

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Commentary
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 2:53:10 PM

I am not particularly well-versed on this issue, but I did attend the open house in Dodgeville, and I do read a fairly constant stream of letters opposing the line in the Dodgeville Chronicle. That opposition seems based on need (or the lack thereof) and environmental degradation.

I am willing to let the Wisconsin Public Service Commission rule on the need. I will also assume that the line will follow Wisconsin Highway 18 from Montfort to Mount Horeb - as that route is the established transportation corridor preferred in WPSC guidelines and would not harm the environment any more than the highway does.

My advice is eliminate the alternate northern route.

Regards,
Jim Bach

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC

From: Jensen, Robyn - RD, Prescott, WI
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 10:48 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: RUS Public scoping meetings for ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Passing along an e-mail regarding the meetings this week.

Robyn Jensen, GFR
Rural Utilities Service

From: Boening, Andre - RD, De Forest, WI
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Jensen, Robyn - RD, Prescott, WI <robyn.jensen@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: RUS Public scoping meetings for ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Hello Robyn,

I received the email below. Don't know if it is relevant to you or not, but here it is. Because I am ignorant of this situation (other than what I read in news articles), I will let you respond as you see fit.

Best Regards,

Andre M. Boening
General Field Representative, RUS Telecom in Wisconsin (Tomah)
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 608-372-2135 [REDACTED]

From: Anne D. Bachner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 5:59 PM
To: Boening, Andre - RD, De Forest, WI <Andre.Boening@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: RUS Public scoping meetings for ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Hello Mr. Boening;

I am a concerned member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Driftless Defenders of Iowa County. In order to continue with a democratic scoping process prior to submission to the PSC, we are asking you to cancel the scheduled sessions immediately and restart the process with proper public notification including a minimum 30 day (better 60 day) advance public notice that includes paper mailings to all community newspapers in Southwest Wisconsin and North east Iowa describing the reason for the EIS, what the EIS will address, and all public input opportunities.

Federally, the meetings to collect public input for the EIS were not announced on the federal register until October 18 with the first meetings only 13 days following. Our town government is subscribed to all notifications from the transmission builders and the PSC to be notified of all relevant news. We received no notice whatsoever. Oddly, the closest meeting location for the majority of affected landowners in on

~~November 2 — the same day that many local governments are already scheduled to participate in an ATC stakeholders meeting across state in Pewaukee, WI.~~

Our community newspapers have received no press releases. There is no announcement on Dairyland Power's homepage nor is there a press release in their press section. The only notice we can find is small announcement on the sidebar of the ATC CHC website that just appeared.

It is wholly unacceptable in a federally-required process requiring public input, that such short and limited notice be given.

I would appreciate it if you could remedy this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely, Anne D. Bachner



Autumn in Wisconsin offers a unique experience to travel the state's scenic highways to witness many beautiful vistas. These scenes provide a splash of fall color as represented by the brilliant autumn shades of multi-colored maple, oak and hickory trees found along the roads and on surrounding hillsides.

Photos: © Gari Walz

Please no transmission lines near the parks--

*Thanks,
Anne*

*Gov. Dodge
Shelby
Blue Mounds*

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DEC 05 2016

OUTDOOR HORIZONS, 513 S. Ellwood St., Dodgeville, WI 53538 • 608/98595617

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

Last Name BACHNER First Name ANNE

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street
City

Additional information supplied for USDA/RUS
Environmental and Economic Impact
Statement Scoping Input.

Years of residence in area: 35 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
member of Historical Preservation Commission, member of Plymouth United Church of Christ

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

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>Gov. Dodge State Park</u>	<u>Dodgeville</u>
<u>Conservation Easement</u>	<u>4091 City Rd 2 Dodgeville</u>
<u>eagles</u>	

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>Pendarvis Historical Site</u>	<u>Mineral Pt</u>
<u>Cave of the Mounds</u>	
<u>Blue Mounds STPK</u>	
<u>Spurgeons Winery</u>	
<u>* All restaurants & motels in Dodgeville:</u>	
<u>Super 8 Bob's Bitching Barbeque Quality Inn</u>	<u>in Mineral Pt</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>Thomas Barn and Homestead & prairie</u>	<u>Ridgeway</u>
<u>on Nat'l Reg. of Hist Places & protected by</u>	<u>Brigham</u>
<u>Prairie Enthusiasts & Nature Conservancy</u>	

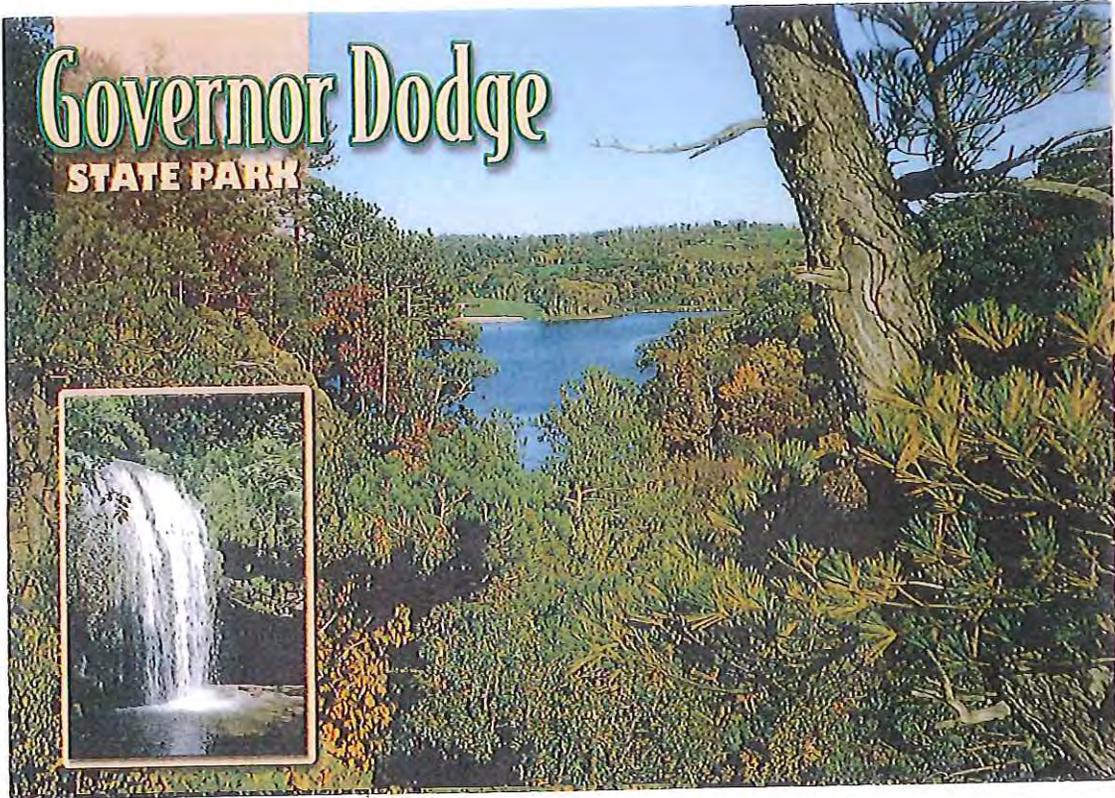
3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long term debt.	<u>yes!!</u>	

Signature Anne D. Bachner

Date 11-29-16

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Governor Dodge

STATE PARK

Governor Dodge State Park has many interesting and beautiful sights located within the boundaries of its 5029 acres. Natural sources of spring water flow from the hills and valleys in this unglaciated landscape and provide water for Stephen's Falls and Cox Hollow Lake seen here.

Photos © Gari Walz

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Please:
no transmission
lines needed!
Thanks

ELB Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory
Creek
PSCW docket
05CE 146
A.D. Baccus

OUTDOOR HORIZONS, 513 S. Ellwood St., Dodgeville, WI 53533 • 608/935-1500

Tophat Ranch
[REDACTED]

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DEC 09 2016

November, 30, 2016

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

DEAR CONSULTANTS:

I THANK YOU FOR COMING ONE MORE TIME TO OUR DRIFTLESS AREA TO SPEAK WITH CITIZENS CONCERNED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE CARDINAL HICKORY TRANSMISSION LINE. I SPOKE WITH MANY OF YOU WHEN YOU CAME TO DODGEVILLE, DODGERBOWL IN NOVEMBER. I DISCOVERED THEN THAT YOU WERE OBJECTIVELY INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TRANSMISSION LINES ON OUR SPECIAL DRIFTLESS AREA OF SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT THE INSTALLATION OF THIS LINE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DEGRADE OUR NATURAL HABITAT AND LOWER OUR INCOME.

