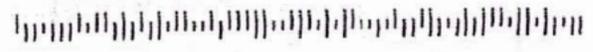




SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

15017\$1453 C004



TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

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- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Matt Ancarrow

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

 City/State: _____

 Email address: _____

Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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NOV 29 2016

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by voicing your ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. These comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. If you prefer, you can submit comments via email to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

I am opposed to the transmission line that is being proposed at Seven Seeds Farm. The line is not necessary for the local community and would only harm the area. We enjoy the meat and other products from Seven Seeds Farm and it has been in the same family for decades, and this transmission line would be a great travesty. Thank you.



SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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1501781453 C004

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- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Jana Ahearn

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address: _____

Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Scoping Period Comment Card
Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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NOV 21 2016

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Comments:

The transmission line would be ~~bad~~ bad for business at Seven Seeds Farm. This farm has been ~~is~~ located in this land for seven generations. It would be wrong to run a line through it. The farm produces high quality organic meat which has been enjoyed by my family for years.

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Drive
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

RECEIVED
DEC 19 2016

December 14, 2016

To SWCA Environmental Consultants,

As a Resident of Springdale Township, Dane County, Wisconsin and a property owner of land in Springdale Township, I am in this letter submitting my public comments on the proposed Cardinal- Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project.

The Town of Springdale Land Use Plan establishes a set of requirements and goals for development . Page 5 of the Land Use Plan states among other goals to “preserve the agricultural land, open spaces, and other natural resources of a rural town”. Springdale Township has many natural resources, some of which are Federally protected. Springdale Township has acres of protected wetlands . Just up the road from me is the headwaters to the Sugar River. We have open spaces with nesting Bald Eagles the next valley over. There are several pairs of nesting Sandhill cranes. We have Red Tailed Hawks and other large predatory birds as well as large numbers of songbirds migrating through Springdale Township. We have Federally protected Blandings Turtle in Springdale Township and Henslow’s Sparrows, which are a Species Of Concern Federally and a threatened species according to the State. We also have two plant species that are of Special Concern status. Plants and animals are a necessary part of healthy

agriculture. In the broad picture birds are critical for keeping the insect population in check. Native pollinators like bees and hummingbirds both of which live in Springdale Township need a certain amount of undeveloped land. I believe that building a high voltage transmission line through farms and agricultural fields will bring more development. Roads are required for maintenance and the landscape starts to change. The beauty of the hills and valleys is spectacular and could never be replaced. We are home to some of the most fertile farmland in the country and it needs protecting. The Town of Springdale Land Use Plan does not include having transmission lines and towers traversing the land in my opinion.

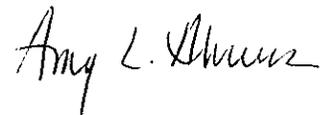
In Dane County we have world-class trout streams all through this region . Extremely close to the proposed line is Black Earth Creek, once rated one of the ten best trout streams in America. The presence of very large transmission lines crisscrossing the landscape would seriously detract from the health and beauty of our trout streams. Tens of millions of dollars come into the local economies annually directly from the trout fisheries. This income source would be adversely effected by the project. The county land inside the proposed corridor of the transmission line sits in the Driftless Area, one of the Nations most unique Geologic treasures, found only in Wisconsin, parts of Iowa and Minnesota .The Driftless Area land is called the Paleozoic Plateau. It is characterized by caves, cave systems, disappearing streams, sinkholes and springs. Disappearing streams occur where surface water sinks down into the earth through fractured bedrock or a sinkhole , either joining an aquifer or becoming an underground stream . Disappearing streams can reemerge as large cold springs. This is superb trout habitat .There are springs all throughout the area. Ground water throughout Dane county

helps supply the drinking water for the City of Madison as well keeping well water clean for the rural residents. I believe a certain amount of land must remain undeveloped to preserve these assets in Dane County Wisconsin and all the other counties affected throughout the corridor. There are State Parks in close proximity of the corridors and lands that are designated State Natural Areas.

It seems to me the environmental impact of allowing the transmission line project to proceed is huge and not something that should be undertaken. I do not believe the current two proposed routes would fulfill the obligation to use existing corridors or roadways . Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Ahrens

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. Ahrens".

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: NO TO CARDINAL HICKORY CREEK!
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 6:23:01 PM

We live in the area that will be effected by this project. It may even want to cross our property. We do not want this on our property. We farm the land and this would disrupt everything, besides ruining the view our our beautiful countryside. We do not see the need for this and we have solar panels that work wonderful and do not spoil the countryside. Study that and wind power. All the states around us are using windmills and are increasing usage of them. Clean energy!!! This could effect us financially also. I haven't talked to anyone in favor of this. Please consider these comments. The Dodgeville Chronicle had an excellent article/letter in the Dec 29th issue. Please read that and consider scrapping this project. Thank You William and Janet Aide [REDACTED]

From: Tamlyn Akins
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekEIS.us
Subject: ATTN RE: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line
Date: Sunday, January 01, 2017 11:39:07 AM

RE: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

December 31, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I attended an open house session this past summer where the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project was presented by the power companies to area residents, supposedly to take input and comments. However, many of us were informed at that time that the Transmission Line "is a done deal." In fact it is NOT a done deal. This completely misled many people to believe there was nothing they could do about it.

I am concerned about the lack of alternative energy options being considered for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project that is being proposed for the Driftless Area in which I live. Large scale energy transmission ties us to the use of out-of-state power generation and overlooks the better option of local alternative power generation and conservation measures. I have also seen studies that show flat or declining energy use in our area which makes me wonder why this is being considered in the first place!

Vermont Township is a beautiful place to live and visit. Many people come here to ride our roads, hike our trails and fish our waterways. There are several bicycling events that take place here annually because of the roads and beauty of our area. I am personally in charge of an annual Spring Art Tour event in this area where hundreds of visitors come from around the country to admire the beauty of this place and to visit the artists who live and work here. The unprecedented behemoth towers and clear-cutting necessary with this project would be a blight on the scenic views and enjoyment of our natural landscape. This project would have a severely negative impact on the economic well being of these events and our communities.

In addition, I am extremely concerned about the impacts the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project will have on our local wildlife and environment. Vermont Township has wonderful cold water creeks and adjacent wetlands that are home to native brook trout and endangered species such as Blanchard's Cricket Frog and Blanding's Turtle. The transmission line would also impact habitat areas of oak savannas which are home to bird species like Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow Sparrows, and a variety of neo tropicals that use the township as a summer home. Butterflies like the Regal Fritillary and Karner Blue are seen in the uplands and wetlands that could be damaged by the clear-cutting necessary for the installation and maintenance on these huge towers. The hawks and eagles that regularly hunt

over the driftless cliffs here can be killed or hurt impacting the towers or lines. I personally live directly across the road from protected wetlands where the Sandhill Cranes nest and feed during the warmer months of the year. The planned lines that would pass directly over our property would create a terrible hazard for these magnificent birds and destroy the value of our property. The whole reason I purchased my property in the first place was because of the beautiful view of the valley from our house on a hill. There are also studies which have shown that the magnetic fields and stray voltage generated by these mammoth towers would detrimentally impact the health and economic well being of livestock farms and residents in our area.

I urge you to require that a Cost Benefit Study and an Economic Impact Study of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line be done to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is truly necessary. I suspect these studies will prove otherwise. I respectfully request that my concerns, and the concerns of many others who live and work here, will be given due consideration at this important time of deliberation on the project.

Sincerely,
Tamlyn Akins

Owner Tamlyn Akins Art & Design
Spring Art Tour Coordinator
Mount Horeb Area Arts Association Vice President

CC: Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Congressman Mark Pocan
Dane County Supervisor Nikki Jones
Vermont Citizens Power Line Action Committee
Matt Geiger, Editor of News-Sickle-Arrow & Mount Horeb Mail Newspapers

Last Name Akins First Name Tamlyn

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
 Mail to: SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 200 Bursca Drive suite 207
 Bridgeville, PA 15017
 Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
 Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: _____ Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
See attached letters list with signature.

1. I have marked impacts that concern me regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
<u>Water bodies</u>	} <u>Mazonia, Verona, Cross Plains, Blue Mounds, Prairie du Sac, Barneveld, Mt. Horeb, Arena, Spring Green, New Glarus & Nepean</u>
<u>animals (wild & domestic)</u>	
<u>plants</u>	
<u>habitats</u>	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<u>Tamlyn Akins Art of Design</u>	<u>Black Earth</u>
<u>Spring Art Tour (Tourism event)</u>	<u>20 mi. radius around Mt. Horeb</u>
<u>Horribly Hilly Hundreds & other bike rides (Tourism events). large area</u>	<u>" " "</u>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<u>Impact on Art Related - Nature Related - Tourism activities (all interconnected in driftless area).</u>	
<u>Health impacts on my household, neighbors & communities at large.</u>	
<u>Entire area is tied to historic, cultural, natural & economic resources & would be impacted negatively.</u>	

3. Energy Investment Priorities

- A. As an electric customer, I prefer accelerated investment in end-user improvements in energy efficiency, load management and local renewable energy over spending that creates long term debt. Unlike imposing transmission, non-transmission alternatives have lower impacts on lands, economies and cultures and may also be more cost and environmentally effective.
- B. I request that the EIS include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of the above named non-transmission alternatives using the same budget that all electric customers would assume over 40 years to pay for the construction, financing, operation, maintenance, hardening and depreciation of the high voltage transmission option.
- C. I request that the analysis include innovative approaches such as community solar support at substations.

Signature Tamlyn Akins Date 12/31/16
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

From: Amy Alstad
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: EIS comments on proposed Cardinal Hickory transmission line
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 11:38:29 AM

To whom it may concern,

I own land in Iowa County near the routes of the proposed transmission line. I have several concerns about the impacts of the proposed line which I hope to see addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. These concerns include:

Economic Impacts

- 1) How much of the cost of the new infrastructure will be passed along to rate payers? How much can I expect my utility rates to increase?
- 2) How would such a line impact property values, especially those less than 5 miles from the proposed route?
- 3) Farms adjacent to other regional transmission lines have been negatively impacted by stray voltage. Please calculate economic impacts from lost dairy production.
- 4) The Driftless Area is a unique landscape that draws substantial income from tourism. Please assess the impact on tourism revenue of such a transmission line.

Environmental Impacts

- 1) The Driftless Area has lots of high quality grassland, savanna and woodland habitat which is home to numerous threatened and endangered species. I am very concerned about damaging impacts of building a large new transmission line on these sensitive species and habitats. What specific efforts in the routing and design of the line can be taken to minimize damage to the environment?

Need/Alternatives

- 1) I would like to see details on alternatives such as local power generation or upgrading existing lines considered. Is a large new transmission line truly, demonstrably necessary? Please publish the assumptions for load growth and local renewable energy production costs.

Thank you for consideration of these thoughts.

Sincerely,

Amy Alstad

From: [Barbara Anderson](mailto:Barbara.Anderson)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Concern for environmental integrity
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 8:56:25 AM

Hello

Please include this letter in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

My friends-Gary and Nancy Cox- bought their family's property in rural Vermont Township WI 21 years ago. Their 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below them- lie within the Driftless Area. They have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as they garden, doing all they can - as they respect and honor this beautiful and pristine area. Gary and Nancy are unique among our friends in their commitment to maintaining the native ecosystems and working within those systems to create a sustainable lifestyle that is fully integrated with their natural resources and surroundings. They are seeking to "leave no trace" in as much of their daily living as possible while maintaining successful careers as independent and locally known artisans.

They live in an area of our geographic region that has remained untouched by three ice ages. It is considered a Driftless area, and ecologically critical to the history of the land. While on one of our many hikes there over the years I have had the opportunity to discover samples of unglaciated rocks and plant life that cannot be found in any other region of this country. As a teacher of earth sciences, this rich source of still living land history is a valuable resource when teaching children about the land history of the Midwest region.

When companies such as ATC consider the mass removal of and/or intrusion upon these areas, they impact the education of countless generations of children who will not be able to experience the natural richness of the land they live on. In fact, they will only be driven further inside to seek a two-dimensional, computer generated image of what they once could have experienced first hand. Ironically, they would be at less risk inside at that point due to the radiowave transmissions and noise pollution they would be exposed to in a region overtaken by a proposition such as yours.

Many besides property owners, such as Gary and Nancy, are concerned. Bikers use these roads as their routes. Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination. The ability to "escape to Wisconsin" so touted by the state board of tourism will be negatively impacted and those who seek the quiet and uniqueness of areas such as the one you are considering will be forced to take their tourism dollars, as well as their stories, elsewhere.

I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival. The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, yellow warbler. Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here. Clearing a path for the powerline

through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries. Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York. Growing up in a fishing, hiking, and hunting family, I cannot express enough how those experiences enriched and formed me as a child. To take these opportunities away from children and adults alike for the sake of capital convenience is highly irresponsible and unnecessary. There are other less ecologically sensitive areas under consideration for your route which should be considered as wiser and more responsible choices for your proposal.

In addition to the concerns listed above, let me share with the different examples of native wildlife Gary has been able to share with us during our many visits to their land. While fishing these creeks Gary often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species.

The surrounding open meadows host Least Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, turkey, pheasant, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also.

Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock.

Migrating birds that use this area on their way through include scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, orioles, grossbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, and indigo bunting.

Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of the introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work. Although this may seem insignificant, I ask you to consider the significant impact of recent non-native species that have traveled into our regions including, zebra mussels, Asian carp, certain species of bees, and plant life such as glossy and common buckthorn, loosestrife, garlic mustard, and giant hogweed that aggressively overtake the land, destroying the natural flora and fauna of the region.

I ask that an analysis be completed to determine whether a combination of non-transmission alternatives- new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response- would meet actual electrical demand at a lower cost both economically and environmentally. In a day and age where it is becoming increasingly important to sustain, rather than breakdown local habitats, I ask that you would please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.

Your current proposals have the following immediate and long-lasting effect on the area you are considering for your power lines: decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market and the fact that your proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards. These are the realities you are proposing. Therefore, I see these lines as nothing but negative and am firmly opposed.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Anderson

Sent from my iPad

From: David Anderson
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 3:41:20 PM

Hello

Please include this letter in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

My wife's aunt and uncle-Gary and Nancy Cox- bought their family's property in rural Vermont Township WI 21 years ago. Their 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below them- lie within the Driftless Area. They have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as they garden, doing all they can - as they respect and honor this unique area. Nancy is a visual artist and she has done countless paintings celebrating the beauty there.

Three ice ages have not threatened the Driftless Area. It is ironic that property owners there have this gorgeous and environmentally sensitive land threatened by ATC's proposal of huge ugly electric transmission powerlines.

But many besides property owners are concerned. Bikers use their roads as their routes. Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination.

I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival. The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, yellow warbler. Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here. Clearing a path for the powerline through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries. Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York.

While fishing these creeks Gary often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species.

Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also. The surrounding open meadows host Least Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, turkey, pheasant, and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock.

Migrating birds that use this area on their way through: scarlet tanager, cerelean warbler, orioles, grossbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, indigo bunting.

Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work.

I ask that an analysis be completed to determine whether a combination of non-transmission alternatives- new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response- would meet actual electrical demand at a lower cost both economically and environmentally. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.

Decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market, proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards... I see these lines as nothing but negative and am firmly opposed.

David Anderson

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Public Scoping Period Comment Card
Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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Comments:

Simple - We the people don't want your garbage on our properties!! You have ~~NO~~ right to invade private property! Put it in YOUR yard if you think its ok.



SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

15017-145257

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Thank you for your assistance.

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- I prefer to be updated by email.

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Address:

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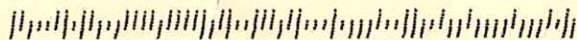
Email address:

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Bridgeville, PA 15017

1501781453 0004



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Organization (if any):

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Comments:

This is something we do not
need!!! for the environment,
for the people, etc, etc.

Put your (our) money where
it will help.

Postage
Required

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Email address:

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Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by voicing your ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. These comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. If you prefer, you can submit comments via email to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

in a time of declining electricity use I find building this line to be a huge waste of ~~many~~ dollars.
infrastructure

~~Also~~ This is especially important when we need those dollars for a conversion to renewable power.

My final objection to this project is on aesthetic grounds the reason I live in the Driftless region.

Postage
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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Comments:

(18-151)

Why don't the routes follow the 4 lane highway from Madison/Middleton to Dodgeville, then follow Hwy 18 to Montfort?

The Driftless area of Wisconsin is unique geographically, devoid of glacial scarring, resulting in areas that should not be disturbed for supposed improvement of delivering electricity.

Is there really a need for more electrical lines? If this is merely upgrading the capacity & delivery system, why not use existing routes?

How will this project benefit Wisconsin in dollars and availability of electricity?

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Comments:

This proposed pipeline is unnecessary, expensive and will be destructive to the environment. Wind energy is the future and, in fact, there are numerous "windmills" in the neighborhood, e.g. Montfort. It will raise energy rates for those of us who will never benefit. Energy consumption is flat and declining due to alternatives to electric power lines. It has not been demonstrated that the proposed beneficiaries of this power line need it. The only real beneficiaries will be the investors in the power company. Dodgeville residents and our neighbors do not want our beautiful countryside look like Madison's West Belt line!

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Comments:

Wouldn't it be cheaper and more efficient to install solar farms or wind farms instead of this project? I would personally like to see solar or wind farms instead of this project.

~~How would this project affect erosion on our steep ridges?~~

How would this project affect wildlife? ie eagles, wolves, deer, endangered species.
Turkey Vultures

Erosion - would this increase erosion on our hillsides.
and would this affect our trout streams?
and our wells?

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Comments:

I am very concerned about this CHC Transmission line project coming through SW Wisconsin because:

1. energy use has flattened or decreased recently. Are we sure this project, estimated to cost nearly 1 Billion dollars is really needed? Can the energy carried by these lines be generated nearer to the proposed end users which are consumers on the east coast of the US? The rate payers of SW Wisconsin will pay for this project through their energy bills both now & for YEARS to come. Not only the construction costs, but upkeep, repair & maintenance costs.
2. There will be great negative effects on prairie lands, wet lands and wildlife.
3. There may be negative consequences for farmers, their crops, and live stock.
4. These towers are enormous and very ugly to look at.
5. There may be significant health consequences to humans, wild life and live stock.
6. The main beneficiaries of this project will be ATC and east coast energy consumers.

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Comments:

I am concerned overall with whether the project is necessary. I think the needs of the public would be better served with investment in conservation, efficiency improvement of grid, and alternative power source like solar. If the project goes ahead the Northern Route thru Arena Twp. would destroy large area of forest and alter farmland. The loss of the Rural aesthetic would be devastating. The disruption of wildlife corridors, vegetation would change the land use. It would result in increase in noise from construction and later maintenance equipment. The maintenance of clearcut would add herbicide residue to surface water. As a resident of Arena Twp I have estimated they would end up clear cutting 120 acres of forest in Arena Twp for a 150' Right of way. In summary I feel the need for the project is dubious it would benefit ATC and utilities profit while costing rate payers. The process has not looked into competing alternatives such as increased energy efficiency, efficiency improvement in the grid. I strongly object to the route thru Arena + Vermont Twp due to its visual impact, impact on forest and wildlife, ↑ in noise and pollution, loss of rural aesthetic. As a citizen/tax payer I urge USDA to fund a more worthy project.

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Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Comments:

I do not believe that federal money should
be used to support Maryland Power Cooperatives
portion of the project

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Comments:

I THINK IT IS A TERRIBLE IDEA TO PUT A HORRIBLE SCAR ACROSS THE DISTLESS AREA OF WISCONSIN.

WE HAVE A TREASURE HERE THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS ALONG WITH THE MANY TOURISTS IT BRINGS IN THAT ENJOY IT NOW.

IF WE HAVE TO HAVE THIS IT SHOULD AT LEAST GO ALONG THE HIGHWAY CORRIDOR WHERE THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN A NECESSARY SCAR ON OUR LAND.

SOME THINGS SHOULD NEVER BE DESTROYED FOR PROGRESS.

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Comments:

It's a waste to go thro good beautiful land.
Follow the Hwy and leave the land of wild life
farmers & wetlands.

I Don't like these Big Monster lines!
There has to be a better way.

Please Consider we need to keep our land.

Thank you for your information

Last Name

First Name

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Mail to: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr. Suite 207, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Street [Redacted]
City [Redacted]

Or email: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 35 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

1. I have marked impacts of concern regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	Effects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Personal Health	Effects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	Effects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	Effects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (e.g. water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town/Municipality
1. Stray Voltage	Springdale
2. Bird migration	

Businesses impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town/Municipality
Tourism is reliant on natural Beauty. ATC has little concern for landscape, nor the tourism it effects, The blight on the landscape also negatively affects property values	Springdale

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town/Municipality
ATC runs a rigged game, playing one community against another for corporate profit. We can eliminate the need for the monstrous lines with simple conservation measures.	

3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
a. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency and local renewable energy over investments that create long term debt.	Yes	
b. Investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations may be superior to investments in high voltage transmission. The Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal should include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non-transmission line alternatives.	Yes	

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: Dec 6, 16

I am aware that my comments and contact information may be included in the EIS report.
[Attach any other comments which you may have on a separate page.]

Scoping Input Categories and Assets to Consider

As input into the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) high voltage transmission line, please fill out the questionnaire on the reverse side of this page and send to SWCA.

Your Credentials

You and your family's ties and history to affected communities. Positions of responsibility held by you and your family members including elected office, volunteer work and years of experience/talents backing up the concerns you have.

Environmental Impacts of the CHC project

List special sensitivities on land that you and your family members own and visit. Of special interest are springs, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, dams, caves, wetlands, sinkholes, animal dens, water related habitats, sightings of raptors and waterfowl on the wing or nesting or feeding, rare plants and rare animals even on minimally disturbed "buffer" zones between cropland, forests and grasslands and grazed areas. List any place on your land where livestock graze and food and other plants and animals plants are cultured whether harvested or not. Raptors and waterfowl are particularly vulnerable to collisions so indicate areas where you see these species in flight.

Cultural Impacts of the CHC project

In your community or a nearby including Native American or other historical or archeological sites of interest such as cemeteries, churches, places of worship, old homesteads, pony express stops, post offices, schools, wells, artesian springs, hunting and ceremony grounds. Locations with local folklore attached to them should also be mentioned.

Economic Impacts

List all businesses that would be affected by a decrease in tourist traffic for all recreational activities include fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, biking, motorbike touring, wildlife sighting, hiking, jogging, picnicking, photography, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, horseback riding, golfing and attractions like museums, parks, wildlife refuges, nature centers, restaurants, motels, hotels, bed & breakfasts, grocery stores, taverns, gasoline stations, drug stores, resale/antique stores, art/craft galleries, convenience stores, roadside stands, and touring services.

Impacts on Housing & Business Development

List examples of persons and families (by last name and location) who moved to the area because of its natural beauty and other assets such as peace and quiet that could be compromised by the addition of high profile transmission towers. List places where future growth has been planned that could be compromised such as shopping areas, housing developments, business parks, civic improvements and other attractions. Be sure to list potentially affected sites and businesses by name.

Health Concerns.

In the general vicinity of proposed corridors list locations where young, elderly, ill or special needs persons reside or frequent including schools, assisted living centers, senior citizen centers, hospitals, health centers, medical centers, community centers, libraries, bus stops, rest areas, parks, golf festivity grounds, civic centers, government offices.

Your Household and/or Business Energy Investment Priorities

In question 3 summarize your opinions on energy investment alternatives to the CHC project such as conservation, energy efficiency, local renewable energy.

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Comments:

Attached: ATC Postpones Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project
5/6/2016 Dodgeville Chronicle

- * On 4/25, ^{just 3 weeks before the May ITC, ATC, DPC round of meetings,} ATC announced that the Cardinal-Hickory project would be delayed, yet Daryland is moving forward.
 - EIS should look at economics of project, whether a reduced rate of return on investment it makes sense. MVP projects were "approved" at a 12.38% ROI, which was challenged & ~~12.38%~~ was rejected by court. In negotiation, will be $\leq 9\%$ or less, and project may no' longer make sense as revenue stream, it'll certainly be less lucrative.
 - EIS should examine market - this project based on market desire for transfer capacity, but grid, existing, is underutilized
- * Technical issue of overcapacity should be reviewed in EIS. Grid is now significantly overbuilt. EIS should also look at impact of project and balance ~~is~~ excess capacity
- * Timing of RUS review should be addressed in EIS. EIS will likely be complete, or at least DEIS will be out, before application filed w/ PSC. UNUSUAL!! Consider will be narrowed down before public process on route selection begins. Affected landowners will not have had adequate opportunity to address selection of routes.
- * RUS is essentially narrowing route alternatives & options - but this is a FINANCING exercise. EIS should address procedure & appropriateness of narrowing route options in a non-routing proceeding.
- * RUS financing process should not go forward until after ATC commits to a timeline - this ~~is~~ is in "pause" mode, may not go forward.
- * There was a round of RUS meetings in October. EIS should explain why an additional couple of meetings now!

THE DODGEVILLE CHRONICLE

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November 27, 2016

5/6/2016 10:31:00 AM

ATC postpones Cardinal-Hickory Creek project

At the meeting of the Dodgeville Kiwanis Club Monday, April 25, guest speaker Jon Callaway from the American Transmission Company (ATC) announced the postponement of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line project. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project would connect ATC's Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton with Midwest ITC's Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa.

Work on the transmission line project was originally scheduled to begin in 2016 and has now been delayed until 2018 or later, Callaway reported.

The project came about when The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., the regional electric transmission organization, approved the need for the approximately 125-mile, 345,000-volt project as part of a portfolio of 17 transmission line projects that were identified as Multi-Value Projects.

ATC reports that these projects are expected to deliver multiple benefits to electric consumers across the Midwest by improving electric system reliability, providing economic benefits to utilities and electric consumers and expanding electric infrastructure to support public policy for greater use of renewable energy.

Although a representative from ITC Midwest stated he thought the delay in the project was due to complexities related to "two very different state regulatory processes" between Iowa and Wisconsin and other "federal processes," Rob Danielson, secretary of Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) Wisconsin, stated he believes the delay is due to ATC no longer being comfortable with estimated returns from the project.

"ATC is a very persistent company and plans large transmission projects like Cardinal-Hickory Creek many years ahead," said Danielson. "If ATC pauses, they must not be entirely comfortable with their proposal - perhaps the monetary benefits they hoped to present to the PSC (Public Service Commission) are weak."

"Demand for electricity in Wisconsin has been trending downward since 2005 and potential savings from transmission expansion projects have become razor thin," he continued. "Up front costs for Cardinal-Hickory Creek are very high and the line would be the eighth expansion project picked up by Wisconsin electric customers in the last nine years. Wisconsin's electric rates, now highest in the Midwest, are definitely showing growing pains."

ATC was the first multi-state transmission-only utility in the United States. It now maintains 9,540 miles of lines and 545 substations. It does not control the generation of power, nor does it distribute power to the customers; it only moves power across states.

Callaway passed around samples of the wires that varied in diameter depending on how much electricity they carried at the meeting Monday. Kiwanis members asked many questions of him, including questions on the cost and scope of the project. ATC plans to continue with the public review of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek proposal with open houses hosted by ATC, ITC Midwest and Dairyland Power Cooperative in May, showing potential routes that will be narrowed down in subsequent meetings. Meetings scheduled for this area include: Tuesday, May 17 - Pioneer Lanes, Platteville; Wednesday, May 18 - Deer Valley Lodge, Bameveld; and Thursday, May 19 - Deer Valley Lodge, Bameveld.

"Investing in a robust transmission system is necessary for regional reliability and to support lower and stable energy prices by reducing congestion," Ben Porath, Dairyland vice president, power delivery said. "Cardinal-Hickory Creek will also support renewable energy policy. As Dairyland continues to diversify its generation portfolio with more renewable resources, the ability to access and transport renewable energy in the region will only grow in importance."

The open houses will follow those held in October 2014, which aimed to introduce the project in Wisconsin. Callaway encouraged the public to attend and learn more about the project.

"We understand people have questions about the project and our plans, and these open houses will be a good way for the public to get updates and offer their perspectives," Callaway said. "We look forward to meeting with the public and talking about their involvement in the routing and regulatory processes."

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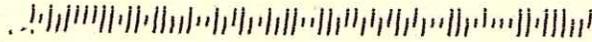
MILWAUKEE WI 53211

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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by voicing your ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. These comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. If you prefer, you can submit comments via email to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

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Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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Comments:

My concerns are

- The rate payers - us - will pay for the construction of the transmission line (we don't know yet how much our electricity rate will rise - could be a lot)
- BUT WE WANT/DON'T NEED this electricity. I am a solar producer on my farm & everyone is looking for more efficient appliances - WE DON'T NEED THIS. SOLAR IS cost efficient now WE Don't need it and it isn't FOR us anyway.
- Moving electricity with voltage drops IS WASTEFUL & its old inefficient technology. WHY ARE YOU INVESTING in the Past?
- I Don't know who all will be making money from this but I'm sure there must be big money charging hands.
- I DO NOT WANT TO PAY for old wasteful technology that is NOT NEEDED!

Postage
Required

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Comments:

Attended the November 3rd Meeting.
I don't know why you would ever consider and am personally opposed to the Northern route. Especially considering there are already power lines on the Southern route in the Mt Hope area to Hwy 14. You would be disturbing much more natural area of potentially wildlife during construction along the Northern route.

Dear Sir or Madam, I must tell you I disagree with any new ITC transmission lines being put up in Iowa the wrong way. I am a business person but also a consumer of electricity. I fully understand how business works and profits must be attained by the business. Your plans to do this are the easy way out for any company to make profit. These plans do not benefit the consumer. I already know that Alliant does not own the lines, but ITC does and ITC gets an annual increase every year faithfully from the Iowa utilizes board and we as the consumer have no recourse about the annual increases for ITC.

I also think that people who used to be employed by utility companies should NEVER serve on the Iowa utilities board. This is a conflict of interest and should be stopped immediately.

As for the new transmission lines you propose there are many issues I disagree with. These new transmission lines will carry electricity across the wires from long distances. I have heard as far away from Beloit WI, and Marshalltown Iowa. Folks the real economics of this, the further away the power is transmitted the more cost to the consumer. Example I live in Dubuque Iowa and for the power to be transmitted, means the electricity must travel further, which means a higher cost from ITC for me to get electricity. There is a history of this all over the United States.

Also there is an environmental impact of destroying the land around these new towers, not to mention the fact of possibly destroying the water aquifers that may lie nearby. Besides that who in their right mind wants to build a house near these towers and lines. Not me!

Folks here is a harder but fairer way to do this. Make everyone happy OKAY.

First of all keep the Dubuque Alliant power plant open. No I do not work there. Losing the power plant will cause job loss, even though Alliant says no jobs will be loss. Jobs will be lost. I guarantee that. Have Alliant partner with City of Dubuque, EPA, TCI, and any other partners to keep the power plant open. Now with the partners I mentioned, get grants or loans and rebuild or modernize the plant. It should have been done years ago. Now if that is done like it should be, here will be the outcome. Power from the Dubuque Power plant can be transmitted to Dubuque residents at a fair electricity rate. People will be hired for fulltime, good paying jobs at this plant, causing those new employees to buy products, buy houses and other items in Dubuque. Along with this, it will cause a new partnership for solar power to be used in Dubuque to our power plant. The power plant can also supply electricity and can be transmitted to other towns close buy but they will not be paying such a high cost as you have planned.

Here is the future of transmitting electricity further away than you have to. Many people will put up solar panels and stop getting utility bills each month. Once this happens and I know it will. This will eventually cause TCI and Alliant to layoff-fire employees. I do not think you want this outcome. Folks I look at all views in a full circle. I do not rely on one issue. I am not against business, but smart business is the way to grow and keep everyone happy. Remember every action has a reaction. Stand up and do the right things will you. A concerned citizen of Dubuque.

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DEC 12 2016

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Public Scoping Period Comment Card
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 12:47:11 PM

I recently attended a public meeting for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. I have had the opportunity to review the map of the two identified preliminary major corridors and have a couple questions which could also be suggestions. Looking at the study area, I noticed it doesn't include the section of Hwy. 151 that splits from Hwy. 18 in Dodgeville, then continues through Mineral Point, then to Belmont. I'm wondering why this area is not included in the study area? It is a major highway and would allow a more diagonal approach for the transmission lines. Why is the Proposed Substation Siting Area in Montfort and not in Belmont? If the more diagonal approach for the transmission lines could follow my previously mentioned Hwy. 151 route and the Substation Siting Area is in Belmont, this would make the most sense being the fastest and maybe most cost effective route. I don't know all the logistics in the planning of these corridors but am trying to better understand why the quickest and possibly most cost effective route wasn't provided as an alternate corridor.

I'm deeply concerned about the proposed alternate corridor that runs East to West from the Cardinal Substation to Governor Dodge State Park area. This corridor has no existing transmission lines, no interstate, no highway, or no roads. I do not understand why this route would even be considered an option. I remember as a child going on long rides with my family and counting the electrical poles along the highway to make time pass. It feels almost natural to see electrical posts and lines along highways. Therefore, I do not understand why all efforts would not be taken to erect these new transmission lines using existing transmission lines, highways, roads, railroads, etc. I know there's lots of standard sized wooden electrical poles that run in and out of the countryside in the above proposed alternate corridor but those are so unobtrusive. These 100 to 150 feet tall metal poles are a visual pollution to a countryside blanketed with trees, rolling hills, and waterways.....waterways that may not be the Mississippi but are just as beautiful and serene and can be just as impacted socially and environmentally. According to the map, this corridor looks completely untouched. The erection of new transmission lines in this particular alternative corridor will require a lot more trees to be torn down versus the other alternative corridor. For a period of time the wildlife will be effected but will eventually recover. I'm concerned about the periodical cicadas that only emerge every 17 years. Please review the following link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_cicadas. Back in 2007, Northern Illinois Brood XIII emerged at the above mentioned proposed alternative corridor. It was amazing to hear and see!! It was unique!! They are expected to emerge in 2024, one year after the potential Planned Project in Service of 2023. I believe the removal of trees and disruption of the grounds beneath may destroy the nymphs and reduce their numbers and it shouldn't be a chance we take.

In the end, I can only hope that a corridor that follows existing transmission lines, roads, highways, etc. is chosen. It makes the most sense. So please consider my questions/suggestions and concerns.

Thanks!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Comments on Proposed Line Route
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016 10:57:42 AM

Although I am not convinced there is a need for the proposed transmission line, it appears that the line will be built. Consequently, as a resident of the Town of Vermont I'm writing to voice my preference for the route that would follow highway 18-151 from Montfort to Middleton.

Doing so is the more practical, efficient and compliant with existing state law route. Easement already exists along most of the route, current transmission lines exist along this corridor, the highway follows a ridge top much of the way making for easier installation.

Conversely, the alternative northerly proposed route is not an existing corridor, would require easement granting, possible purchase of land, cuts across a pristine area of unspoiled hillsides and valleys, impacts many trout streams including Black Earth Creek, would require extensive clear cutting and does not follow an existing highway making for difficult installation and is proposed to cross Vermont Lutheran Church property - which is on the historic registry - and its cemetery.

Peter Antonie

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]