

**From:** Emily Isabella  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** a note about my childhood home  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 10:10:50 AM

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**Hello**

**Please include this letter in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Emily

--

Emily Isabella

[www.emilyisabella.com](http://www.emilyisabella.com)

608.695.8846

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 2:14:12 PM

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Dear Environmental Scoping Staff Person:

Thank you for your unheralded but important work of collecting 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 from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied to including energy efficiency, modern load management and use of community solar to prolong the life span of transmission facilities.

I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am oppose all high voltage transmission options as they would inherently detract from the natural environment and local economies. Should any electrical need be determined, I support a blend of minimal impact alternatives such as targeted-energy efficiency, modern load management and distributed generation including solar support at existing substations.

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.

Steve Jacobson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED  
JAN 09 2017

AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY,

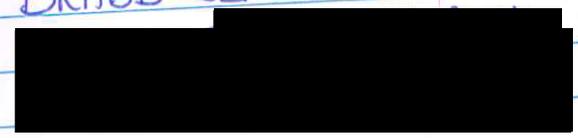
I CURRENTLY LIVE IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA OF WISCONSIN WHERE THE PROPOSED POWERLINE ROUTE IS PROJECTED TO PASS THROUGH. THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY THESE LINES AND TOWERS SHOULD NOT BECOME PART OF THE LANDSCAPE IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA OF WISCONSIN, THE DRIFTLESS AREA IS UNIQUE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE GLACIERS THAT CAME THROUGH THIS STATE BYPASSED THIS AREA AND INSTEAD OF BULLDOZING THE LAND FLAT IT LEFT BEAUTIFUL LIMESTONE BLUFFS WITH NATURAL LAKES AND SPRINGWATER STREAMS IN DEEP CUT VALLEYS. THE BEAUTY OF GOVERNOR DODGE STATE PARK IS PROOF OF THAT. THIS IS A RURAL CULTURE THAT WORKS WITH THE LANDSCAPE THAT SURROUNDS US. PEOPLE HERE RELY ON THE BEAUTY OF THIS AREA TO BRING TOURISTS

THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES. THIS INCLUDES FARMERS, WINE MAKERS, LOCAL ARTISANS, CAMPERS, HUNTERS, FISHERMAN, HOUSE ON THE ROCK, BOATERS, AND HIKERS JUST TO NAME A FEW. TOURISTS COME TO THIS AREA TO DO ALL THESE ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE BEAUTY OF THE AREA. THE TOWERS AND POWERLINES WILL BE A VERY UNATTRACTIVE SIGHT FOR TOURISTS AND VISITORS. LAND OWNERS IN THIS AREA ARE ALREADY INVESTING IN ENERGY SAVING ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS SOLAR ARRAYS AND SMALL WIND TURBINES THAT FIT IN WITH THE LANDSCAPE. THIS PROJECT WILL LOWER LAND VALUES AND HURT OUR ECONOMY. WE NOW HAVE NESTING EAGLES IN THE AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN QUITE AWHILE. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF THIS POWER TRANSPORTED ACROSS THIS AREA. THE DEMANDS FOR ENERGY ARE DROPPING -

RECEIVED  
JAN 9

AS WE CONTINUE TO USE ENERGY SAVING  
ALTERNATIVES AND IDEAS, I URGE YOU  
TO PERFORM AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND /OR  
ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY TO PROVE THAT  
THERE IS INDEED ~~AN~~ NEED FOR THIS  
PROJECT TO HAPPEN. PLEASE CONSIDER  
OTHER ALTERNATIVES SO THAT THIS UNIQUE  
AREA CONTINUES TO REMAIN A PLACE  
THAT MANY PEOPLE WANT TO VISIT AND  
ENJOY. NATURE IS PRICELESS!

BRADD JENKIN



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
JAN 05 2017

Postage  
Required

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

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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:

Leslie M. Jensen

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

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our opinions on the proposed power line between Dane County, Wisconsin and Dubuque County, Iowa. Having lived in other parts of the country and traveled throughout the mid-west it is obvious that this south-west region of Wisconsin is unique geographically. The scenic drives in this Driftless region are some of the most beautiful in the mid-west and drew us to buy a home in this area outside Dodgeville twenty years ago. This is, and should remain a scenic, rural area. Towers that would rise 150 feet would not only wreak havoc on a fragile habitat for wildlife on the ground, but would visibly mar the landscape for miles. Neither one of the proposed routes would be low impact on the environment. The proposed Mississippi crossing is at Cassville, which is a treasured location for viewing bald eagles, by both local residents and tourists.

