

APPENDIX A

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
Dr. David C. Boyd	Commissioner
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
J. Dennis O'Brien	Commissioner
Betsy L. Wergin	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Request of Minnesota
Power for a Certificate of Need for the
Great Northern Transmission Line

MPUC Docket No. E-015/CN-12-1163

SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATE OF NEED FILING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, Minnesota Power has submitted an application for a certificate of need for the Great Northern Transmission Line (the "Project"), an approximately 240 mile large high voltage transmission line, as defined under Minn. Rules 7849.0100, subp. 14, that will extend from the Manitoba - United States border to Minnesota Power's Blackberry Substation in Itasca County, Minnesota. Pursuant to Minn. Rules 7829.2500, subp. 2, Minnesota Power provides this summary of its Certificate of Need filing.

The Great Northern Transmission Line represents the Minnesota portion of a new high voltage connection between Manitoba Hydro's Dorsey substation in the province of Manitoba, Canada and Minnesota Power's Blackberry Substation in Itasca County, Minnesota. The Project is needed to enable additional deliveries from Manitoba Hydro to meet existing and future energy needs for Minnesota Power and its customers and for the region.

For Minnesota Power and its customers, the Project provides the necessary new transmission facilities to deliver the energy associated with its 250 megawatt Power Purchase Agreement and Energy Exchange Agreement with Manitoba Hydro, approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in 2012, as well as an additional 133 MW sale and renewable energy storage agreement recently reached between the Company and Manitoba Hydro. In addition, the Project benefits the State and region by, among other things, increasing regional transmission system reliability, increasing transfer capability and allowing optimization of renewable energy resources.

The Application is available on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's e-Dockets webpage under the docket number listed above. It is also available on the Project webpage at: <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com>.