, right? In the interest of transparency, we want everything made publicly available. When we do that, we don't

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edit or delete any personal identifying information. So if you were to include your address, anything like that, email address, that's all going to be included on that public-facing record of your comments. And, again, just emphasizing, the comment period closes on June 26th.

And then, Saarah, do you want to take over?

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yeah. So we'll move into the comments and questions portion of this presentation. How this will work is if you have joined on a computer, I will give you the opportunity to unmute yourself, but you'd have to raise your hand. So if you look on the right-hand side of the screen here, it's got a little raise hand button. You'll have to hit that, and that will notify me that you want to make a comment or ask a question. You can also put your comment or question into the chat as well, if you don't feel comfortable speaking. And then if you have called in on your phone, the way you can indicate that you want to speak is to hit star and then 3 on your phone.

And before we get into individual commenters, I'd just ask that you speak loudly and clearly so that the court reporter can hear you, and

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that you also state and spell your first and last name before you start making your comment.

Okay. Let me just look here. It looks like Cheryl would like to make a comment. If you'll give me one second, I will give you the opportunity to unmute yourself. And then feel free to start speaking whenever you're ready.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: Yes, my name is Cheryl Orcutt. That's C-H-E-R-Y-L, last name is O-R-C-U-T-T.

I had a couple of questions. One, you mentioned earlier, the M-26-170 for the Skyway data center and you said they had an open comment period now. Do you know what the deadline is for that comment period?

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yes, great question.

Sam, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think it's September 8th? We can do a quick check though and get you --

MR. SAM WEAVER: I can fact-check it quick.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: Okay.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: And then I have -- okay.

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MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay. So the initial comment period -- for that docket, 26-170, the initial comment period will close July 28th, and then there's a reply comment period, which closes on August 21st.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: So my other question is, I am curious, how does the battery clean energy construction -- I came across an article about a data battery production that Google has asked for for this data center. How does that play into the power lines?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: I can address that one, and I'd just state, you know, our entire resource or generation portfolio that's, you know, a part of this project is packaged to that 26-170 docket that was referenced. And so those -- the resources will be reviewed via the PUC during that process.

But I will share, we're still in the very early stages of the development of -- it's a 300-megawatt iron-air long duration energy storage battery is what we're proposing in concert with this project. It's still contemplated of, you know, how we're going to be likely divvying up the entirety of that 300 megawatts capacity.

More likely than not, it will be spread

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out across, you know, numerous optimal locations on a transmission system. You know, resources go through a somewhat similar process to transmission line permitting, in terms of getting approval from our -- from the Public Utilities Commission, as well as each project will have its own environmental assessment associated with it as well. And so I guess I'd encourage you to follow along with the 26-170, as more detail will be made known as that docket progresses.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: And any idea on how the battery and clean energy construction would impact power costs?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yeah, our contracts with Google have Google paying for all incremental generation resources that they're bringing to the system. So Google is paying for this suite of resources that we're procuring.

MS. CHERYL ORCUTT: That's all I had for now. Thank you.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you.

Okay. Would anybody else like to speak? I'll just remind you if you're on your computer, you have to hit the little raise hand button at the bottom right-hand side of the screen. If you're on

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your phone calling in, you have to hit *3.

I'm not seeing any takers, but in case people just don't feel comfortable speaking, if you want to submit written comments, I'll promote those as well. We equally weigh verbal and written comments. You can go to the Commission's website to submit comments, you can email Sam or I directly, you can send us physical mail as well. Just putting that out there again.

But we're still looking for people to ask comment -- or ask questions and give comments. So if you feel --

Oh, it looks like we have one, Bonnie M. I'll unmute you, and then please feel free to make your comment or question. It looks like you're unmuted, but I'm not sure we can hear you.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Thank you. I'm unmuted now, and my name is Bonnie Matter. That's B-O-N-N-I-E; Matter, M as in Mary, A-T-T-E-R.

And my question is about the Pollution Control Agency, and they're going to do an environmental assessment, will those dockets -- will those -- will that information, their files, then be added to the eDockets so we've got everything in one place, or is -- or will their assessment be

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somewhere else?

MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah. So it's an environmental assessment worksheet, which is a little different than an environmental assessment. It's under a statute, but I -- we've been kind of talking about how to manage this, and ideally we would be able to potentially have the PCA include some of their environmental analysis on our eDocket system.

We don't know in what form that would take, but the timelines just might not line up. We might already have to reach a decision on this route permit application before the PCA is able to complete their environmental review because it is a pretty lengthy process.

And we have to make our decision between six and nine months after receiving that permit, so time is kind of ticking on our end. Whereas, they still have to go through their whole process. And I am not super familiar with exactly how the PCA runs their dockets, but we do have, as -- I think Saarah's gone back to the slide, I would reach out and contact them.

And Saarah and I will do our part here, too, to communicate with them and try and figure

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out, basically, if they use eDockets, how do they make their information available to the public. But I would reach out to that environmental email, that will get in touch with their team, who basically does what we do for the PCA. And they should be able to provide you with a better answer than I can give you right now. I'm sorry if that's not, you know, exactly what you're looking for --

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Right, no --

MR. SAM WEAVER: -- but I don't want to give you wrong information.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: I understand what you are saying, and apparently it's important that the Pollution Control Agency do their environmental assessment worksheet. So I would think that you would -- I guess, I don't understand why these -- this is all a big deal, of course, for the State of Minnesota, and why we wouldn't make sure everyone was, you know, in lockstep.

I mean, rather than saying, well, we have to meet this deadline, if the Pollution Control Agency needs more time to do their thing, then why wouldn't we -- why -- I am having a hard time understanding why it wouldn't all move forward together. Thank you.

