



March 1, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of the Minnesota Tribal Contractors Council, I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

The Minnesota Tribal Contractors Council was formed to provide a voice for Native American Contractors and to promote the economic development of the Trades industry in Minnesota. We aim to accomplish this goal by combining our resources to magnify our buying and negotiating power. Through advocacy for projects that provide opportunity to our member businesses, we can build a better tomorrow together.

We believe the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal is a responsible and beneficial project. It will provide efficient delivery of energy from some of the nation's highest capacity wind resources in North Dakota to customers in Minnesota. Our organization has built a positive relationship with the team from Minnesota Power over the past year, most recently discussing, how we can help minority contractors, future training opportunities and getting folks to work. The project discussed in this letter; will provide all those opportunities we've been working towards.

Again, we express our support of the proposed project and encourage DOE's support of this project.

Sincerely,

Morgan Fritzinger

Morgan Fritzinger
Co-Executive Director

February 16, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

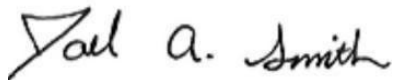
On behalf of the 29,000 members and family members of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

LIUNA members build and maintain critical infrastructure, including the conventional, nuclear, and renewable energy facilities that power our homes and businesses. In Minnesota, we have been on the forefront of efforts to secure a just clean energy transition by supporting policies and projects designed to deliver affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean electric service. We have done so while creating infrastructure jobs that support families.

Minnesota Power has a long history of partnership with unions, including LIUNA. In recent years, we have worked closely with the utility to advance projects that deliver cleaner energy and good jobs through the regulatory process. Among these projects are the development of new utility-scale solar resources using local union labor and locally-manufactured solar panels.

The proposed HVDC upgrade will improve the economics of the Minnesota Power system, directly benefiting LIUNA members and the mines and mills that provide much of their work. The project will also support the addition of new wind and solar generation. We hope the DOE will strongly consider accepting Minnesota Power's proposal.

Sincerely,



Joel Smith
President and Business Manager
LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49L
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

CLAYTON J. JOHNSON, President
RYAN P. DAVIES, Vice President
STEVE R. PIPER, Recording-Corresponding Secretary
OSCAR J. SLETTEN, Treasurer



JASON A. GEORGE
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

2829 Anthony Lane South, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3285
Phone (612) 788-9441 • Toll Free (866) 788-9441 • Fax (612) 788-1936

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

February 13, 2023

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 (Local 49) represents more than 14,500 Operating Engineers and their families in MN, ND, and SD. Our members include heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and stationary engineers. Local 49 members work on a wide array of energy infrastructure construction and maintenance projects—including coal plants, natural gas plants, nuclear plants, wind and solar facilities. This work includes the initial construction but also the ongoing maintenance of large projects, which serves as a major source of income for many of our members.

Minnesota Power's proposed HVDC modernization will allow energy to move more efficiently across their network, maximizing the resources they already have in place. By creating a system with increased capacity and the capability for electricity to flow where it is needed as system resources require, Minnesota Power is allowing for the future transfer of additional clean energy. Current transmission bottlenecks, resulting in delayed construction of new energy generation facilities and the curtailment of existing facilities, have shown how important increased transmission capability is. The grid Minnesota Power is working towards, is critical to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources available in the future. Along with decreasing Minnesota Power's carbon footprint, it also increases the availability of some of the lowest cost energy on the market.

Many Local 49 members have earned their livelihoods over the last decades building and maintaining wind projects across MN, ND, and SD, along with the addition of solar projects of increasing size in the past few years. Recently, these projects have faced long delays due to the inability of the current transmission system to get the energy they will produce to its end-users. Minnesota Power's proposed project enables their current HVDC system to triple its capacity for renewable energy, allowing more of these stranded renewable energy projects to move forward. Practical approaches, like this one, are exactly what is needed to drive our energy system into the clean energy future that is envisioned, without sacrificing the safety and reliability of our power system today. Investment in these modernization upgrades will benefit the company, its customers, its energy producers, and the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

Jason A. George
Business Manager - Financial Secretary
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49

700 Olive Street • Saint Paul, MN 55130



Phone: 651.646.7207 • Fax: 651.645.8318

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura,

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters represents nearly 27,000 union members and their families in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. On behalf of our members, I write today in support of the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the US Department of Energy in response to the DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

We work closely with utilities around our region and Minnesota Power has an exemplary track record of working with construction trades, energy groups, community, and elected officials to advance reliable and affordable energy projects. Today, the grid in our region is in need of upgrades that will allow Minnesota Power to meet aggressive zero carbon goals. We must continue to build the capacity of our energy generation and distribution and we know that this grant will invest in jobs for today and our economy for tomorrow.

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters supports this proposed DOE project and we are proud of our partnership with Minnesota Power.

Sincerely,

Adam Duininck
Director of Government Affairs
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters



408 Saint Peter Street, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55102

PHONE 651 225 0878
EMAIL info@fresh-energy.org
WEBSITE fresh-energy.org

ALLETE/Minnesota Power TA2-210-E_Partner

February 10, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of Fresh Energy, I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

Fresh Energy is a 30-year-old, Minnesota-based nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. We work to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. We are regular intervenors in the Minnesota Public Utility Commission's proceedings and participants in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") stakeholder processes advocating for carbon-free electricity solutions.

In this work we see new and up-rated long-distance, interstate, high-voltage transmission as absolutely critical and foundational for a reliable, resilient, carbon-free electric grid. Therefore, we are strongly supportive of Minnesota Power's proposal for upgrading and modernizing its HVDC line. If granted, we intend to partner with Minnesota Power in understanding the system benefits and implications of this project for renewable additions and reliability both for Minnesota Power and also Minnesota generally and the broader region.