The Iowa Utilities Board brochure states that in order "to obtain a franchise, the applicant must show that the proposed transmission line is necessary to serve a public use." Nothing I have seen convinces me that there is a need that justifies ruining this unique area. Studies show that the energy usage in Madison is either flat or decreased due to better conservation. It would seem that only the Utility Companies would reap any benefit from this project, not those of us who live in this area. I urge you to discourage this project that would have a negative impact on the region's scenic beauty, land value and economy. Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Lidia M. Jensen*



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

-----1501701453-0004-----  
 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: Rick Jensen

Organization (if any): Retired

Address: [Redacted]  
 City/State: [Redacted]  
 Email address: [Redacted]

*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

RECEIVED  
DEC 12 2016

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](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us). The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

RECEIVED  
DEC 12 2016

Comments: *To Whom it May Concern:*

*I'm attending the meeting of 12/7/16 & am unconvinced that the proposed line is necessary locally or for maintaining the larger grid.*

*My main concern is that the proposed line will run through some of Wisconsin's most pristine geological areas in the Southwest. While I understand the economy of a straight line approach to fulfill the demands of energy transmission, I believe that there are other routes here in Wisconsin or in ~~other~~ other states, such as Illinois that already exist.*

*My wife and I live just north of Dodgeville, off Hwy 23 and the beauty of this area is what draw us here. While there may be some economic gain for the state of Wisconsin, I don't feel that income or the financial boon for the power company justifies cutting through Southwest Wisconsin's beautiful heartland.*

*I don't feel the minimum standards for this power line is met.*

- 1) Real need*
- 2) location*
- 3) Ecology*

*P.S. If this does go thru the  12/08/16 northern route is preferable to the southern - Less eyes on!*

RECEIVED  
JAN 05 2017

January 3, 2017

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

I have, along with my wife, spent almost 70 years acquiring economic and environmental security.

The economic security, which includes stocks in many utility and energy corporations, is certainly not of Trump proportions; but we have operated a small 80 year old family business, educated our children, and we are comfortable...

An environmental security has been obtained through purchasing and living on 350 + acres of land: lands in two parcels: one in the remote mountains of interior/coastal British Columbia, where we have just build a home, and the other in the unglaciated hills of southwestern Wisconsin where 30 + years ago we had a stone and slate house constructed.

Both of these properties are my love objects. I intimately know these properties; these lands are my secret hideaway: they are my sanctuary: these lands are my religion.

In return for offering me a sanctuary, I have cared for these lands. Here in Wisconsin the old farm garbage dumps from the original homesteading family have been removed, old fences have been taken out, trees have been planted, wildlife habitat has been enhanced, invasive species were (and are) removed, and a sustainable forestry plan was created - by a professional forester - for our 150 acre woodlot. Here, two selective timber cuts have almost paid for our land purchase.

But now the rug is being from under me with the proposed Cardinal/Hickory Creek transmission line that will cross 3/4 of a mile over our Wisconsin acreage. From my estimation, we may lose up to 17 acres of our managed hardwood forest along with a small stand of relict red pine. This line will run in front of a cave on our land that features, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society, aboriginal wall paintings. This line will run through my - and generations past - sacred temple.

Also, I have great concerns about our watershed: The watershed, from which our well water is pumped, does not encompass any land that is treated with agricultural chemicals. Sapling trees are prolific here, and the land under this powerline, which does not have road access, will undoubtedly be treated with herbicide. I do not want herbicide in my well water or in the water springs that this line will pass over.

continued



This mostly forested neighborhood where we live is relatively pristine. This is different than a major highway corridor nine miles south of our home; a highway decorated with billboards, and lined with communities begging for industrial development. Not to wish bad on other people, but maybe an industrial zone is where this industrial appearing line should be sited.

Our home, by the way, features LED lighting and solar and wood heat (backed up with radiator LP gas system) and NO outdoor mercury or sodium night lighting – which I detest.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. M. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "M".

Last Name Kaiser Glaser First Name Joan

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 Bursca Drive suite 207  
 Bridgeville, PA 15017  
 Or scan and email to  
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us  
 Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 31 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

1. I have marked impacts that concern me 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"/>
My Personal Health		Rare/Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	with My Energy Goals	
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	
Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Surface & Ground Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:

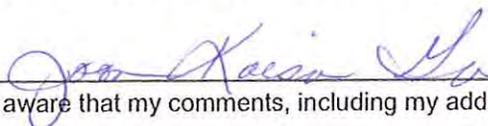
Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, 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  Date 12.29.16  
 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 **D**  
JAN 09 2017

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December 14, 2016

SWCA Environmental Consultants  
200 Bursca Drive Suite 207  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

RECEIVED  
DEC 27 2016

Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

Dear Folks,

I am writing with major concerns about the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission Lines. Please be sure that the process used to develop the Environmental Impact Statement is VERY robust.

First and foremost, the proposed track will take it through the heart of the Driftless Area. 85% of which is in SW Wisconsin. As you know, this is an area unique in the US in that the glaciers did not cover it or retreat over it. As a result the geography, geology and ecosystems are unique. 17-story towers and power lines over 125 miles will scar the area irreparably.

