

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minnesota Power Transmission Line Permitting Contested During Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Meeting – **CANCELLED AT THE REQUEST OF MINNESOTA POWER**

Stop the Hermantown Data Center’s plans to engage the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission during public information and scoping meetings originally scheduled for February 10 and 11, 2026, for the Iron Range – St. Louis County – Arrowhead 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (Project) cancelled at the request of the applicant, Minnesota Power.

“PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has canceled the four public information and scoping meetings it originally scheduled for the Iron Range – St. Louis County – Arrowhead 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (Project). The Commission had scheduled three in-person meetings for February 10 and 11, 2026, in Hermantown, Floodwood and Grand Rapids, and had scheduled a virtual meeting for February 12, 2026. The cancellation of these public meetings is in response to a request from the applicants to re-schedule public meetings. Applicants request the Commission postpone public meetings due to staffing availability and the need for additional time to ensure a proper public engagement process. The Commission approves this request and will issue a notice of the new dates, times and locations of all meetings when those details are available.”

Citizen groups, noting the thin rationale for a new 345 kV transmission line to the southwest corner of Hermantown, are opposing the permitting via a local meeting of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Duluth. There is a proposed hyper-scale datacenter to be located on 400 acres in the southwest rural corner of Hermantown. The proposed site is adjacent to the ATC Arrowhead 245/230 kV Substation to be connected to the new 345 kV transmission line, following proposed increase to 800 mW.

"The members of Stop the Hermantown Data Center urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to pause permitting on the 345 kV transmission line to the southwest corner of Hermantown. Also, a full stop is requested for the proposed 1.5 miles of new transmission line 120-180 single pole weathering steel proposed structures to connect the ATC Arrowhead 245/230kV Substation and the St. Louis County proposed substation. We also support maintaining the 800 MVA limit on the ATC Arrowhead substation. Minnesota Power introduced the City of Hermantown to the proposed Hermantown data center project. The proposed Hermantown data center represents a trade secret not disclosed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission during testimony regarding the ALLETE sale. Residents of the City of Hermantown, who reside in St. Louis County, and the state of Minnesota are not an investment opportunity to be exploited.”

Members of Stop The Hermantown Data Center (SHDC) believe that Minnesota Power did not fully disclose the need for the new 345 kV transmission line. The thin rationale included “weather, sabotage, and wildfire” after mention that “while the transmission grid remains extremely reliable” claims that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, upon review of the draft need and route permit, described as “bold” and not relating to the state of Minnesota. SHDC urges the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to pause the project to protect the citizens in northeastern Minnesota facing an unprecedented threat of utility rate increases, and of land acquisition by eminent domain, misrepresentation and/or coercion. Further, pausing the permitting versus unanimous approval, is needed to allow for the CURE petition to be resolved and several lawsuits to settle concerning the proposed data center project. Concerns of local citizens have been ignored by local, county, and state officials who signed non-disclosure agreements.

To learn more about the efforts of SHDC visit <https://Stopthehermantowndatacenter.org> or visit SHDC’s Facebook page .

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