

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
XCEL ENERGY AND ITC MIDWEST LLC FOR  
A CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND A ROUTE  
PERMIT FOR THE HUNTLEY-WILMARTH  
345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

DOCKET NO. E-002, ET6675/CN-17-184

DOCKET NO. E-002, ET6675/TL-17-185

OAH Docket No. 82-2500-35157  
(Combined)

**NORTH MANKATO  
EXCEPTIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S REPORT**

TO: Honorable Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

For the purpose of ensuring the clarity and accuracy of the record, the City of North Mankato (“North Mankato”) respectfully submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) the following table of exceptions to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation (“ALJ Report”) issued by Administrative Law Judge Barbara Case (“ALJ”) for the proposed Huntley to Wilmarth 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project. In the table below, North Mankato’s recommended additions are underlined, while language it recommends be deleted is stricken.

#	North Mankato Comment	Amended ALJ Report
A	North Mankato requests that the Commission edit certificate of need Finding 26 to reflect that North Mankato's objections to the Red and Green routes were not limited to the routes' conflicts with planned development efforts, but North Mankato also objected on grounds that the routes would impact or conflict with existing homes and development.	26. On February 6, 2018, North Mankato submitted Comments on the Completeness of the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications, stating North Mankato's objection to all portions of the Red and Green routes that conflict with <u>existing, short-term, and long-term development as identified in North Mankato's Comprehensive Development Plan.</u> <sup>57</sup>
B	North Mankato requests that the Commission edit certificate of need Finding 60 to: (a) correct the spelling of the word "filed;" and, (b) include a summary of the objections raised by North Mankato witness Michael Fischer. (Ex. NM-1 at 10:9-13).	60. On November 7, 2018, North Mankato filed the Direct Testimony and Schedules of Michael Fischer, <u>stating that the Red and Green Route Alternatives and Segment Alternatives A and B would place a new, above ground EHV transmission line directly through or in close proximity to planned development, existing and planned infrastructure, and existing homes.</u> <sup>104</sup>
C	North Mankato requests that the Commission edit certificate of need Finding 82 to reflect that North Mankato witness Michael Fischer testified that the Red and Green routes conflict with existing residences as well as proposed developments. (See Ex. NM-17 at 6:17-20).	82. On January 28, 2019, North Mankato filed the Surrebuttal Testimony of Michael Fischer, restating that the Red and Green routes, including Segment Alternatives A and B, are incompatible with the City's <u>existing residences and growth-planned developments as outlined in the Comprehensive Development Plan.</u> <sup>129</sup>

D	<p>North Mankato requests that the Commission edit route permit Finding 304 to: (a) delete the word “the” preceding “its near- and long-term growth plans” in the second sentence; (b) reflect North Mankato’s testimony that the Red and Green routes would impact not just planned development, but existing residences and infrastructure as well. (<i>See, e.g.</i>, Ex. NM-1 at 13:20 – 14:3; Ex. NM-14 (map and table depicting proximity of proposed Red and Green routes to existing and planned homes in the North Mankato area)); and, (c) edit footnote citation 896 associated with route permit Finding 304.</p>	<p>304. North Mankato opposes those portions of the Red and Green Routes that begin where the Routes turn south from the existing transmission line at Belgrade Township and end where the Red and Green Routes meet Segment Alternative E. The City states that these route options <u>would come in close proximity to existing homes and would also interfere with the</u> its near- and long-term growth plans described in the Comprehensive Development Plan adopted in 2015. The Red and Green Routes and Segment Alternatives A and B traverse through the planned North Ridge Residential Development Area and North Mankato South Boundary Residential Area.<sup>896</sup> According to North Mankato, 183 new homes will be added within 500 feet of the proposed Red and Green Routes.<sup>897</sup></p> <p><sup>896</sup> Ex. NM-1 (Fischer Direct); <u>Ex. NM-14.</u></p>
E	<p>North Mankato requests that the Commission edit route permit Finding 304 to: (a) delete the word “the” preceding “its adopted land use” in the first sentence; and, (b) correct a reference to North Mankato that appears intended to refer to Mankato.</p>	<p>307. The City of Mankato submitted comments on the Draft EIS, stating that the Blue Route conflicts with <del>the</del> its adopted land use and growth plans, future expansion of the Mankato Regional Airport, and maintenance of the forested wetland areas located between Mankato and the City of Eagle Lake.<sup>906</sup> The City of Mankato noted that the area between the cities of Mankato and Eagle Lake has, and will have in the near future, the fastest growing population in the Project area.<sup>907</sup> This area has already experienced significant public and private infrastructure investment reflecting the urban development. The City of <del>North</del> Mankato requested that the Draft EIS be amended to state that the Blue Route’s impacts on aesthetics, displacement, zoning and land use, public services, and flora are “moderate to significant and likely unable to be mitigated.”<sup>908</sup></p>

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Debra D. Roby

Debra D. Roby, DC License # 475398  
Omar Bustami, MD License # 1606210030  
Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, P.L.C.  
1350 I Street NW – Suite 810  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 464-0539  
[droby@jsslaw.com](mailto:droby@jsslaw.com)  
[obustami@jsslaw.com](mailto:obustami@jsslaw.com)

/s/ Michael H. Kennedy

Michael H. Kennedy, MN License # 55190  
Kennedy & Kennedy  
99 Navaho Avenue – Suite 104  
Mankato, MN 56001  
(507) 345-4582  
[kennedylaw@hotmail.com](mailto:kennedylaw@hotmail.com)

*Counsel for North Mankato*

Dated: June 6, 2019

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have, this 6th day of June 2019, caused the foregoing document to be filed by electronic eDockets, and eServed, or sent by US Mail, as indicated, to all parties on the service lists compiled for these consolidated proceedings.