Tourism, recreation, property values and the attractive draw to the culture of the outdoors, all of which are foundational to the economic health of cities and towns in the Driftless Area, all stand to lose in terms of economics and vigor. These losses will not be recoverable.

Additionally the flyways through the open areas and over the river will be less safe for the large populations of migratory birds. And fish and wildlife populations will be negatively impacted as well.

And finally, this degradation and deterioration of unique lands will be accomplished for unnecessary reasons. The extra power is not needed: electric usage has been flat or decreasing throughout the upper Midwest due to improved efficiencies and conservation. And needs can be met with a combined, coordinated program of continued conservation and clean energy generation. Renewable resources are being increased as we speak and projected without significant negative impact on the lands and area.

Please consider very seriously these concerns as the EIS is developed and save the landscape and ecosystems of the Driftless Area by doing a very robust consideration and recommendation using ALL aspects.

Thank you very much,

  
Cathryn Kaiser MD



**From:** Betsy Katten  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Cardinal-Hickory Creek line--Environmental Impact Statement  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 6:05:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [datauri-file.png](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam:

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.

We (my family) are frequent visitors to the Dodgeville, Wisconsin area and feel we will be personally impacted by the transmission line. One of the potential routes literally runs right through the property we frequent. The line will run along side or cut across many of the best bike routes in the Madison area and it will be visible from the campsites of Governor Dodge. In addition to this route, the other proposed route along Hwy. 18, cuts through some of the most beautiful and important parts of the Driftless Area. We are very concerned for the damage these lines would cause and harm to area residents and to the environment.

We 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.

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 attention to this matter.





## Comments on proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project

We, Paul & Nancy Kaufman, (Kaufman/Stemper Farm), object to the proposed transmission line in Clayton County Iowa for numerous reasons. We have owned 189 acres of farmland in partnership at [REDACTED] since 1987. As landowners, we are concerned that this line, if placed on our property will destroy the value of our property and diminish the available acreage for income production.

We have spent years conserving the soil and enhancing wildlife habitat on the property and the power line would certainly adversely affect our past conservation work. We have witnessed the recent transmission lines placed in our area and were appalled by the lack of the concern for the loss of soil and environmental effects of the work.

We have been involved in watershed improvement programs and we are committed to preserving our water quality on the farm. Our property contains a large pond that we had constructed and a clear running creek and many natural springs. We are concerned that large scale excavation and construction of power lines will adversely affect the water quality of these waterways.

Our property is located across the road from Pleasant Creek Wildlife Area, which contains a large effigy mound. A power line on our property would certainly not be compatible so close to this Archeological site.

We are also concerned that a second set of large transmission lines along the migratory corridor of the Mississippi River would adversely impact the annual fall migration of Bald Eagles, waterfowl and song birds. The lines would again cross the scenic Iowa Great River Road. One transmission line allowed along this scenic roadway was bad enough. A second transmission line built along the Great River Road will be too much of a visual blight for this scenic highway.

Based on all of our concerns we feel that an environmental impact study is critical for this proposed power line construction!

My wife and I are committed to conservation and farm preservation. We are involved in and have held leadership roles in numerous Wildlife and Conservation groups. I have spent numerous hours tree planting and advocating for wildlife, conservation of our resources, and water quality.

Sincerely  
Paul & Nancy Kaufman (Kaufman/Stemper Farm)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]  
email: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Feedback about proposed ATC Lines  
**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2016 11:43:25 PM

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15 December 2016

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attn: Canadian-Hickory Creek EIS

200 Bursca Drive – Suite 207

Bridgeville, Pennsylvania – 15017

Dear Environmental Consultants:

I am a woman who reared her children on a farm in the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin and now have grandchildren who are exploring the wondrous beauty and biological diversity of this area. Because this is a place that is so dear to the hearts of many, I urge you to listen to the voices of the people who have spent much of their lives in Iowa County, as well as those who come here to nurture their souls amid the “grace of wild things.”

The Driftless Area of Wisconsin provides a unique geological landscape formed by the absence of that last Ice Age Glacier. It provides a rich topsoil for farming and gardening; unique and special status flora and fauna; diversity in topology and historic landmarks. People delight in the quality of the air that they breathe here and the quiet beauty that surrounds them.

The proposed ATC lines would impact significantly on farming, recreation, tourism and the general health and well-being of the residents of Iowa County. It is also important to note that property values would be decreased greatly by the negative impact on the aesthetics of this beloved land.

Certainly we all need to be thinking about future energy needs and the environmental impact of any decisions that will be made. Iowa County is filled with citizens who would support the exploration of alternative energy sources. The cost of solar energy is decreasing; wind power remains a viable alternative. Existing low-voltage transmission lines could be upgraded. The

money that is being proposed to develop those ATC lines could be spent making this county a model of sustainable, alternative energy. Countries all over the world are re-thinking energy sources. Why not make Iowa County a model for Wisconsin - perhaps even rural communities all over this country.