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MR. SAM WEAVER: Yeah. So I can, again, answer that. So it's, again, for -- on our end, the way the law is written is once we receive a route permit application -- which we have received for this docket -- we have to consider it and a decision has to be reached between six and nine months.

And what we are considering doing given the importance of what you're saying, right, we don't want to put the horse ahead of the cart here -- or cart ahead of the horse, and go ahead and permit something if there's not going to be an end-user, right? And Xcel, I don't want to speak for them, but like to my appearance, it wouldn't make sense to build a line if you don't have an end-user.

And so we are probably -- you know, spoilers -- going to include a special condition to some effect stating that construction of this transmission line would not be able to start until the environmental review is completed, the permitting process for the data center is completed, right, once the data center gets their approval that it is okay to construct.

And, again, I don't know if Xcel would construct the line. I'll let Xcel comment on that

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if they would like to.

MS. ELLEN HEINE: Sam is correct. We would not construct the line if there were no data center at the end of it.

So I just will add to that, I think, just, there's always a number of different permits that go with large projects, and we certainly aren't trying to put the cart before the horse, but as much as we can be efficient with time and where there are processes that can run in parallel, that's just what we're trying to do here.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate your responses.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you.

Would anybody else like to speak?

Just a quick reminder, if you want to speak and you're on your computer, you have to hit the little symbol to raise your hand. If you're calling in, you have to hit *3 on your phone.

MR. SAM WEAVER: And then maybe just to give people one more chance to see if they have any comments, we can go back to the How to Comment slide, Saarah, just to give one more reminder and give people a minute or so here.

Just again stating, right, you can give

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your verbal comments today, and if you don't feel like talking now, if you'd rather submit something online, if something comes to you after this meeting, right, you're laying in bed tonight and you're like, oh, I wish I would have asked them that, you still can. You still have time to do exactly that.

Again, you can go to our website, to that public comments page, you can just shoot me an email, you can send me a letter, you can go to the eDocket system, all of those are valid ways to comment. And, again, if something does come to you, just please get your comments into us by that June 26th deadline.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Yeah, and just a reminder, you can also put your comment or question into the chat as well and we'll just read it out for you.

MR. SAM WEAVER: Okay.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: So I think we'll maybe give it a few more minutes. If nobody wants to comment or ask questions though, we'll probably end the meeting early just so we're not all staring at each other. So, again, if you want to speak, I encourage you, sooner rather than later, to chime in

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or get your comments in on the website or by email, physical mail, whatever works for you.

Oh, perfect. Bonnie, I'll unmute you.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Thank you very much. If no one else wants to ask questions, I do have another question. I understand that Google is going to pay for the -- everything that they need to bring their own power. Okay. And so what exactly is that list? Is it the 345-kV transmission line, is it the battery storage? You know, what is it exactly that they're paying for?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yeah, I can address that. There's kind of two incremental costs associated with this project. There's the transmission, the physical line interconnection that we're, you know, talking about here on this meeting. And so as a part of, kind of, our study work, we identify if there's any upgrades or what do we have to do to our system to hook up this customer. That's one component of what they're paying for upfront that is not being socialized or paid for by existing customers.

And then the second incremental item is the generation. So as this project materializes , you know, we'd likely need to bring on incremental

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renewable resources, wind, solar, and we've already kind of talked about the battery project as well.

So each of those items or, you know, suites of renewable projects are being paid for directly by Google. Though they will be system grid assets, meaning they will be dispatched as the system requires them to and not exclusively for -- or to benefit exclusively the Google data center.

And so one advantage of them doing so for the 300-megawatt, you know, battery project we're discussing is we would not be able to bring a project like that at the scale that we're contemplating but for our partnership with Google. And so we see that asset as being a pretty critical item for us as we contemplate the clean energy transition and meeting ours and the State of Minnesota's goals over the coming years.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: So they're going to pay for the 345-kV transmission lines?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yes, as part of their interconnection.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. So the physical poles and the lines, are they going to pay for those?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Correct, yeah.

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MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. All right. And then there's renewables, which apparently Xcel is contracting for with someone that they then sell to Google?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Yes. We're going through our resource acquisition process, and so we work with renewable developers across our system. We receive multitudes of different bids, and we select projects that we're then incorporating or having Google effectively foot the bill for as they materialize, that's accurate.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. And then Google has a special battery, it lasts -- storage, it lasts 100 -- for 100 hours?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: That's correct, yes. It's an iron-air battery, as adverse to -- or as opposed to, perhaps, lithium iron is a technology that you've heard of previously.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: And they're responsible for that build-out and for bringing those batteries to their location?

MR. JACOB ANDRE: Xcel is procuring that battery asset, and we will identify the optimal locations for it. Or as I mentioned earlier, divvying up that 300 megawatts of capacity to a

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multitude of different locations, but Google is directly funding that project.

MS. BONNIE MATTER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. JACOB ANDRE: You're welcome.

MS. SAARAH MAXON: Thank you for your comment and questions.

Would anybody else like to speak? I'll just give it a few more minutes here. Again, I encourage you to comment, or if you have any questions.

Going once, going twice, three times, questions?

Okay. Folks, I think we'll probably wrap things up here because I'm not seeing any hands raised. It doesn't look like anyone who called in is raising their hand as well. Again, I just want to let everybody know that, please feel comfortable reaching out to Sam or myself. Sam's email is listed on the slide previously. We're always happy to help if you have any questions. You can also find our information in the notice for this project as well.

So thanks, everybody.

(Public comment concluded.)