

Transmission Customer Q&A
Xcel Energy WMF transmission service request #75614596

Question:

June 3, 2005; Xcel Energy Wholesale Merchant Function (WMF); On March 11, 2005, Xcel Energy Transmission Function (TF) provided an opinion to the regards to WMF transmission service request #75614596 in an OASIS posting. On May 13, 2005, MISO posted an updated draft of the System Impact Study (SIS) for request #75614596. WMF requests an update to TF opinion now that a draft SIS has been posted. Does TF still believe transmission service can be initiated on June 1, 2008 as per request #75614596?

Response:

XET has reviewed the May 13, [18?] 2005 draft SIS report. In order to provide comparable and contemporaneous access to this transmission information, XET provides the following opinion:

The new draft SIS study provides little additional information from the previous draft. As before, no solution has been determined for any of the transmission limitations identified in the MISO SIS. Therefore, this information is preliminary, based on the experience and judgment of XET with knowledge of the NSP transmission system, and does not represent the definitive results that will be produced through the MISO study processes. Nor is the preliminary information meant to interfere with that process and those studies.

XET anticipates transmission system enhancements associated with generation in the MISO queue along with other committed projects will address most of the identified local n-1 thermal issues (those identified in section 4.3 of the draft report). XET anticipates a solution to the remaining n-1 thermal issues can be found which would not require a Certificate Of Need or substantial amounts of new rights-of-way that would create major delays in constructing required transmission facilities. XET believe it is very likely these local thermal transmission issues can be addressed in time for the initiation of transmission service by June 1, 2008.

However, based on the MISO's present flowbased study methodology, the draft SIS study has also identified two constrained flowgates that would exceed planning criteria. A transmission solution to these constraints is likely not possible by June 1, 2008. At this time, it is not known if these criteria violations could be addressed through Mitigation. This analysis is based on ATC reservations only through 2006. The affects of the MISO Day 2 market and major planned transmission facilities such as the Arrowhead-Weston 345 kV line on the use of these flowgates are not known. MISO is also reviewing this study methodology.