Sincerely,

Jane H. Kavaloski

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NOV. 2, 2016

CONIVED 20 YEARS AGO, THE GUARANTEED PROFIT FOR INVESTORS IS SO GOOD THAT ANY NEW, AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IS BEING IGNORED AND THIS NOW OUTDATED, OLD, IDEA IS BEING PROMOTED AS A "MUST HAVE" / "MUST DO" BY THOSE WANTING THE GUARANTEED 40 YEARS OF 10+% ~~INTEREST~~ INTEREST, WHO ARE CLEVERLY ADVERTISING TO ALL ~~THE~~ HOW VITAL THIS LINE IS... WHEN ACTUALLY, IT IS NOT NEEDED, TECHNOLOGY HAS ADVANCED SO ~~THE~~ <sup>MUCH</sup> SINCE THIS IDEA WAS CONJURED, THAT LESS EXPENSIVE, LOCAL, SUPERIOR SOLUTIONS WHICH ARE SUSTAINABLE NOW EXIST.

EVEN THE WIND FARMS TECHNOLOGY HAS NEW BETTER, MORE EFFICIENT, VERTICLE WIND MILLS, WHICH ~~COLLECT~~ <sup>RESPOND</sup> TO LESS WIND, ARE MORE DURABLE IN HIGH WINDS, & ARE SAFER FOR BIRDS, WILDLIFE & MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE. THESE, INSTALLED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES COULD ELIMINATE AGAIN THE NEED FOR TOWERS... BUT SINCE THIS WOULD LESSEN THE 40 YEARS OF HEALTHY PROFIT TO INVESTORS, THOSE BACKING THE WHOLE GRID IDEA WILL DISMISS IT.

THERE SHOULD BE INCENTIVES FOR HOMEOWNERS & BUSINESSES TO HAVE SOLAR + WIND SOURCES THRU OUT THE STATE WHICH WILL SUPPORT & COMMUNITIES. INSTEAD OF STICKING TO ANTIQUATED TECHNOLOGY - INVEST IN BATTERY / STORAGE RESEARCH.

FLORIDA HAS DECLARED THAT SOLAR ENERGY IS ILLEGAL. WHY? BECAUSE OF LESS PROFIT FOR CORPORATIONS.

WE ARE AT A POINT WHERE MORAL COURAGE SHOULD BE EXERCISED. WE HAVE ONLY THIS PLANET AS OUR HOUSE - WE ALL USE THE SAME AIR. WE ARE WATCHING OUR WATER BE DESTROYED IN EFFORTS TO HANG ON TO AN ENERGY SOURCE THAT CAN BE REPLACED BY WIND + SOLAR -

CORPORATIONS WILL STILL MAKE THEIR PROFIT -  
EVEN IF SCALED DOWN A ZERO OR TWO, THEY WILL  
STILL BE FINANCIAL WINNERS...

BUT HOW WONDERFUL IF CORPORATIONS COULD TURN TO  
HELPING SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, MAKING THE EFFORT  
AND SUCCEEDING IN NOT POISONING PLANETARY LIFE -  
THOSE WITHIN THE CORPORATIONS ARE HUMANS ALSO, CAPABLE OF  
ALSO BECOMING POISONED, WHO NEED OXYGEN, CLEAN AIR,  
& WANT TO BE CANCER + DISEASE FREE.

MORAL COURAGE WOULD HAVE THEM HELPING MANKIND,

ALL OF US  
PLEASE SUPPORT INCENTIVES FOR US LITTLE PEOPLE/HOMEOWNERS TO BE  
ABLE TO HAVE SOLAR + WIND POWER.  
THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ARE GAINING ACCESS TO MORE  
ADVANCED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY THAN ~~OUR~~  
WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING.

FLORIDA HAS OUTLAWED SOLAR ENERGY & TRYING TO GET  
OTHER STATES TO DO THE SAME.

ELON MUSK NOW HAS SOLAR ROOFTOPS.

PLEASE CONSIDER WIDENING YOUR HORIZONS & HELP THIS  
STATE STEP INTO A NEW HORIZON OF SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY.

IT WILL BE GOOD ON ALL LEVELS FOR ALL OF US,  
CORPORATIONS & INVESTORS INCLUDED, WITHOUT  
DAMAGING THIS WORLD'S UNIQUE DRIFTLESS AREA.

PLEASE DON'T PURSUE THE AGGRESSIVE, IRREVERSIBLE  
DAMAGE THESE LINES WILL DO TO THIS GEOLOGICALLY  
UNIQUE AREA OF WISCONSIN, THE DRIFTLESS AREA.

YOUR MORAL COURAGE IS REQUIRED... PLEASE.

THANK-YOU.

