




A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

August 26, 2024

To: Persons Interested in the Proposed Construction of a 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line and associated facilities in Fillmore County, Minnesota; the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities General List; Local Officials; Tribes; and Property Owners

Re: Notice of Filing of Route Permit Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission MPUC Docket No. ET3/TL-24-95

Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) is proposing to construct an approximately 3.5-mile 161 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line and associated facilities on a new right-of-way in York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota (the Beaver Creek Transmission Line Project, or the Project).

Dairyland submitted an application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Route Permit (Application) for the Project (MPUC Docket No. ET3/TL-24-95) pursuant to the alternative permitting process contained in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is an approximately 3.5-mile long 161 kV transmission line and associated facilities located in York Township, Fillmore County, Minnesota. The Project will start at the intersection of the existing 161 kV LQ8A Harmony to Beaver Creek transmission line and 171st Avenue in York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota, travel south and cross the Minnesota-Iowa border at the southern border of York Township, continue westerly and southerly through Howard County, Iowa and terminate at a new proposed 161 kV switchyard to be constructed in Chester Township, Howard County, Iowa. The Minnesota portion of the proposed Project would be approximately 3.5 miles long and will be located entirely in York Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota.

The accompanying map outlines the location of the Project.

ROUTE PERMIT PROCESS

A Route Permit from the Commission is required before the Project can be constructed. The Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 216E) and Minn. R. parts 7850.1000 to 7850.5600 establish the requirements for submitting and processing a Route Permit application. The statutes and rules also establish notice requirements for various stages of the process. The Route Permit application will be considered by the Commission under the alternative permitting process in Minn. Stat. § 216E.04 and Minn. R. parts 7850.2800 to 7850.3900. The Commission has up to six months from the time the application is accepted as complete to process and make a decision on the Route Permit according to Minn. Stat. § 216E.04, subd. 7, and Minn. R. 7850.3900, subp. 1. The Commission may extend this time limit for up to three months for just cause or upon agreement of the applicant.

Within 60 days after the Commission accepts the application as complete, the Commission and the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) unit will hold a public information and scoping meeting to provide information and seek comments from the public. At this meeting, members of the public may propose additional route alternatives for consideration in the environmental assessment that the EERA will prepare. Once the public meeting is scheduled, notice of the meeting will be provided to persons

whose names are on the Project contact list and will be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the Project area. After the environmental assessment has been completed, a public hearing will be held on the application. Any person may speak at the public hearing, present documentary evidence, ask questions of Dairyland's representatives and EERA staff and submit comments.

If the Commission issues a Route Permit for the Project, Dairyland may, if necessary, exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land necessary for the Project (Minn. Stat. § 216E.12; Minn. Stat. Ch. 117).

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

A Certificate of Need is not required from the Commission for the Project because the Project is not a "large energy facility" as defined by statute. 2024 Minn. Sess. Law Serv. Ch. 126 (S.F. 4942) (amending Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(3)).

HOW TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the regulatory process or to have your name included on the Project mailing lists, contact:

Minnesota Department of Commerce – EERA

Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 539-1839
(800) 657-3710
larry.hartman@state.mn.us
www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Trevor Culbertson
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
(651) 201-2200
(800) 657-3782
trevor.culbertson@state.mn.us
www.mn.gov/puc

There are two options for citizens, landowners, and interested persons to receive Project information:

1. **Sign up for the Project Mailing List.** To sign up to receive notices about Project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.) email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call (651) 201-2246 with the docket number (ET3/TL-24-95), your name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
2. **Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the docket visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Current information about the Project and Application is available online at Dairyland's Project website: <https://dairylandpower.com/beaver-creek-minnesota>.

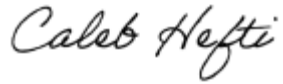
A copy of the Application is also available for review at:

Spring Valley Public Library
121 W. Jefferson St.
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Additional information may be obtained by calling Caleb Hefti at Dairyland Power Cooperative, (608) 790-5495 or by email at caleb.hefti@dairylandpower.com.

Sincerely,

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caleb Hefti".

Caleb Hefti
Project Manager II, Project Engineering

Project Overview

LEGEND

-  Proposed Route
-  Proposed ROW
-  Proposed Alignment
-  Existing Dairyland 69 kV Transmission
-  Existing Dairyland 161 kV Transmission
-  State Boundary
-  Parcels
-  PLSS Section
-  Civil Township

