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Minnesota Transmission Owners

Docket No.: E999/M-15-439

Response To: MN Department of Commerce Information Request No. 2

Requestor: Michael Zajicek

Date Received: January 6, 2016

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Question:

Chapter 6 of the 2015 Biennial Transmission Planning Report indicates that several tracking numbers require a solution which will or might require a certificate of need. For each, please provide:

- a. a schedule showing an estimated date by which a certificate of need would be filed; and
- b. an estimated date by which construction would begin.

Response:

**(A) Great River Energy**

**2003-NE-N2 – Cromwell-Wrenshall-Mahtowa-Floodwood Area (GRE/MP)**

- a. Complete. Docket No. ET2,E015/CN-10-973.
- b. Complete. Began in 2012, substantially complete in 2015. Minor portion of the project involving an upgrade to an existing transmission line remaining to be completed in 2016.

**2013-NE-N21 – Menahga Area 115 kV Project (GRE/MP)**

- a. Complete. Docket Nos. ET2, E015/CN-14-787; ET2, E015/TL-14-797.
- b. April 22, 2016.

**2013-NE-N22 – Elisha 115 kV Project**

- a. September 1, 2017.
- b. March 1, 2019.

**2015-NE-N6 – Motley Area 115 kV Project (GRE/MP)**

- a. Complete. Docket Nos. ET2, E015/CN-14-853; ET2, E015/TL-15-204.
- b. December 6, 2016.

**2015-NE-N18 – Palisade Pumping Station (X3A)**

- a. Complete. Docket No. ET2/TL-15-423.
- b. January 1, 2017.

**2003-WC-N7 – Panther Area**

- a. 2021-need based on area load growth.
- b. 2022-need based on area load growth.

**2009-TC-N2 – New Market & Cleary Lake Area Projects**

- a. Complete. Docket No. ET-2/CN-12-1235.
- b. Complete.

**(B) Minnesota Power**

**2007-NE-N1 – Duluth Area 230 kV**

- a. Recent study indicates that this project is not needed until the mid-2020s at the earliest. Minnesota Power is regularly re-evaluating the need for the project and would plan to file a Certificate of Need Application approximately 3 years in advance of the need date, to allow appropriate time for permitting and construction. Assuming that the project is not needed until the mid-2020's, the earliest that Minnesota Power would file a Certificate of Need Application would be in 2020 or 2021.
- b. Construction expected to start approximately 1.5-2 years after CON submitted.

**2013-NE-N13 – Great Northern Transmission Line**

- a. Minnesota Power filed a Certificate of Need Application for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project in October 2013 and the Certificate of Need was subsequently granted by the Commission in June 2015 (Docket No. E015/CN-12-1163).
- b. Pending the Commission's decision on the Route Permit Application (Docket No. E015/TL-14-21), Minnesota Power expects to begin construction of the project in 2017.

**2015-NE-N12 – Iron Range-Arrowhead 345 kV Project**

- a. Minnesota Power has no current plans to construct the Iron Range – Arrowhead 345 kV Project. Should the project become necessary in the future due to additional Manitoba – United States transmission service requests or other system reliability needs, it will be advanced at that time. Because there is no current need for the project, there is no relevant timeline for filing a Certificate of Need Application.
- b. See response to a.

**(C) Northern States Power Company**

**2011-WC-N4 - Convert Minn Valley - Panther - McLeod - Blue Lake 230 kV line to Double circuit 345 kV from Hazel to McLeod to West Waconia to Blue Lake**

- a. The project need has not been identified yet so the CON date is unknown at this time.
- b. The project need has not been identified yet so the construction date is unknown at this time.

**(D) ITC Midwest**

**2013-SW-N4 - New 345 kV line from Lakefield Junction to Kossuth County via Winnebago and Winco and a new 345 kV line from Obrien County to Webster via Kossuth County. Includes 161 kV rebuild as underbuild along portions of the route.**

- a. The CON application was submitted March 22, 2013 in Docket No. ET6675/CN-12-1053, and was granted in an Order dated November 25, 2014.
- b. The project is currently under construction.

**(E) Otter Tail Power Company/Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.**

**2007-NW-N3 - Winger-Thief River Falls 230 kV Line**

- a. New and existing load growth will drive the exact timing of this project. CON filing currently expected in August of 2018.
- b. Construction is estimated to begin in December of 2020.

**2015-NW-N1 - Clearbrook West 115 kV-Bagley West 230 kV**

- a. CON filing currently expected in May of 2016.
- b. Construction is estimated to begin in January of 2018.

Date: January 28, 2016

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