LINDA KELEN

Last Name KELEN First Name LINDA

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: 30 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

TEACHER, ARTIST, TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY, FRIENDS OF LOWER WISCONSIN RIVERWAY, EDUCATIONAL ARTIST, ARTIST FOR NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES DOCUMENTARY, BARISTA IN SPRING GREEN (ARCADIA BOOKSTORE)

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		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:

(IOWA COUNTY)

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats) | Town located in  
~~THERE ARE CAVES THRU-OUT THIS AREA, MANY NOT FOUND OR OPEN TO VIEW - I'M CONCERNED ABOUT SINK HOLES DEVELOPING, SPRINGS BEING DESTROYED/STOPPED BEING MISDIRECTED, CONTAMINATED WITH POISONS/WEEDE PLANT KILLER RIVERS WETLANDS LAKES. RARE PLANT ANIMAL HABITAT BEING DESTROYED ORGANIC FARMS & MY ORGANIC FIELD BEING CONTAMINATED WITH WEED KILLER. THE RUN OFF OF WEED KILLING POISONS INTO STREAMS RIVERS WETLANDS WHICH THEN CONTAMINATES & KILLS OR CHANGES SEX EVENTUALLY OF FROGS TOADS, FISH. BUFFER ZONES ARE INEFFECTUAL OVER TIME. DAMAGE TO WATER BODIES & HABITATS THAT WILL HAPPEN WITH CONSTRUCTION IS FOREVER CHANGED IN SPITE OF REPAIR EFFORTS DUE TO WHAT DAMAGE + WEED CONTROL POISONS USED CONSISTANTLY IN FUTURE.~~  
 GROUND WATER

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. | Town located in  
 ANY ARTISTIC BUSINESS, CLASSES, SCHOOLS FALL ART TOUR, WEDDINGS BED+BREAKFAST, HUNTING, FISHING, BIRDING, MUSHROOM HUNTING, BICYCLING EVENTS, + VACATIONS - TOURS, WINTER SPORTS, HIKING, CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, ROADSIDE STANDS, ORGANIC FARMS, RESTORED WOODLANDS, OAK SAVANAS, GOLFING, PARKS, A.P.T., SMALL TOWN ATTRACTIVENESS TO TOURISTS WHO COME TO ESCAPE THE HIGH INTENSITY TRANSMISSION LINES YOU WANT TO INSTALL, MOTELS, PET STORES THAT VACATIONERS CAN KENNEL THEIR OUT OF TOWN PETS, THIS WILL SEVERELY IMPACT PROPERTY VALUES! SALE OF LAND FOR NEW HOMES/RETIREMENT/FUTURE COMMUNITIES WILL SLOW & DIMINISH IN PRICE IF THESE TOWERS ARE EVEN VISIBLE... THEY ARE NOT NECESSARY NEEDED, AND ARE UNWANTED, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROOF OF NEED, COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF NON TRANSMISSION ALTERNATIVES IS NEEDED - SEE MY SHORT LETTER PLEASE -

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) | Town located in  
 E.M.F.! E.M.F.'s Living close to being exposed to, traveling thru power line radiation is strongly related to ~~an~~ increase in cancers, leukemia, A.L.S., ALZHEIMERS, NEURO-degenerative diseases... AND THESE CONCERNS PROBLEMS AND ISSUES PREVENT PEOPLE FROM WANTING TO MOVE INTO AREAS WITH INTENSE E.M.F.s - WHICH IN TURN LOWER PROPERTY VALUE, & HURT WISCONSIN BUSINESS -

3. Energy Investment Priorities  
 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.

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

Signature Linda Kelen

Date Nov. 2, 2016

? 345 kV Substation - to connect other large lines from 161 kV → 765 kV, Montfort - 765 kV plans from 2010, 2013, 2012. Why substation in Montfort? Any substation of 345 kV is magnet for 765 kV and more wires. One also planned near Spring Green. MR Ryan had no answer as to why -  
• Ask why the 345 kV substation is needed at Montfort -  
If answer is the 345 kV is needed to connect w existing transmission lines at Montfort - ask for the voltages & numbers of lines that would immediately connect & in the future... if they say they cannot predict, then ask if they will guarantee larger than 345 kV will not be connected.

#2 continued -

Concern about tower height -

MR. RYAN of ITC - Keeps repeating "115-120 tower height."

IF tower carry another, existing transmission under the 6-345 V wires  
He says again "115-120 tower" & DOESN'T KNOW ANSWER TO THE QUESTION, "would not the tower height increase with that extra wire?"  
They are withholding information.

tell Angela Jordan & MR. RYAN that Rob Danielson was told at Cessville meeting that CTC double circuit towers would "Average 115-120' in height over flat land and still maintain that average even when another lower voltage transmission line was connected on <sup>same</sup> poles beneath the 6-345 kV wires (3 wires per circuit)

Get Business Cards - Angela Jordan can help me understand this further by sending elevation drawings for a construction <sup>ing</sup> an approved and constructed 345 kV double circuit w/a 138 kV line connected underneath the 345 kV wires.

