

From: Steve J [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 12:57 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Proposed 765 kilo volt power line

The proposed 765 kilo volt power line that PowerOn Midwest wants to build from the Big Stone coal plant to Brookings county and then East to the Twin Cities would span about 250 miles at a cost of 5 to 7 billion dollars. Company representatives have stated that the primary need for the line is to serve the growth around Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Rochester.

I am not questioning their claim that these areas need more power. What I am saying is that this project does not need to be built from here.

Northern Natural Gas is a major interstate natural gas pipeline serving Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, western Wisconsin and almost every community in Minnesota including Rochester and Minneapolis/St. Paul. This 16,000 mile pipeline, incorporated in 1930, originates in the Permian Basin in Texas. They are continuously expanding to meet increased markets.

I have spoken with senior management at Northern Natural Gas and they told me they would love to make a proposal to serve a 765 kv power plant with clean burning natural gas in the Twin Cities area, such as near Hampton (where the proposed line is supposed to terminate) or in the Koch Refining industrial area, both being just a few miles south of St. Paul. Northern already serves the Black Dog and High Bridge power plants which serve Minneapolis and St. Paul respectively. They were converted from coal many years ago. Due to location of the new plant, it may not need to be as large as a 765 kv, because it would eliminate the huge line loss that occurs in high voltage lines over long distances.

Why build a massive 250 mile power line when you can build a modern plant just 20 or so miles from downtown Minneapolis/St. Paul? It would eliminate risk from storms and a multitude of other risks, and you eliminate the need to destroy valuable farmland. Building it from Big Stone would also greatly increase the amount of coal Big Stone would burn per day, which the Minnesota politicians say they hate. Maybe they don't realize that the prevailing northwest wind here would blow any pollutants into Minnesota.

Some things make sense and some things don't. Construction of this line from South Dakota does not make sense.

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