

9.0 Conclusion

The 2007 Biennial Transmission Projects Report demonstrates that there are significant and numerous situations across the state where the existing transmission infrastructure may be incapable of meeting future demands for energy. Continued load growth, proposed high electricity demand facilities like ethanol plants and steel mills, new state policies promoting renewable energy, interconnection requests, existing interstate constraints on the system, all impact the ability of the system to perform as necessary.

It will take a great deal of planning, a significant degree of coordination among regulators, utilities, system operators, and interested stakeholders, and a substantial commitment of financial resources to provide all the infrastructure – both generation and transmission – that is going to be required within the next few years to meet society’s demands and achieve the intended goals.

The Minnesota Transmission Owners have compiled this Biennial Report in accordance with state law and guidance from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce. This Report, along with Part II of this document on renewable energy, describes the activities that are underway to address these ongoing concerns. Studies are being conducted. Upgrades of facilities to improve and assure continued reliable service in local communities have been completed. Several new transmission lines in the Buffalo Ridge area have been constructed in the last couple years. Other new lines around the state have been approved by the Public Utilities Commission and are under construction. Four new long 345 kV lines and a 230 kV line – the CapX 2020 projects – have been proposed and are under review by the Commission. Other projects will be pursued in 2008 and beyond.

The Minnesota Transmission Owners look forward to an open and candid discussion about the inadequacies described in the Biennial Report and the steps required to ensure a reliable and secure energy future.