

I am writing in support of the Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC), which will reinforce renewable energy resources with the ability to deliver up to 625 MW of flexible energy to the electric grid.

Dairyland Power Cooperative and project partners, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and ALLETE's Minnesota Power, are consistently working towards low-carbon goals with significant renewable resource planning. However, renewable additions also increase the grid's need for flexible facilities, like natural gas, that can provide reliable, quick-start generation. As an on-demand facility, NTEC will be able to ramp up and down in minutes to adjust for the intermittency of renewable energy generation.

NTEC will be an "always available" critical capacity resource in a time where resource adequacy in MISO is declining significantly. The upper Midwest has experienced capacity shortfalls, and MISO and NERC continue to issue warnings that wind and solar alone cannot replace planned power plant retirements. Delaying progress on NTEC puts the delivery of reliable electricity—and therefore, public safety—at risk.

A 2022 study as part of the SEA process showed construction of the facility will:

- Significantly reduce emissions by supporting wind energy dispatch and displacing higher emission fossil fuel plants
- Reduce CO2 emissions by an average of 964,000 tons per year, the equivalent of removing more than 190,000 internal combustion engine cars from the road each year
- Reduce transmission congestion across the region, which results in more generation from renewable resources

NTEC is also designed to be innovation-ready for partial hydrogen refuel, as emerging technologies are developed in the future.

In summary, NTEC will be a flexible, low-emitting and highly efficient natural gas facility that will support the rapid expansion of renewable energy resources- while keeping us safe and comfortable in any weather. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration during the public process.

Signature