THE BASIC INSTALLATION OF 125 MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINES THROUGH THIS POPULAR TOURIST AREA WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE ECONOMY OF OUR CITIZENS WHO DEPEND ON TOURISM FOR THEIR INCOME. VISITORS COME HERE FOR NATURAL BEAUTY, AND ATC'S LINES WILL DEFACE THAT VALUABLE ASSET OF OUR AREA. ALMOST ALL OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM THE TOURIST DOLLAR. LAST YEAR TOURISTS CONTRIBUTED \$19.3 BILLION TO WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY. GOING FORWARD, NO "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" PAYMENT FROM ATC CAN PAY FOR WHAT WE GET FROM VISITORS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

ATC HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED ANY REAL NEED FOR THE LINE, NOR HAS IT SHOWN THAT A CLEAN ENERGY ALTERNATIVE WOULD NOT BE A LESS COSTLY ALTERNATIVE.

PLEASE CONSIDER OUR PRARIES, OUR OAK SAVANAS, OUR ROCK OUTCROPPINGS, AND INDIAN MOUNDS AS WELL AS BIRDS INCLUDING HENSLOW'S SPARROW, THE UPLAND SANDPIPER, SHARP-TAILED GROUSE, BOBOLINK, BLACKBIRD, AND DICKEISSEL. THEN CHECK FOR FOX, COYOTE, WOLF, BOBCAT, BEAR, AND WHITE TAILED DEER.

IN SINCERE APPRECIATION OF YOUR CONSIDERED AND EDUCATED OPINION,

ANNE DRAKE BACHNER

Anne Drake Bachner

Tophat Ranch
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
DEC 20 2016

December 15th, 2016

Public Scoping Period for ATC Proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line

Dear Sirs and Mesdames;

My hope is that there is more than lip service being paid to the Environmental Impact Survey and to alternative solutions which could have eliminated the need for the project or at least scaled it back to a less damaging size. While being a blight on the landscape and an insult to the environment, these large transmission projects also serve as a means to get the utilities' hands deeper into the pockets of rate payers across the state. Imagine investing all these millions in local solutions which would strengthen the grid from the distribution side and keep energy dollars in the state—

> I hope that the PSC denies the Cardinal Hickory Creek line if for no other reason than to preserve the timeless beauty and biodiversity of an area that even the last ice age did not touch. Considering the rapid changes in the way energy is produced and consumed today, the very idea of taking out a 30 year mortgage to shore up 100 year old technology is like building the bigger dinosaur, even as the meteor of their demise is on the horizon. Moving wind energy hundreds or thousands of miles only discourages local energy development and opens the grid to potential sabotage or bankruptcy.

> This is a complex problem to which few people give any thought. Our state government has washed its hands of any responsibility in energy planning, leaving everything up to the deals worked out between industry and the PSC. While the ranks of the PSC are full of hard working, thoughtful people that the political winds blow stronger the closer you get to the top near the revolving door between government and industry. It appears that industry has taken control of the regulatory process leaving rate payers to finance a 125 mile transmission line that is both unnecessary and destructive to Wisconsin environment and to our tourism economy.

Please just do a cost benefit analysis and proceed accordingly.

Sincere thanks for your attention, Anne D. Bachner

Anne D. Bachner

From: [Anne D. Bachner](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek Comment
Date: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:39:05 PM

Dear Environmental Scoping staff person:

Thank you for your unheralded but important work of collecting my input for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed high capacity transmission line that would span 125 miles across the driftless region of southwest Wisconsin from Madison to Dubuque IA.

I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service < <http://bit.ly/Ltr-Debt> > from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied.

I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am concerned about rising energy costs.

I prefer investments in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increased dependency on utilities and create long-term debt.

I realize that my comments can be included in the federal level Environmental Impact Statement and that I can submit additional requests up to January 6, 2017.

You may not / You may use my email address to notify me when the draft statement is available.

Signed:

Name: Anne D. Bachner

[Redacted signature block]

From: Anne D. Bachner
To: [Lila/Dave Zastrow/Hendrickson: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:Lila/Dave.Zastrow/Hendrickson:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)
Subject: Re: Proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 7:02:22 PM

What a well written letter!! How can we utilize it to help us? Anne

-----Original Message-----

From: 'Lila/Dave Zastrow/Hendrickson' via Driftlessdefenders
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 5:44 PM
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line

We live north of Appleton WI on the route of the new Bay Lakes transmission line and were interveners at the technical hearings before the PSC. Our impression having been through the process is that only lip service was payed to alternative solutions which could have eliminated the need for the project or at least scaled it back to a less damaging size. While being a blight on the landscape and an insult to the environment these large transmission projects also serve as a means to get the utilities hands deeper into the pockets of rate payers across the state. Imagine investing all these millions in local solutions which would strengthen the grid from the distribution side and keep our energy dollars in the state.

We are still fighting to limit the damage ATC has planned for our property and hope that the PSC denies the Cardinal Hickory Creek line if for no other reason than to preserve the timeless beauty and biodiversity of an area that even the last ice age did not touch. Considering the rapid changes in the way energy is produced and consumed today the very idea of taking out a 30 year mortgage to shore up 100 year old technology is like building the bigger dinosaur, even as the meteor of their demise is on the horizon. Moving wind energy hundreds or thousands of miles only discourages local energy development and opens the grid to potential sabotage or bankruptcy.

This is a complex problem to which few people give any thought. Our state government has washed it's hands of any responsibility in energy planning leaving everything up to the deals worked out between industry and the PSC. While the ranks of the PSC are full of hard working, thoughtful people, we found in our excursion through the system that the political winds blow stronger the closer you get to the top near the revolving door between government and industry. It appears that industry has taken control of the regulatory process.

David Hendrickson and Lila Zastrow

Sent from my iPad

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www.driftlessdefenders.com

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Driftlessdefenders" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an

email to driftlessdefenders+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to driftlessdefenders@googlegroups.com.

Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/group/driftlessdefenders>.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/driftlessdefenders/EDDE5BDC-99FE-4A22-94F5-3168864A5DC7%40yahoo.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

Postage
Required

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

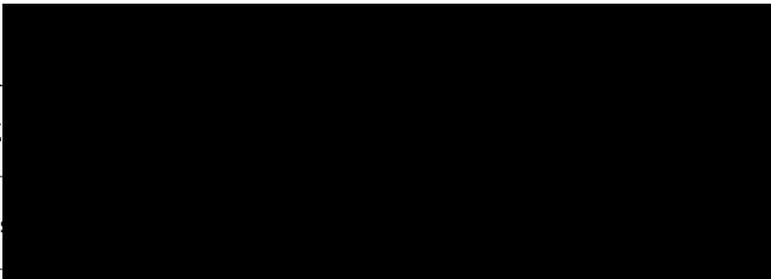
TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

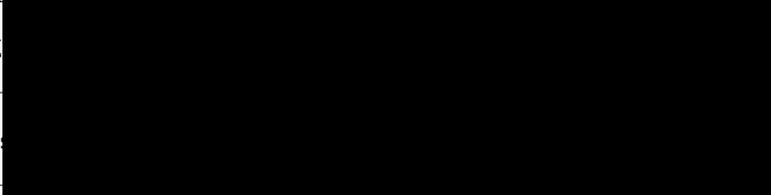
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.
Thank you for your assistance.

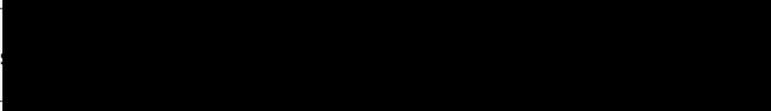
- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Marilee Backstrand

Organization (if any): Driftless Defenders

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.

I would appreciate specific answers to these questions, if possible.

