

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSIDERING
AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTING FOR THE
GOPHER TO BADGER LINK PROJECT**

Oronoco Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota – Resolution No. 2026-02

WHEREAS, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (collectively, "Applicants") have filed a Joint Application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC") for a Certificate of Need (MPUC Docket No. ET3, E002/CN-25-121) for the Gopher to Badger Link Transmission Line Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Application states that the Project was approved by Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) as part of its Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1 Portfolio; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. §116B.04, even where a project serves public purposes, it may proceed only if there is "no feasible and prudent alternative"; and

WHEREAS, the current Project Study Area for the Project includes the following 14 townships in Olmsted County: Oronoco Township, Farmington Township, Cascade Township, Haverhill Township, Viola Township, Quincy Township, Rochester Township, Marion Township, Eyota Township, Dover Township, High Forest Township, Pleasant Grove Township, Orion Township, and Elmira Township; and

WHEREAS, a No Build Segment 1 and Partial Build Segment 2 Option alternative was resubmitted as a Public Comment on the Completeness of Application 25-221, on February 17, 2026, (MPUC Docket No. 25-121(CN) 20262-228222-02, pages 2-5, by Thomforde) that eliminates any impact on the 14 townships in Olmsted County listed above;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Oronoco Town Board supports a comprehensive review of the No Build Segment 1 and Partial Build Segment 2 Option alternative for the Gopher to Badger Link by the Applicants and MISO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the comprehensive review by the Applicants and MISO should be started immediately instead of waiting up to a year for the scoping public comments to conclude, resulting in needlessly delaying the permitting process or compromising the quality of the comprehensive review process.

Adopted by the Oronoco Town Board on this 13 day of April, 2026.

BY THE TOWN BOARD


Oronoco Township Chair


Attest Oronoco Township Clerk