• RYAN says ITC forces the ability to remove trees ~~to~~ 50' beyond the easement. ATC policy is different. this extra 50' beyond easement seems to be "FREE extra <sup>feet of</sup> vegetation."

Get this policy in writing/email. -

tell them you want copy of this policy in writing -

Last Name Holley First Name Chris

Individual  Family  Business  Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

Years of residence in area: 14 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	<input checked="" 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>Forest, Ag land, Rural aesthetic, wildlife corridors</u>	<u>Arcene</u>
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<u>Tourism - bike rallies, fall color visitors, hunting, fishing, Farming</u>	<u>Arcene</u>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<u>EMF; historical sites</u>	<u>Arcene</u>

3. Energy Investment Priorities

- A. I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long-term debt.
- B. I oppose all high voltage transmission options as they would inherently detract from the natural environment and local economies. Should any electrical need be determined, I support a blend of minimal impact alternatives such as targeted energy efficiency, modern load management and distributed generation including solar-support at existing substations.
- C. I request that the Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of the lowest impact alternatives. The dollar amount applied to non-transmission investment options, studied alone and in combination, should equal the total cost of the high voltage transmission option assumed by all electric customers over 40 years including construction, financing, operation, maintenance and depreciation.

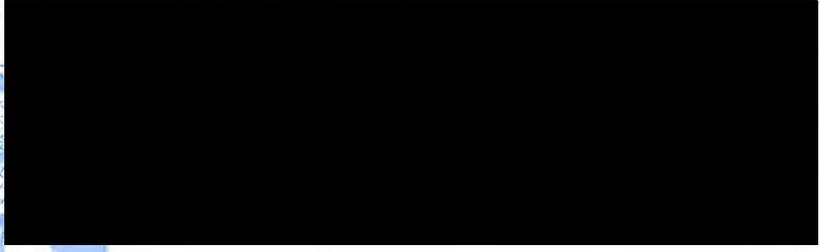
Signature Chris Holley Date 12-7-16  
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED  
DEC 27 2016

December 20, 2016  
EIS Scoping Input

Please accept the enclosed seven (7) scoping input sheets. I personally observed and am acquainted with each of the signatories, also please note the "energy investment priorities" the signers circled at the bottom of the page.

Thank you,  
David Giffen





RECEIVED  
JAN 05 2017

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December 28, 2016

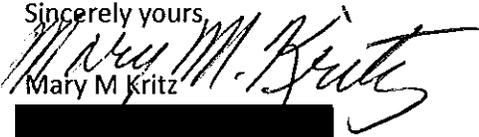
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments  
200 Bursca Drive suite 207  
Bridheville, PA 15017

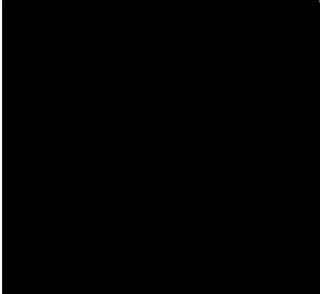
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** Comments on Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 2:56:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [TPE Cardinal Hickory EIS Signed Scope Statement.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Attached is a formal comment from The Prairie Enthusiasts regarding the Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS for the initial scope of the project. If you could please confirm with me that you have received our comment, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director  
The Prairie Enthusiasts

[REDACTED]



January 6, 2017

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

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Communications Coordinator

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Bookkeeper

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants,

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) is making comments regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that has been initiated for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in southwest Wisconsin. TPE's mission is that we seek to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairies, oak savannas, and other associated ecosystems in the upper Midwest through management, protection, restoration, and education. In carrying out this mission over the past 30 years TPE has purchased over 2,000 acres and holds conservation easements on an additional 1,000 acres. The majority of this land lies within the same region as the proposed transmission line.

TPE is concerned that all land conserved by non-profit land conservation organizations are included in the scope of the EIS. Our organization was very concerned when the American Transmission Company had their original public sessions in 2016. Even though many areas of their maps noted "conserved land" one of our highest quality sites, Pleasant Valley Conservancy in Vermont Township, Dane County, WI which we own part of and hold conservation easement on was not included, and the proposed northern route includes 100% of this property. Not only is this site owned by TPE, but it is a dedicated State Natural Area and is enrolled in the WI Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. These omissions are very concerning to our organization and its members.

We are asking for all conserved land be included within the scope of the EIS being initiated. This includes all lands owned and all private conservation easements held by non-profit land conservation organizations. In addition that all State Natural Areas and land enrolled into the WI Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program be included in the scope of the EIS. This would be in addition to federal, state, county, or municipally owned conservation or public recreation land.

Sincerely,

Chris Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director

***Grassroots Conservation in Action!***

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Cardinal / Hickory Creek Transmission Line Concern  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 12:21:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [TK.vcf](#)

---

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants;

My name is Todd King and I am the PGA General Manager at Deer Valley Lodge & Golf in Barneveld, Wisconsin. I am writing to you today to share our concerns over the proposed 125 mile long power line to run from Dubuque to Middleton.