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:

- ① Purpose of transmission lines is to transfer power ~~from~~ between old generation sites (coal plants) and new generation sites (solar & wind). But this is only needed at night or windless days. What is cost difference (and environmental) between this plan and adding small (biodiesel?) local generating plants where needed? Small plants generate more long-term jobs, as well. Which plan generates more green-house gas, both in construction phase and long-term.
- ② Why rush? Why not replace ^{existing} poles with larger (and new lines) slowly, over the years, as the old ones show wear & tear. Concentrate on more efficient use of existing power, especially where outages are more frequent. Create more incentives for efficiency increases and alternative generation (solar, wind, etc.).
- ③ It seems a real key to solving our problems is electrical storage. We will find better Batteries down the road, so why not use less-than-perfect storage now where needed? Why not invest in innovative energy storage like heat storage in ice banks? We did this back in the sixties and seventies!
- ④ What other solutions have been proposed, analyzed, and shown to be clearly worse than the proposed construction? Let's take another look at each of them because conditions are changing!

From: [Dean Gore](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Cc: [Brenda Baker](#)
Subject: PLEASE drop your plans for a power line in Iowa and Dane Counties!
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 6:48:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a property owner in both Iowa and Dane Counties to encourage you to drop your plans for a new power line in the Midwest's most bio-diverse region. They are not wanted or needed. Instead, they threaten the very essence of the most important natural features and cultural elements that make the Driftless Area so important.

I specifically purchased land in Iowa County because of its natural beauty, the biological diversity of the flora, fauna and animals who dwell there, in addition to the rich cultural heritage of the area. Your power lines are not wanted by those of us whom it would most impact, and we beg of you to reconsider. As you are fully aware, there is not a demonstrated need for what you propose, there are much better alternatives for energy sources should we need them, and simply put, there is little interest in having ATC transmission lines wreck the land we are all trying to protect.

I am an avid cyclist who spends hours riding the roads in arguably the country's best landscape. There is not better place to hike, ride or explore nature than right here in the unspoiled beauty of the Driftless Region. Aside from the many reasons your proposal is unsound at best environmentally, I am very much interested in preserving the natural beauty and character of the area, which believe it or not, is what helps make the region attractive to tourists! Yes, your proposal will definitely damage the economy in ways you haven't even predicted. There is a thriving cultural community of artists, woodworkers and craftspeople, who work in this area BECAUSE of the natural beauty. There is a very strong cultural scene which is known throughout the midwest, but which would be permanently damaged because of your proposed project, which will be UGLY and uninviting, and will permanently mar the landscape that we need for our work.

I am also an avid gardner, farmer and beekeeper, and I have major concerns about the way your proposals will permanently change the dynamic bioregion that fuels the local economy, and upset the natural balance of diversity we're fortunate enough to have in Iowa County. There have been recent marten sightings on our land, and black bear sightings just down the street, not to mention the vast array of plants and animals that call our land home. For those of us who have chosen to settle in Iowa County, it is because of its strong environmental legacy, just a stone's throw from Aldo Leopold's Shack, and the amazing microclimates within the midwest.

Please don't wreck something that can't be undone. Please consider dropping your plans or considering alternative energy sources besides transmission lines.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

My beset,
Brenda Baker
Ridgeway and Madison resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekEIS.us
Subject: PLEASE NO POWER LINES IN IOWA COUNTY!
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 7:01:50 PM

Dear SWCA consultants,

I am writing to encourage you to drop your plans for a new power line in the Midwest's most bio-diverse region. They are not wanted or needed. Rather, they threaten the most important and sacred cultural and natural features of the unique Driftless area.

I purchased land in Iowa County many years ago specifically because of its natural beauty, as well as the biological diversity of the flora, fauna, and animals who dwell there. The power lines you propose are not wanted by those of us whom it would most impact. We ask that you please reconsider. There is no demonstrated need for what you propose and there are far better alternatives for energy sources should we need them. Simply put, there is little interest in having ATC transmission lines wreck the land we are all trying to protect.

I spend countless hours riding the roads by bicycle in arguably the country's best landscape. There is no better place to hike, ride or explore nature than right here in the unspoiled beauty of the Driftless Region. Aside from the many reasons your proposal is unsound at best environmentally, I am very much interested in preserving the natural beauty and character of the area, which believe it or not, is what helps make the region attractive to tourists! Yes, your proposal will definitely damage the economy in ways you haven't even predicted. There is a thriving cultural community of artists, woodworkers, and craftspeople, who work in this area BECAUSE of the natural beauty. There is a very strong cultural scene which is known throughout the midwest, but which would be permanently damaged because of your proposed project, which will be UGLY and uninviting, and will permanently mar the landscape that we need for our work.

As an avid gardener, farmer and beekeeper, and I have major concerns about the way your proposals will permanently change the dynamic bioregion that fuels the local economy, and upset the natural balance of diversity we're fortunate enough to have in Iowa County. There have been recent marten sightings on our land, and black bear sightings just down the street, not to mention the vast array of plants and animals that call our land home. For those of us who have chosen to settle in Iowa County, it is because of its strong environmental legacy, just a stone's throw from Aldo Leopold's shack, and because of the amazing microclimates within the Driftless region, that are the envy of the entire midwest.

Please stop what you are doing, reconsider your plans and consider the lives of every species who will be forever impacted by this horrendous option.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ridgeway

Last Name Baker First Name Marie

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

[] Individual [X] Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

Str [REDACTED]
Cit [REDACTED]

Additional information supplied for USDA/RUS
Environmental and Economic Impact
Statement Scoping Input.

Years of residence in area: 28 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
Gov. Dodge State Park and surrounding area is a valuable wildlife habitat with clean streams + lakes;	Dodgeville
forests + prairies with many plant communities which are endangered, threatened or of special concern.	"
	"
	"

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
Gov. Dodge State Park	Dodgeville
Green Spirit Farm	"
House on the Rock attraction, hotel, restaurant	"
All businesses + motels, shops, restaurants	"
Upland Hills Health hospital, clinic, nursing home	"
Stonefield Apartment Homes	"
Seven Seeds Farm, Land's End	"

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
with a high population of older residents, health impact large.	Dodgeville
Potential new residents + and home owners won't come	"
lower population = dying town, less school support + tax base	"

3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long term debt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Marie Baker Date 11-2-16

**Comments – EIS Scoping Input – Cardinal Hickory Creek – 11/2/16
Marie Baker, Dodgeville, WI**

Today, the demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. RUS should use current demand data and look at new electricity generation sources that are being built and planned.

It's extremely important that the USDA/RUSS include a comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives, including more spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local renewable energy.

For many years I've been involved in Sierra Club, Sustain Iowa County, and Citizens Climate Lobby.

My husband and I live one mile from a proposed transmission route, Highway ZZ along the north edge of Governor Dodge State Park, which is a sanctuary for wildlife and threatened plant species. Weaver Road where we live, is regularly enjoyed by bicyclists, motorcyclists, and antique car groups.

We and the majority of our neighbors moved here because of the natural beauty, peace, and quiet of the area. We drive a Prius, and grow and preserve much of our own food. Our home is extremely well insulated. In winter we heat and cook with wood, and enjoy passive solar heat from many south windows and skylights. If there were more sustainable energy incentives, we would gladly install solar panels for electricity.

From: Mary Kay Baum
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: concern for Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 4:14:45 AM
Attachments: [rock outcrop that protected pines.JPG](#)
[pine and oak next to each other.JPG](#)

I am the volunteer "steward" of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area (Pine Relict SNA). All the concerns you have heard about the Driftless Area are amplified many times over when considering the the 546 acres within the Pine Relict SNA. And either route now proposed would impact this Pine Relict SNA.

Many people assume that the transmission line route that follows 18/151 next to Ridgeway would be the less disruptive of natural ecology as to the two options. Actually, that route would come within 1/6 of a mile of some parts of the Pine Relict SNA.

Most naturalists know what a Driftless Area is. Many fewer know what a Pine Relict is. After the Ice Age, the first trees in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois were the pines. Under the pines developed an alpine eco-system. As it got warmer and warmer, prairie fires crossed over Wisconsin from the West. Pines die when burned by fire. So virtually all of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois lost their Pines.

I said virtually. The parts of SW Wisconsin that were not scraped smooth by the big glaciers still had deep gulches, shallow caves and high rock outcrops. There these huge rock barriers protected the pines from the fires, especially on the North sides of the rock. Often the rock was tough Dolomite. It is the descendants of these pines who were protected from the fires that now make up a Pine Relict.