Again, we express our support of the proposed project and encourage DOE's support of this project.

Sincerely,

Allen Gleckner
Executive Lead, Policy and Programs
gleckner@fresh-energy.org



February 15, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power High-Voltage Direct-Current (HVDC) proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

CEE is a Minnesota-based 501(c)(3) clean energy nonprofit with special expertise in energy efficiency and other clean energy resources. CEE employs over 160 people in a variety of areas, including technology research, energy efficiency program development and implementation, community engagement, policy advocacy, and project financing. Working across homes, businesses, and communities, CEE discovers and deploys the most effective energy solutions to strengthen our economy and improve our environment.

CEE is proud to work alongside Minnesota Power to help support their efforts to transition their electric system to emissions-free resources, while maintaining a strong, reliable, and affordable system. CEE collaborated with Minnesota Power to engage their stakeholders in developing their most recent integrated resource plan. Throughout that work it became clear that Minnesota Power, as well as our state and the region broadly, cannot meet clean energy goals without significant investments in the transmission system. We at CEE see the proposed HVDC Terminal project in Northeastern Minnesota as an important step toward upgrading our transmission system to support reliability, while connecting our state and region to additional renewable energy resources.

Again, we express our support of the proposed project and encourage DOE's support of this project as well.

Sincerely,

Chris Duffrin, President
Center for Energy and Environment
Phone: 612-335-5880; Email: cduffrin@mncee.org



February 15, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

APEX is a private sector-led business development organization established to promote sustainable growth in northeast Minnesota including Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties. APEX investor-members represent many of the largest and most influential organizations in the region with a vested interest in business attraction, expansion, and retention. Minnesota Power is a dedicated supporter of regional economic, community, and workforce development and is a critical APEX partner in these shared efforts.

Sustainable growth for our region cannot be achieved without energy infrastructure like the proposed Minnesota Power HVDC project. Maintaining a reliable supply of increasingly carbon-free energy on the grid is critical for the region's large industries that power the local economy. The existing terminal is beyond design life and upgrades are needed to meet the need for safe and reliable energy today and into the future for residents and businesses.

For these reasons, APEX supports and encourages DOE's support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rachel Johnson", followed by a horizontal line.

Rachel Johnson
APEX President & CEO



Saint Louis County

Fifth District Commissioner • 100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room 205 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Email: MusolfK@StLouisCountyMN.gov

Keith Musolf
County Commissioner

February 13, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

As a St. Louis County Commissioner representing Hermantown and Solway Township, I would like to express my support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

MP is a strong partner for St. Louis County and the entire region. I appreciate their use of union labor on large construction projects like this one and their investment in our communities. The fact that they have already started doing public outreach, including open houses, to listen to feedback from neighbors and help it inform their decision making early on in the process is par for the course for how this company operates. The economic impact and union jobs this project will create here in St. Louis County are exciting and the fact that this project will help both Minnesota and North Dakota reduce their carbon footprint makes this project a no brainer to support.

I urge the DOE to approve this funding request and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Keith Musolf



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD

February 27th, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal, which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be one of the state's largest chambers, serving over 1,000 members. Our footprint in Northeastern Minnesota allows us to be an influential regional chamber advocating for investments and policies that will benefit our economy and community.

Our decision to support the HVDC proposal is based upon certain facts:

- Minnesota Power (MP) utilized a first-of-its-kind stakeholder process that brought a broad range of diverse perspectives together to shape their recently approved 2021 Integrated Resource Plan.
- This included residents, small businesses, large commercial & industrial consumers, economic development organizations, labor unions, clean energy and environmental advocates, local governments, tribes, schools and colleges, and state government agencies.
- This project helps the company move toward their carbon-free energy vision by adding energy storage to MP's energy mix and hits on many of the shared priorities of the stakeholder groups that participated in that IRP process.

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce wants to commend the company's progress reaching 50% renewable energy already and commitment to meeting MN's goal of a 100% carbon-free energy supply in the future. Further, at the Chamber, we clearly see MP as a strong supporter of regional economic, community, and workforce development. Finally, maintaining a reliable supply of increasingly carbon-free energy on the grid is critical for the region's large industries that power the local economy. The existing terminal is beyond design life and upgrades are needed to meet the need for safe and reliable energy today and into the future for residents and businesses.

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce stands in strong support of the proposed project and encourages the DOE's support of this project.

Sincerely,


Matt Baumgartner, MBA
President

Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
mbaumgartner@duluthchamber.com



February 22, 2023

Mr. David Chura
Manager – Emerging Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Chura:

On behalf of the Greater North Dakota Chamber, I would like to express our support for the Minnesota Power HVDC proposal which is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DE-FOA-0002740 Topic Area 2: Smart Grid Grants.

The Greater North Dakota Chamber is North Dakota's oldest and largest business advocacy organization. We are a state chamber of commerce driven by our members and free market principles. We are nonpartisan and nonprofit. We deliver a unifying voice for business by advocating for public policies that ensure businesses have the ability to grow North Dakota's economy and secure its position in the global market. Our goal is to ensure North Dakota has one of the best business climates in the nation.

North Dakota generates a significant amount of electricity from renewable and traditional sources. The bulk of this electricity is exported to neighboring states where it provides affordable, reliable power to thousands of homes, businesses, and other entities. The additional transmission capacity created from Minnesota Power's HVDC project will enable North Dakota to increase its generating capacity in support of the future electricity needs of the upper Midwest.

Again, we express our support of the proposed project and encourage DOE's support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arik Spencer", is written over a long, thin horizontal line.

Arik Spencer
President & CEO

