

US Department of Energy



FEB 13 2015

Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability

Board of Commissioners

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Roseau, MN 56751

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A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Falk and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-02-01

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 kV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota International border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County, and residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach has included multiple open houses in Roseau County, and multiple meetings updating Roseau County Commissioners, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line, and the scope of the environmental impact statement for the State route permit and Federal Presidential Permit; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a working group to gather additional public input and two Roseau County Commissioners participated in these working group meetings, and provided input on the proposed routes and border crossing; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

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District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair ** District 4, Todd Miller ** District 5, Mark Foldesi

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WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Roseau County that impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service effectively negate over three years of good faith participation by Roseau County, and its residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Roseau County designates Commissioners Roger Falk and Todd Miller as possible participants in the public information meetings on the draft environmental impact statement, and the State route permit public hearings, and may provide written and oral testimony consistent with this Resolution.


STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss

COUNTY OF ROSEAU)

I, Jeff Pelowski, County Coordinator in and for Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners on February 10, 2015.

(SEAL)


Jeff Pelowski
Roseau County Coordinator

District 1, Glenda Phillippe** District 2, Jack Swanson, Chair
District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair ** District 4, Todd Miller ** District 5, Mark Foldesi

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