

# Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative

March 6, 2009

Jon Wellinghoff  
Acting Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff,

As you and other national leaders consider ideas to increase the Federal government's role in promoting much needed transmission across the country, we ask you to consider the transmission planning efforts currently taking place in the Upper Midwest. Led by our Governors, the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin, have formed the Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative (UMTDI) to coordinate sub-regional electric transmission planning and related cost allocation issues.

Over the last six months, utility regulators, governors' staff, utilities, transmission owners, non-governmental organizations and the Midwest ISO, have been working to identify our states' optimum renewable energy resource zones and the regional transmission expansion needed to link those resources to load, both in our states and possibly beyond our region. In addition, we are working to develop a sub-regional cost allocation approach that is vetted among state stakeholders to help ensure that adequate transmission infrastructure gets built. Our plan is to have a sub-regional transmission upgrade plan ready for inclusion in RTO and regional planning processes by October 2009.

We also recognize that modernizing and expanding the transmission system is essential to expanding renewable energy generation and reaching the renewable portfolio goals outlined by President Obama and many congressional leaders. We are encouraged by your openness to ensuring that states, and particularly multi-state initiatives such as ours, can participate in developing national interest strategies that allow us to move forward with policies that provide equitable benefits to our citizens.

We understand the challenges, and have moved aggressively to address those that have seemed intractable in the past. Multi-state need and siting review requirements have been incorporated into the UMTDI planning considerations. Through the Organization of MISO States, the five states have reviewed opportunities to coordinate regulatory procedures. We expect that the next steps of the UMTDI can identify and implement further enhancements. UMTDI efforts to date, including supporting statements from our five Governors, are provided on the OMS website at [MISOstates.org](http://MISOstates.org).

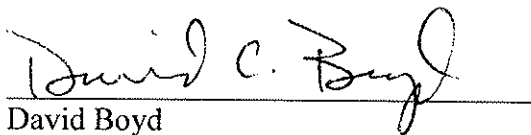
Current expansion efforts by the transmission owners in our sub-region reflect progressive development practices that should facilitate predictable outcomes. In addition to their commitments to be at the UMTDI and Midwest ISO planning table, there are examples, such as the Minnesota

CapX2020 projects and Wisconsin's American Transmission Company, of enhanced public relations and permitting strategies that are responding to siting challenges.

The UMTDI effort and its openness in working with all stakeholders is exactly the kind of effort that is needed to develop efficient transmission infrastructure. We welcome the opportunity to work with you in critical conversations about the design of federal and state relations related to transmission development.

Thank you for your consideration and please call us if you want more information on our Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative.

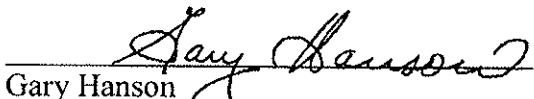
Sincerely,



David Boyd  
Chairman  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission



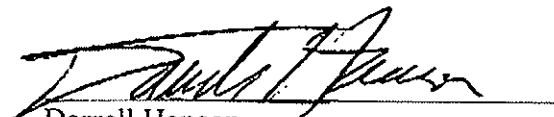
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cc: DOE Secretary Steven Chu  
US Senate Delegations: MN, IA, SD, ND, WI

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