



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Use of Eminent Domain for the Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Project

MEETING DATE:

July 6, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Rochester Public Utilities

AGENDA SECTION:

Consent Agenda

PRESENTER:

Tim McCollough

Action Requested:

Adopting a Resolution approving a resolution ratifying the use of eminent domain, including 'quick-take,' to acquire easement, rights-of-way, and/or other property rights for the Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Project.

Report Narrative:

Prior to the construction of the Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Project, it is necessary for the Project Manager, NSP(MN) to acquire the required property rights to allow the construction of the different portions of this transmission line project. To be able to utilize eminent domain, it is necessary for the four (4) Minnesota project partners (NSP_MN, SMMPA, DPC, and RPU) that will be partial owners of the Mankato to Mississippi River Project, to authorize the "Resolution Authorizing and Ratifying the Use of Eminent Domain, Including "Quick-Take," to Acquire Easements, Rights-of-Way, and/or Other Property Rights for the Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Project," which the City Attorney has reviewed and approved.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Fiscal Responsibility & Sustainability

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

This project represents a significant strategic opportunity for RPU. Constructing and owning new regional transmission assets directly supports RPU's Power Supply Resource Plan by strengthening the transmission network that delivers generation to the RPU load center, improving regional grid resilience, and helping mitigate present and future congestion-related financial impacts. The eminent domain process assures that all landowners will be treated equitably by using the same appraisal formulas when determining valuations for easements or other property rights. It will also include a defined legal process for all landowners to utilize.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

This resolution is very similar to what the RPU Board and City Council approved in 2012 for the original CapX 2020 transmission line project that RPU is part owner of along with the same participants that will be owners of the Mankato to Mississippi River Transmission Project. The RPU Board previously recommended in December 2025 that the City Council approve the Project Development Agreement for RPU to participate in this transmission project. The City Council approved this Project Development Agreement in January 2026.

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

Ownership allows RPU to offset costs that would otherwise be recovered solely through transmission charges, while providing the opportunity to earn a regulated return on investment. These investments align with RPU's 20-year financial forecast, five-year pro forma, 2027 bonding strategy, and the approved 2026–27 budget that includes the multi-year capital project funding in the amount of \$31,230,000 for the Grid North Partners Project.

Alternative Action(s):

No alternative actions are suggested at this time.

Prepared By:

Randy Anderton

Attachments:

[Exhibit - RPU - MMRT - Resolution Authorizing Eminent Domain](#)

[Exhibit - RPU Signed 20260623 - Resolution for Eminent Domain on GNP LRTP 4 Project](#)

[Resolution - Eminent Domain for GNP LRTP 4 Project-RPU-P0025](#)