I am sure you have received numerous letters outlining concern for the line infringing on the Driftless Area's natural beauty, wildlife and area residents. I am also aware of many people's concern for the need of the line and the declining or flat energy demand. While we share those concerns as well, I'd also like to share the potential economic impact on our business.

Deer Valley Lodge and Golf sits on nearly 400 acres and includes a 62 room hotel, 12,000 square foot indoor waterpark, large banquet facility, business meeting space, 27 hole golf course, golf practice range and 18 hole foot golf course. The golf course has been in operation since 1999 and the hotel complex since 2006. We have spent over 18 years building this business. Our main calling card is definitely the beautiful landscape of SW Wisconsin and the breathtaking views are what we are known for. With over 60,000 visitors annually (hotel guests, wedding events, business meetings, golfers and footgolfers), our concern is the negative impact on our business due to the visual impact of the lines as well as the loss of a certain level of serenity that draws our guests to the property. We are also concerned that many families and children would not want to play on our foot golf course, which would lie in the shadow of the towers and experience the "hum" of the lines.

We are not against progress or expansion of our infrastructure, our concerns are based on the real need of these lines and on the potential negative impact on our guests and our business.

Respectfully;

Todd A. King  
PGA General Manager  
Deer Valley Lodge & Golf

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** Comments on ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek Powerline Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 2:29:17 PM

---

To: SWCA Environmental Consultants

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed American Transmission Co. plan to build a 125-mile powerline through the unique ecosystem of the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin.

My husband and I have been residents of this area for over thirty-three years and have a deep appreciation for the diversity and natural beauty of the region.

The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek powerline would have profound, negative environmental and economic impacts and is a costly, unnecessary waste of resources.

In my opinion, some of the reasons for not constructing this powerline include:

- 1) Lack of need in an era of declining or flat use of electrical power – The need for out-of-state electrical supply has not been shown. If an actual need is identified then an analysis should be conducted of non-transmission alternatives which have less damaging effects.
- 2) High cost of construction and maintenance – Wisconsin electrical ratepayers would be supporting construction and maintenance costs of the line for forty years with no direct benefit while profits go to the developers.
- 3) Negative economic impact on tourism, agriculture and property values – The transmission line would be supported by 17-story tall towers with a wide swath of clearance on either side of the line.
- 4) Environmental damage of conservation and agricultural lands, native heritage sites, state parks, and scenic landscapes – Construction along the proposed routes would result in severe damage to environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, bird migration, fish and wildlife.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge rejection of the ATC's proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek powerline.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Knight  
[REDACTED]

December 29, 2016

RECEIVED  
JAN 05 2017

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,

Dale Koehler



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jerry Koerner](#)  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** ATC Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, December 30, 2016 12:27:39 PM

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There are many reasons why we oppose the Cardinal Hickory Creek high voltage power lines proposed by ATC:

1. I believe that ATC has not demonstrated a need for the electricity in the greater Madison area, over the long term.
2. I believe they have intentionally refused to develop an alternative that provides the same amount of power using distributed production using solar, wind and biomass sources.
3. I don't understand why we would buy power from wind farms in Iowa and Minnesota, instead of producing it locally, and thereby creating good jobs in Wisconsin.
4. I don't agree with the formula that almost guarantees that ATC makes a profit. The costs just get passed on to us through our local utility companies. We may be able to make our own or buy our electricity locally at a lower cost instead of being locked into a 50 year agreement with ATC.
5. We live in Iowa County near the highway 18/151. The huge towers would be visible from our farm and could reduce our property values.
6. The driftless area where we live is special for its scenic beauty. The huge towers would certainly be a blight on our whole area.
7. We are concerned that the electric lines will cause problems with radio and TV reception. We have noticed problems when driving near other high voltage lines.
8. We invested in 3 solar systems in 2006 and 2009. If the utility company can buy power cheaper out of state, they most likely would not continue to pay us for our excess power. We are very proud that we produce more electricity than we use, and therefore do not consume fossil fuels.

Please consider these issues as you review any proposal from ATC.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Claudia Koprowski](#)  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** Driftless Area  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:41:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter for Cox to Cardinal Hickory Creek.docx](#)

---

To Whom it may concern,  
Please find attached letter.

**Hello**

**Please include this letter in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cordially,  
*Claudia Koprowski*

**From:** [Binky Krahn](#)  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed Transmission Line  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2016 12:09:14 PM

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Please register my opposition to this proposal. This is an appalling amount of money, which would be better spent on alternative sources of energy. Slow down and take a more careful look at this. Is there really a need?