With the fires, both oak savanna and prairies surrounded the clumps of Pine Relict. This is what created a site unique in the world.

The remaining Pine Relict are not just like the pine forests of Northern Wisconsin that are solid pines. Here in the Pine Relict we see pine and oak growing right next to each other... something you would never naturally see up North. But as fire was suppressed by Europeans, the pine cones and oak acorns scattered around some and very soon they were growing near each other.

Mary Kay Baum



From: Mary Kay Baum
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Regarding Pine Relict mix of flora
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 4:43:17 AM
Attachments: [Canada Mayflower.JPG](#)
[Shooting Stars.JPG](#)
[Violet Wood Sorrel.JPG](#)
[Wild Geranium.JPG](#)

The Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area is also unique because it is the largest and most pristine protected area of Pine Relict that still has maintained the unusual mix of ground flora. Its plants include both alpine Northern forest plants like Canada mayflower, wintergreen and pipsissewa, but also shows spring ephemerals and oak savanna wildflowers typical in the rest of Southern WI.

Neither unwise logging nor intensive agriculture were much used within these steep gulches and rocky acres.

This rare ecosystem deserves continued protection. Now bobcats and black bears with their cubs are seen here.

Mary Kay Baum



From: Mary Kay Baum
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Wetland within Pine Relict
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 4:54:27 AM
Attachments: [Marsh Marigold.JPG](#)
[Wetland with pine relict overhanging.JPG](#)
[skunk cabbage .JPG](#)

Wetlands are not real common in Driftless areas. But the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area includes a major wetland. Existing wetlands are subject to great pressure and need preservation for their unique habitat and for their water cleansing qualities.

This wetland would be less than a mile North of the from the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek High Voltage lines that would follow 18/151.

Mary Kay Baum



From: Mary Kay Baum
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Wisconsin and Volunteers conserve
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 5:12:48 AM
Attachments: [1_chain_sawyer6159.JPG](#)
[7_youth.JPG](#)
[JR Anderson collects Canadian rye among Stiff Goldenrod.JPG](#)
[Norm Venden dwarfed by Indian Grass-10-20-2015.JPG](#)

Ridgeway Pine Relicts State Natural Area is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1998. As recently as 2016, Wisconsin has been fulfilling its plan to add more acreage to this State Natural Area by buying additional properties. And local volunteers, young and old, pull the Garlic mustard and remove the woody invasives that have drifted in from its edges.

It is a source of pride in the township of Ridgeway. Photos of scenes in the Pine Relict SNA hang in the town hall. Retired farmers from the area are collecting seeds from the prairie edges and helping to sow them in the compromised open edges that were once native grasses like Indian Grass.

With all this work and effort and expenditure, it would be a shame for people to feel their decades of conserving as farmers and as neighbors were for naught.

Mary Kay Baum



From: Mary Kay Baum
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Great Blue Heron Rookery
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 5:23:22 AM
Attachments: [heron 5-30-2016 Marclan.JPG](#)
[heron 5-30-2016.JPG](#)

With the addition of the Creme de Creme of the Marclan unit in 2016, the highest ridges with the tallest pine trees were added. Unbeknownst to the former owners, this newest part of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area was found to have a rookery of Great Blue Heron. Nine nests on the tallest pine trees had eggs and young birds. The photos attached show a Great Blue Heron guarding all the nests from predators as other herons went out to feed in nearby waters. The Rosy Lane Creek runs close by as does the large wetland. Rookeries are abandoned by Great Blue Heron when there is too much disturbance nearby.

Mary Kay Baum



Public Scoping Period Comments:

Necessary Scope of Environmental Impact Study Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV Transmission Line

p. 1

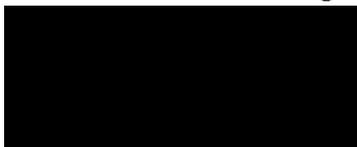
US Dept. of ARUS

- Need: Supply exceeds demand. No need has been demonstrated for the extremely expensive (to consumers) and environmentally invasive 354 kV transmission line. New wind and gas plants can provide local energy and jobs. ATC has not demonstrated need for interstate electrical supply.
 - Projected flat and declining demand
 - Proponents of the 345 kV line are relying on outdated industry forecasting (these forecasts have proven inaccurate).
 - The 345 kV transmission line need must prove that they are helping move wind energy and that they are meeting the Midwests Renewable Portfolio Standards.
- Better Alternatives: More cost-effective options include improved energy efficiency and conservation. WI law requires that energy demands 1st be met through conservation and improved energy efficient consumption. Peak demands are better met via: solar/wind, distributed energy demand response, and increased energy efficiencies.
 - Do less damaging transmission alternatives exist, such as low-voltage transmission, or routing a transmission line outside of the Driftless Area meet any actual (demonstrated) electrical needs.
 - Can non-transmission alternatives such as solar, wind, energy efficiency, storage demand response meet electrical needs (if these needs actually exist) and can be demonstrated to exist.
- The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area.
 - Harm to National Fish and Wildlife Refuges
 - Impacts to Military Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Valley Conservation Areas, Governor Dodge State Park, Pocatonia State Trail, and State Natural Areas
 - Impacts to Driftless Area Trout Streams

- Impacts to Wildlife Areas
- Degradation of Waterways and Wetlands
- Impacts to Archaeological and Historic Sites
- Impacts to Migratory Birds and Eagles
- Impacts to Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species
- Disruption of beautiful and unique Driftless Landscape, one of the most important most unique areas in the Midwest.
- Consideration of all negative Economic Impacts
 - Actual Real Estate devaluation
 - Damage to Real Estate Market due to uncertainty over 345 kV Line placement (final corridor).
 - Loss of Recreational Properties from deforestation/ in and near Right-of-Way
 - Loss of Tourism
 - Degradation of Rural Properties and Farms both in value and use
 - Loss of Fishing and Hunting properties and opportunities for both residents and non-residents
 - Impacts to rural families who have invested their life savings, work, and sweat into restoring and maintaining ecologically unique acreages on their family homesteads.
- What are Potential Cumulative Impacts
 - IES must address cumulative impacts from this proposal in combination with forecasted projects including Badger-Coulee TL.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Baumberger



Last Name BECKETT First Name CAROLINE

EIS Scoping Input

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Mail to: Cardinal Hickory Creek
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Notify/Update me via email Yes/No

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 25 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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 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 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

Effects on premium quality Driftless Area - Unique in USA. Blue Mounds

Endangered & threatened species will be negatively affected by construction & maintenance of ATC powerlines. Lines will introduce alien & invasive species. Barneveld

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. Mazomanie

Silent sports: Cross country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, bicycling are very popular in Gov. Dodge, Blue Mound State Pks and along back roads. People visit for scenic beauty - bring in lots of money & tourist dollars. Black Earth

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) Spring Green

I've lived in Blue Mounds/Brigham Township for 2.5 years. I've worked to rid ^{our} woods & grasslands of invasive species and find peace here in the country. Brigham Township

Signature Caroline Beckett Date 12/07/2016

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

Addendum to EIS Scoping Input Dodgeville, WI

12.07.2016

Caroline Beckett

[REDACTED]
Resident of the area since 1991 (one year in Blue Mounds mobile home park, 24 years at current address.)

Itemized concerns I have about ATC's High Voltage Transmission Project:

1. This intra-state power line is unnecessary because **energy use is flat or declining in Wisconsin**. Residents are conserving energy, using local power and installing solar panels and even wind generators on their own properties. We built a super-insulated house, installed energy-star efficient appliances, florescent and LED lights and provide supplement heat with a super-efficient woodstove. We are considering installing solar panels as well, if there were are more incentives.
2. **The Driftless Area is a unique environment**; there is no other one like it in the world. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place with unusual ecosystems of species that are of state and federal importance. The erection of giant towers will despoil the landscape and impair endangered and threatened species by introducing alien and invasive species in the construction and maintenance process. Many landowners have worked for decades to restore damaged land and ecosystems with native species and bring back unique habitats. This work was accomplished with state and sometimes federal funds to restore the land and wetlands. ATC, a for-profit company, would wipe out their efforts and negate governmental support paid for by the taxpayers.
3. **Global warming is real and isn't going to go away**. Much of this energy generated for the ATC powerline is from the usual unsustainable sources like coal which only adds to climate change. This exacerbates climate change. **CO2 increases with transmission expansion**.
4. **Transferring energy from vast distances is inefficient** compared to producing energy locally.
5. **Wisconsin ratepayers will be saddled with the \$500 million (or more)** that this power line is projected to cost, with no benefit to the local households. Those who will benefit most from this power line are the energy executives and share holders who are guaranteed a 10.2% profit on this egregious Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line.

