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## Minnesota Power statement on Nemadji Trail Energy Center Minnesota Court of Appeals Ruling

Today's decision by the Minnesota Court of Appeals is an important step forward for the Nemadji Trail Energy Center project. The court affirmed a previous decision by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that the Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) is a low-cost, flexible and necessary resource to meet the energy needs of the 145,000 customers Minnesota Power serves as it continues to lead the clean-energy transformation. The court also agreed with the MPUC's decision that NTEC serves the public interest better than equivalent renewable intermittent resources.

The Court of Appeals found the MPUC's written order and the overall record strongly supported the MPUC's decisions. The Court also cited how NTEC will complement MP's additional wind and solar resources for both energy and demand and overall costs and will facilitate the transition of the company's planned coal unit retirements. The company is the first utility in the state to achieve the delivery of 50% renewable energy to its customers and has announced a vision of achieving 100% carbon-free energy by 2050.

In April, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that Minnesota Power had followed the appropriate regulatory steps for the Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Wisconsin, seeking approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for those issues that require Minnesota review.

The Nemadji Trail Energy Center is part of Minnesota Power's EnergyForward plan to reduce carbon by 80% and achieve coal-free operations by 2035. Natural gas plays an important role in the clean-energy transition as it provides a flexible and efficient means to support additional intermittent renewable resources while maintaining reliability and affordability. NTEC represents substantial local economic benefits for the region in the form of construction jobs and long-term tax base. It is the single largest private investment in Douglas County history and has the support of labor and city and county leaders. Regulatory review in Wisconsin has resulted in an extensive record and numerous approvals, including from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. We are continuing to work with our partner, Dairyland Power Cooperative, on the remaining approvals required in Wisconsin.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 15 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