/s/ Debra D. Roby

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 South Sixth Street Suite 4000 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Mara	Ascheman	mara.k.ascheman@xcelen ergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall Fl 5  Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Sarah	Beimers	sarah.beimers@state.mn.u s	Department of Administration - State Historic Preservation Office	50 Sherburne Avenue Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Charley	Bruce	Charley.Bruce@state.mn.u s	Public Utilities Commission	121 East 7th Place Suite 350  St. Paul, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Omar	Bustami	obustami@jsslaw.com	Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, PLC	1350 I St. NW Suite 810 Washington, DC 20003	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
PUC	CAO	consumer.puc@state.mn.u s	Public Utilities Commission	Consumer Affairs Office 121 7th Place E Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Barbara	Case	barbara.case@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	600 N. Robert St.  St. Paul, Mn. 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Patricia	DeBleeckere	tricia.debleeckere@state.m n.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
William	Flynn	flynnw@ballardspahr.com	Ballard Spahr, LLP	80 South 8th Street  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 280  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Valerie	Herring	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Katherine	Hinderlie	katherine.hinderlie@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota St Suite 1800 St. Paul, MN 55101-2134	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Patrice	Jensen	patrice.jensen@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd N  St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Linda	Jensen	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota Street  St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Richard	Johnson	Rick.Johnson@lawmoss.com	Moss & Barnett	150 S. 5th Street Suite 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
STACY	KOTCH EGSTAD	Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	395 John Ireland Blvd.  St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Ray	Kirsch	Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Karen	Kromar	karen.kromar@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd  Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Peter	Madsen	peter.madsen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	Bremer Tower, Suite 1800 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, Minnesota 551017741	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Susan	Medhaug	Susan.medhaug@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 280, 85 Seventh Place East  St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Debra	Moynihan	debra.moynihan@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	395 John Ireland Blvd MS 620  St. Paul, MN 55155-1899	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Kate	O'Connell	kate.oconnell@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Suite 50085 Seventh Place East  St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Debra	Roby	droby@jsslaw.com	Jennings Strouss & Salmon, PLC	1350 I Street NW Suite 810 Washington, DC 20005	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N  Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190  Richfield, MN 55423	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Jeffrey	Small	jsmall@misoenergy.org		MISO P.O. Box 4202 Carmel, Indiana 46082-4202	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List



First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Kari	Valley	kvalley@misoenergy.org	Mid-Continent Independent System Operator	2935 Ames Crossing Road Eagan, MN 55121	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Amelia	Vohs	avohs@mncenter.org	Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	1919 University Avenue West Suite 515 St. Paul, Minnesota 55104	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Caren	Warner	caren.warner@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Kathryn E.	Wendt	wendtk@ballardspahr.com	Ballard Spahr, LLP	80 South Eighth St Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List
Daniel P	Wolf	dan.wolf@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-184_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lisa	Agrimonti	lagrimonti@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 South Sixth Street Suite 4000 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Mara	Ascheman	mara.k.ascheman@xcelen ergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall Fl 5  Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Charley	Bruce	Charley.Bruce@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 East 7th Place Suite 350  St. Paul, MN 55117	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Omar	Bustami	obustami@jsslaw.com	Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, PLC	1350 I St. NW Suite 810 Washington, DC 20003	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Barbara	Case	barbara.case@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	600 N. Robert St.  St. Paul, Mn. 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Patricia	DeBleeckere	tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
William	Flynn	flynnw@ballardspahr.com	Ballard Spahr, LLP	80 South 8th Street  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Larry	Hartman	Larry.Hartman@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East, Suite 280  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Valerie	Herring	vherring@briggs.com	Briggs and Morgan, P.A.	2200 IDS Center 80 S. Eighth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List

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Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Debra	Roby	droby@jsslaw.com	Jennings Strouss & Salmon, PLC	1350 I Street NW Suite 810 Washington, DC 20005	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Richard	Savelkoul	rsavelkoul@martinsquires.com	Martin & Squires, P.A.	332 Minnesota Street Ste W2750  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190  Richfield, MN 55423	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Jeffrey	Small	jsmall@misoenergy.org		MISO P.O. Box 4202 Carmel, Indiana 46082-4202	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7  Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List
Kari	Valley	kvalley@misoenergy.org	Mid-Continent Independent System Operator	2935 Ames Crossing Road  Eagan, MN 55121	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Kathryn E.	Wendt	wendtk@ballardspahr.com	Ballard Spahr, LLP	80 South Eighth St Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_17-185_Official Service List