From: [Caroline Beckett](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek Comment
Date: Friday, December 09, 2016 11:20:05 AM

Dear Environmental Scoping staff person:

Thank you for your unheralded but important work of collecting my input for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed high capacity transmission line that would span 125 miles across the driftless region of southwest Wisconsin from Madison to Dubuque IA.

I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service < <http://bit.ly/Ltr-Debt> > from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied.

I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am concerned about rising energy costs.

I prefer investments in *end-user improvements like energy efficiency* over investments that increased dependency on utilities and create long-term debt. **Global warming is a fact, it's not going away, and it's getting worse. We must curb our energy use, not "keep the lights on" as ATC urges.**

I realize that my comments can be included in the federal level Environmental Impact Statement and that I can submit additional requests up to January 6, 2017.

You may use my email address to notify me when the draft statement is available.

Signed:

Name: Caroline Beckett

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

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

January 1, 2017

To SWCA Environmental Consultants:

I have attended several "Open Houses" regarding the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek/ATC powerline. **I oppose this powerline** based on several reasons:

1. With energy use in Wisconsin flat and even diminishing, there is **no need for this line.**
2. A long-distance 320,000 kV line is an inefficient way of moving electricity. **Locally-produced power from renewable resources is much more efficient.**
3. Money expenditures, estimated at an initial cost of \$500,000,000 to ratepayers, are expected to balloon to 8 to 10 times as much in the long run. **This powerline won't even deliver power to us local customers, who will foot the bill. Wouldn't that money be better spent on more efficient, local, renewable energy?**
4. **This proposed powerline cuts through unusual and unique land: the Driftless Area of Wisconsin.**

We and many of our neighbors have spent years revitalizing our land for threatened and disappearing species, including nesting **dickcissels, bobolinks, red-headed woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers; monarch and checkerspot butterflies, luna and cecropia moths, walking stick insects, little brown bats, various woodland orchids, and native prairie plants. The 150-foot-wide swath required for construction and maintenance of this powerline will introduce invasive and non-native species, disrupt nesting birds and other creatures.** We have seen **badgers** on our land, an **otter** across the road where Blue Mounds Creek runs, and a **bobcat** on the land next to ours. The wetland right across Highway K from us is a US Fish and Wildlife protected land. A mile north on Highway K is a pond with active beavers and mink.

If this powerline follows Highway 18/151, it will cut through a very large, internationally important land, **The Nature Conservancy's Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area**. Many species of threatened and even endangered species are protected on this land. If this powerline follows the proposed western route that follows the border of Dodgeville State Park and Wyoming Valley, it ruins land of international cultural importance, notably **Frank Lloyd Wright's (an internationally-acclaimed architect) land and school**. The Driftless Area is an important cultural- and nature-based tourism area and many local incomes depend on these visitors.

5. **Climate change is real.** The majority of the power that this ATC line is carrying is produced by non-renewable energy (in spite of the graphic illustration depicting energy coming from windpower only.) **It is time to act responsibly, stop using non-renewables as our energy sources, and support cleaner local energy now and for future generations.**
6. Many, many local towns, counties, and individual citizens oppose this unneeded Cardinal-Hickory Creek/ATC powerline. I join them.

Sincerely,



Caroline Beckett



Postage
Required

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

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

To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.
Thank you for your assistance.

- 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:

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

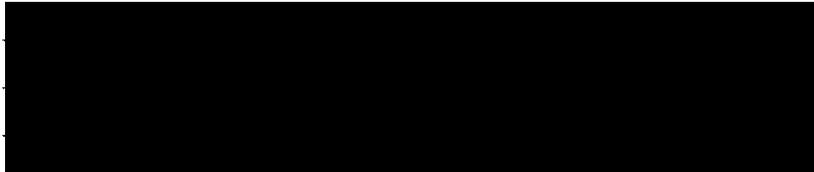
Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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:

Please see attached sheets for comments. Thank you.

Caroline Beckett



Addendum to EIS Scoping Input Dodgeville, WI

11.2.2016

Caroline Beckett

[REDACTED]
Resident of the area since 1991 (one year in Blue Mounds mobile home park, 24 years at current address.)

Itemized concerns I have about ATC's High Voltage Transmission Project:

1. This intra-state power line is unnecessary because energy use is flat or declining in Wisconsin. Residents are conserving energy, using local power and installing solar panels and even wind generators on their own properties. We built a super-insulated house, installed energy-star efficient appliances, florescent and LED lights and provide supplement heat with a super-efficient woodstove. We are considering installing solar panels as well, if there ~~were~~ are more incentives.
2. **The Driftless Area is a unique environment;** there is no other one like it in the world. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place with unusual ecosystems of species that are of state and federal importance. The erection of giant towers will despoil the landscape and impair endangered and threatened species by introducing alien and invasive species in the construction and maintenance process. Many landowners have worked for decades to restore damaged land and ecosystems with native species and bring back unique habitats. This work was accomplished with state and sometimes federal funds to restore the land and wetlands. ATC, a for-profit company, would wipe out their efforts and negate governmental support paid for by the taxpayers.
3. **Global warming is real** and isn't going to go away. Much of this energy generated for the ATC powerline is from the usual unsustainable sources like coal which only adds to climate change. This exacerbates climate change. **CO2 increases with transmission expansion.**
4. **Transferring energy from vast distances is inefficient** compared to producing energy locally.
5. **Wisconsin ratepayers will be saddled with the \$500 million** (or more) that this power line is projected to cost, with no benefit to the local households. Those who will benefit most from this power line are the energy executives and share holders who are guaranteed a 10.2% profit on this egregious Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line.

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Electrical Line
Date: Saturday, November 05, 2016 9:23:21 AM

We live in the area that is being considered for running high power electrical lines through. This is a ridiculous, environmentally unsound idea. The highway, 18-151 is the corridor that should be used. It already exists, is not a sensitive area, and no one will be disturbed. This is an outrageous proposal that should be dropped from consideration. Indeed, it should never have been considered in the first place.

Sincerely,
Ronald and Carolyn Behnke

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2017

December 28, 2016

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridheville, PA 15017

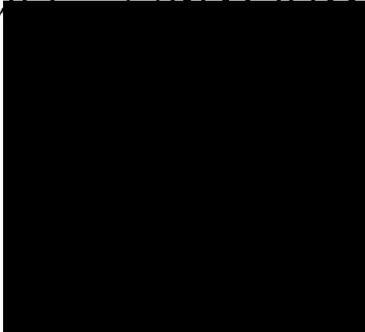
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed are 9 signed EIS Scoping forms that were filled by residents of Wyoming Township, Iowa County, WI. The proposed Northern route for the CHC transmission line runs across this Township. Based on feedback, most Township residents are opposed to this Northern route because this is a rural region that is located in the heart of the unglaciated Driftless region of the Midwest. Its economy is dependent on tourism and recreation. Running 15-18 story transmission towers across this region would ruin its scenic beauty and endanger fragile plant and animal species.

If possible, please send me an email to acknowledge receipt of these RIS forms. You can also contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Mary M. Keitz



Last Name Bell BELL First Name KAREN KAREN

EIS Scoping Input

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Mail to: Cardinal Hickory Creek
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursa Drive suite 207
Bridheville, PA 15017

Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 33 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	Loss of Tourism Related Business
Loss of Business Income	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
Affects on Personal Health	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance
Affects on Others Health	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	Compromises on Local Economy
Affects on my Livestock	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets

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

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>total environment</u>	<u>Wyoming Township</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>most people move here because of the unique landscape / natural environment</u>	<u>Wyoming Township</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>health impact for humans & animals</u>	<u>Wyoming Township</u>

3. Energy Investment Priorities 4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.	Agree	Disagree
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Karen Bell Date 11-26-16

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

From: [Nicholas Bellios](mailto:bellios@cardinalhickorycreek.com)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Fwd: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 6:40:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on the scoping of the Environmental Impact Statement that the Rural Utilities Service will be preparing with respect to the transmission line referred to by its developers as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line. I encourage you to address a full range of questions with the EIS.

