

The Commission met on **Thursday, June 27, 2019** with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Lipschultz, Means, Schuerger, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

E-002, ET-6675/CN-17-184

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Huntley-Wilmarth 345-kV Transmission Line Project

E-002, ET-6675/TL-17-185

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC for a Route Permit for the Huntley-Wilmarth 345-kV Transmission Line Project

Commissioner Lipschultz moved that the Commission:

1. Find that the environmental impact statement is adequate and complies with all applicable rules and requirements.
2. Approve and adopts the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation as modified by Appendix A.
3. Grant a certificate of need for the Huntley-Wilmarth 345 kV transmission line project.
4. Issue a high-voltage transmission line route permit to Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest, attached as Appendix B, with the following special condition added:
5. Authorize the Permittees to consult with affected landowners and the MDNR to develop an alignment for the transmission line, other than Alignment Alternative AA3b, as the line approaches and connects with the Huntley Substation. Consistent with Sections 4 and 9.1 of this permit, if the Permittees develop and propose an alignment other than Alignment Alternative AA3b, the Permittees shall document and file with the Commission their consultations with landowners and the MDNR as part of the plan and profile filing for this segment. Consistent with Section 4 of this permit, any alignment proposed by the Permittees must have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7850.4100 as Alignment Alternative AA3b.
6. Require Xcel and ITC Midwest to explore possible modifications to route segment L including, at a minimum, the following three alternatives:
 - a. Route Alternative L proceeding west instead of south from the corner of County Road 166th Street and 502nd Ave; then turning south along the property line between the Sergeant parcel and the Gilman parcel until it intersects with County

Road 128/164th Street; then turning west until it connects with the originally proposed Purple Route.

- b. The Purple Route proceeding south from County Road 128/164th Street so that it connects to Route Alternative J, as proposed by public commenters Ardnt and Farhforth, instead of proceeding south and east to cross the Watonwan River. Scoping Routes U and W.
 - c. Route Alternative L proceeding south instead of east when the route reaches County Road 128/164th Street and continuing directly south until it crosses the Watonwan River and connects with the originally proposed Purple Route.
- 7. Require any proposed modifications to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Minn. R. 7850.4800 as minor alterations with supporting analysis. If no modifications are proposed, Xcel and ITC Midwest shall file their analysis explaining the basis for determining that no modifications would be proposed. Construction may proceed outside the area affected by the analysis of potential modifications.
 - 8. Authorize Commission staff to make further refinements to the findings of fact and permit conditions as necessary to ensure consistency with the record, the language of recently issued permits, and the Commission's decisions in this matter.

The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: October 9, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary