

## Huntley-Wilmarth transmission line approved

Project will enhance reliability, reduce grid congestion

**MINNEAPOLIS (June 27, 2019)** – A new transmission line approved today by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will provide customers in Minnesota access to more low-cost renewable energy and increased electric reliability.

Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest will build the nearly 50-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will connect Xcel Energy’s Wilmarth Substation, north of Mankato, and ITC Midwest’s Huntley Substation, south of Winnebago. The project is expected to be online in 2021, with construction scheduled to start in 2020.

“Xcel Energy is pleased with the decision by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and we are excited to move forward on this project,” said Michael Lamb, senior vice president, transmission, Xcel Energy. “The Huntley-Wilmarth project will provide several local and regional benefits including relieving congestion on the transmission grid, delivering clean, affordable energy to customers, and increasing property tax revenues to local governments.”

“Investments in our transmission systems strengthen reliability and help us continue our clean energy transition,” said Chris Clark, president, Xcel Energy-Minnesota. “This new transmission line will support our vision to reduce carbon emissions 80 percent by 2030 and deliver 100 percent carbon free energy by 2050. We thank our communities for their input and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for their approval of this important project.”

“We are grateful for the public input throughout the regulatory process and the project approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,” said Krista Tanner, senior vice president and chief business unit officer for ITC Holdings Corp. and president of ITC Midwest. “Among many benefits for electric customers, the Huntley-Wilmarth transmission line will increase grid capacity, enhance system reliability and provide greater access to renewable energy.”

During the two-year transmission line development process, Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest conducted a lengthy community outreach and engagement campaign to provide opportunities for residents and businesses to learn more about the project, view potential route maps, ask questions and provide feedback on potential routes. This included open houses hosted by the utilities and meetings facilitated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce that allowed for public input at 16 sessions. Many people took advantage of the opportunities to engage in the process.

More information about the Huntley-Wilmarth transmission line is available on the [project website](#).

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

ITC Midwest LLC is a subsidiary of [ITC Holdings Corp.](#), the largest independent electricity transmission company in the U.S. ITC Midwest operates more than 6,800 circuit miles of transmission lines in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri, and holds utility status in Wisconsin. ITC Midwest is headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and maintains regional operating facilities in Dubuque, Iowa City and Perry, Iowa; and Albert Lea and Lakefield, Minnesota. For further information visit [www.itc-holdings.com](http://www.itc-holdings.com). ITC is a subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry. For further information visit [www.fortisinc.com](http://www.fortisinc.com).

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