First, please consider the environmental impact in the broadest context, including geology, soils, farm land & land use, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, surface / groundwater, wetlands & floodplains, cultural, historic & paleontology resources, air quality & noise, socioeconomic & environmental justice issues, transportation, visual resources, and health & safety.

Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values. My family bikes, hikes, skis, and camps regularly in and around this region due to its majestic beauty and unique topography. Any compromise resulting in negative environmental impact would be devastating.

Finally, this is not a false choice between building this transmission line and doing nothing at all. The EIS should analyze 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.

Thank you for your consideration of my request,

Nicholas C. Bellios



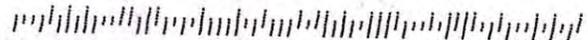


RECEIVED
DEC 06 2016



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

1501781453 C004



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

To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes. Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: THE BERNEO'S

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.

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:

WE RECENTLY PURCHASED OUR HOME+LAND, HAD WE KNOWN OF THIS SITUATION WE WOULD NOT HAVE PURCHASED IT. IN THIS AREA YOU NEED 10 ACRES TO HAVE HOVED ANIMALS IF YOU PUT A POLE ON OUR LAND WE CAN NO LONGER HAVE THEM.

WE ARE CONCERNED IN THE PLACING OF TRANSMISSION LINES ALONG OUR WINDING RURAL ROUTE. A MORE DIRECT ROUTE, (SAY THE MIDDLE OF 18/151) SHOULD BE USED TO AVOID DESTROYING PROPERTY VALUE IN OUR DRIFTLESS AREA.

THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PRISTINE AREA SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Postage
Required

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

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

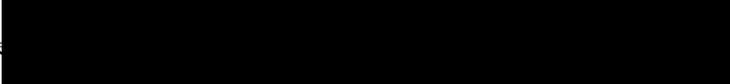
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.
Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: Jim BERNED

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.

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:

WHY COULDN'T THE LINES GO UP 18/151 THE PATH
OF LEAST RESISTANCE. NO HOUSES + NO
PERSONAL WOODED ACREAGE WOULD BE AFFECTED

JIM BERNED

Last Name BERNED First Name MARIANNE

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

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes No

Years of residence in area: 9yrs Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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	
Loss of Business Income		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	
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 checked="" 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	

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>I AM CONCERNED FOR THE ANIMALS THAT GRAZE NEAR OUR PROPERTY. THEIR NATURAL HABITATS + ALL THE RARE PLANTS THAT ARE NEAR. THE NATURE OF TREES + CLIFFS + BLUFFS WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED!</u>	<u>TOWN OF ARENA</u>
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<u>WE HAVE BIKE EVENTS THAT OCCUR LOCALLY THAT WOULD BE IMPACTED BY DESTROYING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.</u>	<u>SAME</u>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<u>PARKS + REST AREAS WILL BE AFFECTED NEGATIVELY.</u>	<u>SAME</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 Marianne Berned Date 1-1-17

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2017

December 29, 2016

Dear SWCA Consultants,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the proposed American Transmission Company Cardinal/Hickory Creek Transmission Line.

I oppose this line being built as proposed. There are better economic, environmental and aesthetic options to insure an adequate energy supply. Constructing a 125 mile, 345KV transmission line supported by 17-story tall towers through the heart of the Driftless Area, the Midwest's most unique eco-region, is not sound public policy.

Economically, there are serious questions if this line is even needed in the future. Supply currently exceeds demand in Wisconsin's electrical power market and demand looks to be flat or slightly declining recently. New wind and gas plants have already been approved locally that question the need to import out-of-state electrical supplies. Furthermore, there are better, more cost efficient alternatives including increased energy efficiencies, distributed energy demand response and solar energy. Wisconsin's electricity rates are the highest in the Midwest and will only get higher if this line is constructed as proposed.

In addition economically, tourism and recreation (fishing, hunting, biking, hiking, etc.) are a large part of the Driftless economic base. Constructing this line will create an aesthetic eyesore that would be devastating to these vital sectors of the economy.

Environmentally, proposed corridors running through Iowa and Dane counties' many high-quality habitats for threatened, endangered and Federal species of concern. This area provides shelter and nurtures diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants. The line also runs through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, part of the central United States waterfowl migration flyway that's recognized as a "Ramsar Convention Globally Important Bird Area". This proposed CHC transmission line will damage vital conservation areas and natural resources – an unacceptable price when better alternatives are available.

This project does not serve the best interests of our communities, state and nation. I seriously question the need for this line at all, and believe if it is determined that it is needed, that a thorough 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. If this analysis proves to require an additional line, which I think highly unlikely, I suggest that less damaging alternatives be seriously considered such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines along existing corridors. Establishing a totally new corridor through pristine lands is the last possible alternative.

Sincerely,

Victoria Bindl
Victoria Bindl



Deb Binger

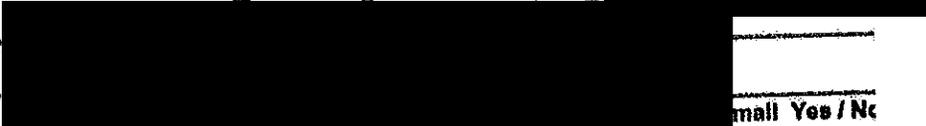
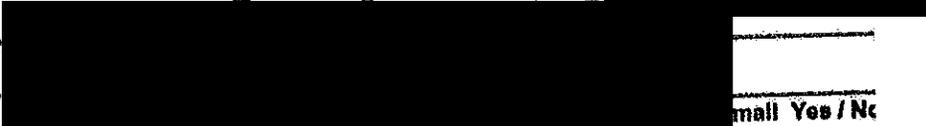


RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

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

Last Name Binger First Name Debbie

Individual [] Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

Street 
City 

Small Yes / No

As an electric customer, I much prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission. Therefore, I adamantly request that the Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Another negative impact I am concerned about is: This line would damage a 125 mile swath of the driftless area of southwest Wisconsin and commit rate-payers to higher monthly bills for years. There are better, more cost-effective alternatives such as local solar, wind and gas plants. There should be a cost analysis done.

Signature Deborah Binger Date 12-21-16

Last Name Binger First Name Steve

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

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

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 23 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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
<i>I am concerned about the contamination of the environment as a whole that the high voltage lines would create. The flight paths of eagles, hawks, geese, etc. would be obstructed along with possible & likely damage to trout streams, wetlands & habitat of wild life.</i>	
<i>Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.</i>	
<i>The visual beauty of Blue Mounds State Park & surrounding area would be destroyed. Recreational activities negatively affected, thus hurting local and regional businesses like Hookies Bar & Grill, The Shoe Box, and local gas stations.</i>	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<i>The health impacts are also a big concern. Studies have found association between childhood Leukemia and proximity of homes to HVTLs.</i>	
<i>Stray Voltage is another issue with nearby farmers.</i>	

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 Steve Binger Date 12-21-2016

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

From: Brian Boland
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Transmission line project
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 8:36:59 PM

To Whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Brian Boland. My wife and I live at [REDACTED]. I have some concerns with the possible routing of this new 345kV line. I have been doing some research and there is evidence of these lines causing increased cases of cancer in children. My wife and I are expecting our first child and this raises a lot of concern for us. I am not convinced that this line is even necessary at this time. If this line is in fact needed, it seems there would be ways to keep it from running so close to residential properties.

Sincerely,
Brian Boland

From: Jim Boland
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line project
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 10:04:43 PM
Attachments: [DSCN1825.JPG](#)
[DSCN1781.JPG](#)

Hello,

We attended the public scoping meeting at Deer Valley Lodge in Barneveld, WI on December 7, 2016 and spoke with Greg Poremba. We live at [REDACTED]. As you can see by the attached pictures the existing power line which is 69KV is only 45 feet from our house. The new line 345KV is larger and carries more voltage. Therefore, our concern is for the safety and health of our family. We, including our children and grandchildren play in the yard. We want to be able to continue to enjoy our yard without concern about the power lines overhead. In cold weather there is a possibility of ice falling from the power lines and towers. Per our conversation with Jon Calloway of ATC who informed us that the high power 345KV lines do “buzz”. Buzzing from power lines can have a detrimental effect on a person’s health. A friend of ours was diagnosed with cancer and one of the very first questions the doctors asked was “Do you live near high voltage power lines?”. So, the medical profession does recognize a link between cancer and high voltage power lines. The study area is quite wide and so the new line could be shifted to avoid being on our property and close to our house.

We request 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.

Thank you.

Jim and Diane Boland

From: Jim Boland
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line project
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 10:04:43 PM
Attachments: [DSCN1825.JPG](#)
[DSCN1781.JPG](#)

Hello,

We attended the public scoping meeting at Deer Valley Lodge in Barneveld, WI on December 7, 2016 and spoke with Greg Poremba. We live at [REDACTED]. As you can see by the attached pictures the existing power line which is 69KV is only 45 feet from our house. The new line 345KV is larger and carries more voltage. Therefore, our concern is for the safety and health of our family. We, including our children and grandchildren play in the yard. We want to be able to continue to enjoy our yard without concern about the power lines overhead. In cold weather there is a possibility of ice falling from the power lines and towers. Per our conversation with Jon Calloway of ATC who informed us that the high power 345KV lines do “buzz”. Buzzing from power lines can have a detrimental effect on a person’s health. A friend of ours was diagnosed with cancer and one of the very first questions the doctors asked was “Do you live near high voltage power lines?”. So, the medical profession does recognize a link between cancer and high voltage power lines. The study area is quite wide and so the new line could be shifted to avoid being on our property and close to our house.

We request 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.

Thank you.

Jim and Diane Boland

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 6:03:55 PM
Attachments: [IMAG0029.jpg](#)
[IMAG0031.jpg](#)
[IMAG0034.jpg](#)

Hello,

I sent the below and attached to ATC and was suggested to send to you as well.

Thank you,

Peter Boland
[REDACTED]

Hello,

As instructed, I sent in the comment cards I received at the local open house. I also wanted to send the information electronically to hopefully ensure it does arrive and is looked at by some one. As you can see the existing transmission line is very close to my residence, neighbor's house, sheds and other structures. (There is less than 200' between our houses.) My understanding is the new line is much larger and carries much more voltage and current. Therefore, my concerns are for the safety of my family and kids as they play in the yard with their dog and in the tree house. My concern is for my other animals that are housed around the silo area. My concerns are for the metal structures below these new and powerful lines. These properties have been in the family for generations. I want my kids and future family to be able to use and enjoy the property for years to come without worry and fear. At the same open house, representatives there explained that the study area is quite wide and that the new line can be shifted to avoid conflicts. I hope that what I have presented and explained here is realized as a conflict worthy of shifting the new line's location.

If I could receive notification that my message has been received, that would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Peter Boland
[REDACTED]

Last Name Bollenbach First Name Chad

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street Address

City

Years of residence in area: 12 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

EIS Scoping Input
 Cardinal Hickory Creek
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 1000 ... Drive suite 207
 ... PA 15017
 and email to
 ...@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
 Deadline: January 6, 2017

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

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Black Earth Creek, Vermont Creek, Native Prairies with Endangered Plant's	Dane
Blue Mounds State Park, Blue Mounds Creek, Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk Lake	Iowa
The Driftless Area of Wisconsin	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
The State Parks and Natural Areas listed above.	
Vermont View Greenhouse	Dane
Any home builder. All property owners.	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
Vermont Lutheran Church	Dane

3. Energy Investment Priorities

4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

Date

11-23-16

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2016

From: Stephen Born
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Scoping comments from BECWA
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016 3:14:50 PM

Nice job, Bobbi, and all the others that interacted on how to represent the BECWA position.

Stephen Born
[REDACTED]

Stephen M. Born
Emeritus Professor of Planning and Environmental Studies
UW-Madison
[REDACTED]

On Dec 20, 2016, at 4:55 PM, Bobbi Peckarsky <bobbipeckarsky@gmail.com> wrote:

Please acknowledge by return email the receipt of these scoping comments for the Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS scoping process compiled by Board members of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA).

Thank you.

Bobbi Peckarsky (Vice President)

--
Bobbi Peckarsky

Departments of Zoology & Entomology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706
[REDACTED]

Summers:
Rocky Mountain Biological Lab
PO Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224
<BECWA scoping comments ATC.pdf>

From: [Barbara Borns](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek power line
Date: Monday, December 19, 2016 2:12:48 PM

MEMO:

RE: PROPOSED CARDINAL HICKORY CREEK TRANSMISSION LINE

FROM: BARBARA L. BORNS, RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF VERMONT

I write to you today to express my opposition to the proposal made by ATC/ITC/Dairyland Power Coop to locate a high voltage electric power line between Dubuque, Iowa and Middleton, Wisconsin. The southwestern region of Wisconsin is also known as the driftless area—a fragile and important landscape. The proposed line would traverse the entire driftless area to the eastern terminus in Middleton.

We live in the Town of Vermont—an area of rolling hills and wetland areas. The entire town is in the Black Earth Creek Watershed—a valuable resource for the entire area, state and beyond. No matter which route the proposed power line would take, it will adversely affect the watershed. Black Earth Creek Watershed is 103 square miles named for the Class 1 trout stream so important to the vitality of the entire area and beyond. Why is this watershed important??

BEC is an important asset to the area—bringing visitors to fish, bird watch, walk, hike, bike along the creek,

these visitors enhance the economic vitality of the communities, and come here to enjoy the beauty of the area

BEC is already recognized as an important environmental asset: State of Wisconsin selected BEC as a “Priority Watershed” in the 1990’s investing over a million dollars in stream improvements

One of the reasons visitors come here is because of the aesthetics—the beauty of the place—the connection to open spaces, clean waters and freedom from excessive noise pollution

Individual homeowners are concerned about effects of intrusion on their properties, loss of privacy and diminished land values. Real estate values and potential home sales have already taken a nose-dive since the path designated by the dreaded BLUE LINE has been published.

Good arguments can be made about whether there is a necessity for this line—lower power usage, emphasis on local, small scale power production. Indeed we are now gathering estimates to install solar panels this spring.

I urge this project be abandoned.

Thank you

Barbara L. Borns
Town of Vermont, Wisconsin

Last Name Bosch First Name Anne

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

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

Years of residence in area: 36 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
land owner, small business owner

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 type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input 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>High voltage lines could negatively affect wild life by breaking up habitat both in short term while building and long term when undergrowth is mowed.</u>	<u>Town of Vermont</u>
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<u>We live in the driftless area and part of its' beauty would be destroyed by these lines passing through a relatively undeveloped area.</u>	<u>Town of Vermont</u>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality

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 Anne Bosch Date Jan 3, 2017

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

Last Name BRETERNITZ First Name GUY

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] Contact me via email Yes / No

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

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 22 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
FORMER CEO - BRETERNITZ GRAIN COMPANY - CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

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

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>SO, YOU WANT TO BUILD HOGE, UGLY POWER LINES THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, PRISTINE LAND I HAVE EVER SEEN ON THIS EARTH? PLEASE SEND SOMEONE WITH SOME BRAINS TO LOOK - IN PERSON - AT THIS AREA AND THEY WILL AGREE POWER LINES DO NOT BELONG HERE.</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u>
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>YOUR PROPOSED POWER LINES GO THROUGH THE UPLANDS CHEESE COMPANY. THE POWER LINES WILL RUIN THIS COMPANY AND THE FINE CHEESES THEY MAKE WILL DISAPPEAR. PUT YOUR POWER LINES ON HIGHWAY 18-151 - THAT'S WHERE THEY BELONG.</u>	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in

3. Energy Investment Priorities

4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Guy T. Breternitz Date 11-26-16

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

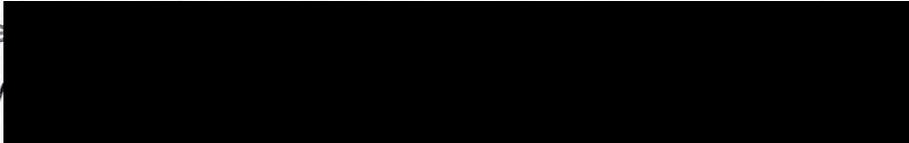
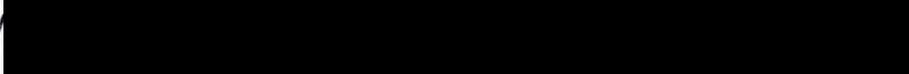
R E C E I V E D
NOV 30 2016 **D**

Last Name BRETERNITZ First Name LINDA

EIS Scoping Input
 Cardinal Hickory Creek
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 200 Bursca Drive suite 207
 Bridheville, PA 15017
 Or scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street 
 City 

Years of residence in area: 22 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
SPRING GREEN FARMERS MARKET MANAGER FOR TEN YEARS 1995-2004

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

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMANS, LIVESTOCK, FLORA AND FAUNA LIVING DIRECTLY UNDER THIS HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION - I FEAR FOR THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE.</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u> <u>IOWA COUNTY, WI</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT UPLANDS CHEESE CO. OF DODGEVILLE, WI, KNOWN FOR ITS PRIZE WINNING CHEESES. THEIR PRODUCTION COULD NOT CONTINUE AS THE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES WILL TRAVEL DIRECTLY THROUGH THEIR PROPERTY, SEVERELY IMPACTING MILK PRODUCTION IN THE COW HERD AS WELL AS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF THE FAMILIES AND WORKERS RUNNING THE COMPANY.</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u> <u>IOWA COUNTY, WI</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>HEALTH IMPACTS ARE OF GRAVE CONCERN. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROJECT.</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u> <u>IOWA COUNTY, WI</u>

3. Energy Investment Priorities

4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Linda M. Buterich Date 11/24/16
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

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DEC 20 2016



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

7-145357

Last Name Brown First Name Jeff

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED] Email Yes / No

As an electric customer, I much prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission. Therefore, I adamantly request that the Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Another negative impact I am concerned about is:

Signature [Signature]

Date 12/15/16

Brown

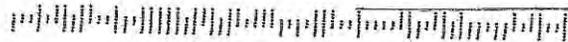


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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comment
200 Bursca Drive
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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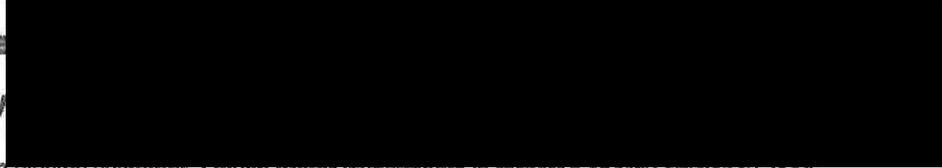


Last Name Brown First Name Joanne

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street

City



As an electric customer, I much prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission. Therefore, I adamantly request that the Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Another negative impact I am concerned about is:

Signature Joanne Susan Brown Date 12/15/16

D. Browne



WISCONSIN WVI 530

01 JAN 2017 PM 5 L



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JAN 10 2017

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

15017-145357



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

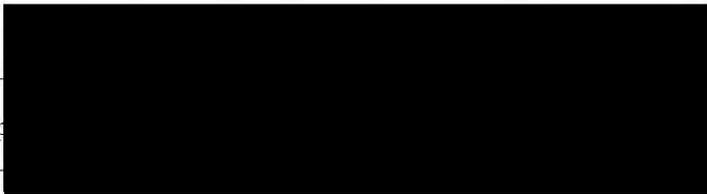
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes. Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: Debra Browne

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

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:

We have friends who have lived in Vermont Township, WI for 21 years. We know their place well & the beautiful countryside which they live in. One summer they hired our son to work on their property.

So we know it well.

Now they are telling us about the threat of a 345 kilovolt transmission line which has been proposed to run through their Driftless Countryside.

The thought of these 175 foot towers is atrocious to us. And to add insult to injury - living in Madison - our electric rates would also rise. Besides atrocious this transmission line would also be senseless since energy usage is flat or declining. Not needed or wanted.

WE ARE OPPOSED.

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekEIS.us
Subject: Public Scoping Period Comment Card
Date: Tuesday, December 27, 2016 9:30:22 AM
Attachments: [Public Scoping Period Comment Card.pdf](#)
[Untitled attachment 00561.sql](#)

Thank you for the opportunity.

Please consider that the EIS include a cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives (NTA's). These being:

1. Energy efficiency
2. Load management
3. Developing local power.

We feel that comparable dollar investment in local power generation, combined with the growing efficiency of energy use in our society and local load management could result in a substantial dollar savings for individuals served. Add to this the lack of negative environmental impact on the communities through which this line is proposed to travel, and the companies and individuals involved might well see huge savings, as compared to the projected income received.

It is worth the study to determine this, as it could very well result in profits higher than proposed to the companies involved. One example alone would be that the involved companies, in addition to their prorated dollar investment in the line, would not be paying out damages to local communities for their loss of tourism dollars, because of the unsightly, unhealthy power towers.

We understand that the utility, ATC, has already commissioned, and possibly received the results from, a company (Burns and McDonnell) which was hired to do the fieldwork for this EIS. (Statement made by Greg Poremba (SWCA) to an attendee at the Middleton meeting on 11/04/2016.) Would this in any way be considered self-regulation with no oversight ?

To avoid the appearance of collusion, we would like the EIS fieldwork to be conducted by a qualified environmental firm with no ties to the power industry.

Also, we in this area, live in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Since the Cardinal substation is located in a position from which it would be impossible to avoid impacting this watershed, we feel it is of the utmost importance that the following points be considered when conducting this non-partisan EIS:

1. The Black Earth Creek Watershed is an important ecological feature, promoting and helping to ensure the clarity of potable water in area wells as well as in the creek itself for aquatic life.
2. The Black Earth Creek is a nationally, possibly world-known, trout stream. This is an economic feature which brings in fisher people who promote the success of local restaurants, lodgings and campgrounds.
3. The Black Earth Creek Watershed is also an important educational tool for the local classrooms, who with their teachers (from kindergarten through high school) come to learn about sustainability, the water cycle, aquatic creatures. Beyond that, it is also a classroom for water researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is well-known internationally as one of the top water research institutions.

Any disruptions caused by the earthmoving and stray voltage involved in this CHC project, will without doubt, bring serious disruptions to the ecology of the Black Earth Creek as well as to those who depend upon its value as an educational, recreational and financial source of benefit.

Above all, we would emphasize that the need for this project is the biggest question to answer. That answer could be easily determined by a non-partial EIS, which we feel would reveal that the development of less invasive local sources of energy could well fulfill the decreasing need for energy provided by vulnerable high cost structures marring the landscape.

Sincerely,
Jim and Nancy Bruins

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

December 27, 2016

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December 28, 2016

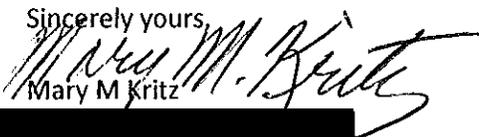
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridheville, PA 15017

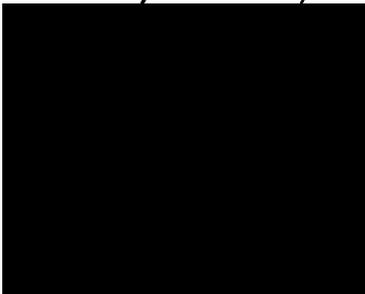
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed are 9 signed EIS Scoping forms that were filled by residents of Wyoming Township, Iowa County, WI. The proposed Northern route for the CHC transmission line runs across this Township. Based on feedback, most Township residents are opposed to this Northern route because this is a rural region that is located in the heart of the unglaciated Driftless region of the Midwest. Its economy is dependent on tourism and recreation. Running 15-18 story transmission towers across this region would ruin its scenic beauty and endanger fragile plant and animal species.

If possible, please send me an email to acknowledge receipt of these RIS forms. You can also contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Mary M Kritz



Last Name Burney First Name Naomi

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor



Notify/update me via email Yes/No

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

Years of residence in area: 25yrs Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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

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

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

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in

3. Energy Investment Priorities

4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Naomi Burney NAOMI BURNEY Date 12-3-16

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