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 19 2016

Dennis Rankin / Environmental Specialist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utilities Service  
1400 Independence Avenue  
SW Room 2244 Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

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

Mr. Dennis Rankin, *SWCA Environmental Consultants*

I am writing to you in regards to the Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line Project. I am a former resident of Springdale Township in Dane County, Wisconsin. My mother owns land in the Town of Springdale, and I used to live there. The property backs up to beautiful ridges and has natural fresh water springs. The Springdale Land Use plan has some pretty distinct rules regarding land use and overall preservation of the rural atmosphere, beautiful landscape and business types that are allowed on the land.

As with most zoning legalities, all land use in Springdale must be approved by the local township. Springdale Township has very few businesses, most of them agriculturally related. The roads in Springdale are well maintained and are used for the rural residents, and for travel purposes, but are not prepared for the amount of traffic that would take place if the Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line Project went through the land.

The wetlands are home to animals, plant species and also are vital to the health of the land in Springdale. The wetlands as well as the streams and creeks in the area are also essential to our water quality in Dane County. The affects of this project could significantly affect the water table, which would be more than a local problem. The City of Madison utilizes the ground water in this part of the State. The long-term effects of this project could be drastic. Although the wetlands are federally protected lands, the rest of Springdale needs our help. The roadways, the farm land, and lands surrounding wetlands to ensure their health all need protecting from this project.

Please consider the environmental as well as zoning ramifications of this project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sierra Krall



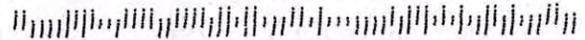
The Krauses



RECEIVED  
DEC 27 2016

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

15017\$1453 C004



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

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

Name: Susan Krause, Jim Krause

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](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us). The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

## Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project.

I do not believe the project has been subjected to a thorough cost benefit analysis. The project has been predicated on the projection that the demand for electricity will continue to grow, and that these transmission lines are the only solution to meet future needs. This assumption overlooks the fact that demand for electricity overall is dropping or has remained steady, because of local green power initiatives and energy saving technologies. Monies would be better spent promoting these alternatives rather than investing in a very costly, and perhaps redundant infrastructure project that has the potential to disrupt farms and families, and degrade a fragile environment.

Mary M. Kritz



November 2, 2016

**Environmental Impact Scoping for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

My great grandparents, Ignatius and Mary Kritz, came to the Driftless Region of WI from Bohemia (Czech Republic today) in 1864. They purchased farmland in Wyoming (WY) Township, Iowa County, WI. My grandfather, Paul Kritz, grew up on that farm and purchased a neighboring farm in 1907 after he married his wife, Elizabeth. My father, Reuben Kritz, was born on that farm and lived there with his wife Aurelia until he died in 1984. That farm and a neighboring one purchased in the 1950s remain in our family. I currently own and live on those farms in Wyoming Township.

Throughout the years that my family has owned farmland in WY Township, we have tried to be good stewards of the land, recognizing that this land is not only ours to use for agricultural production and recreational activities but also to share with other animals who live here and future generations. When land has been in one's family for over a century, it becomes an integral part of that family's history and culture. To assure that my family's land can continue to remain environmentally sustainable and be used for agricultural and recreational activities, I initiated steps this past year toward setting up a conservation easement.

I learned about six months ago that the towers for the transmission line (Northern route) proposed by the American Transmission Co (ATC) are likely to run directly across my property or be situated very close to it. My 234 acres are located right at the elbow where the proposed line turns southward to run along County Z to County ZZ (Dodgeville Township). ATC likely chose my land as part of its Northern route because it spans several hilltops that have crop fields or pastures. It is probably easier to situate transmission towers on hilltops rather than running them up/down steep valleys that are heavily wooded. If ATC receives approval to use the proposed Northern route, that will create a very visible scar on the pristine Driftless landscape and have an adverse effect on tourism, which is a (perhaps "the") major source of income for Wyoming Township. Given the height of the proposed ATC towers (15-20 stories), they will be very visible from almost any location throughout WY and Dodgeville Townships.

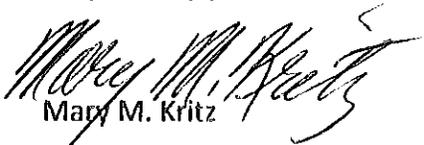
When my ancestors settled in WY Township, they found a pristine region that had been a summer home for Native American Indians and that had a tallgrass prairie and bur oak savanna

ecology. WY Township was never ideal farmland because of the steep hills and river valleys found throughout the Driftless region. This non-glaciated region has a very different ecology and landscape than the rest of the Midwest does. In the 1960s, this scenic land started to appreciate in value along with acreage prices in WY Township. In response, local farmers started to sell their farms to cultural and touristic institutions (Taliesin, American Player's Theater, Governor Dodge State Park, Bethel Horizons, and Tower Hill State Park) that were interested in building or expanding their operations in the Driftless region. The region also started to attract people interested in purchasing land and restoring its native ecology (as the Aldo Leopold family and Foundation did in Sauk County). The transformation of the land from agriculture to environmental preservation and cultural activities is now well advanced in Iowa County and likely to continue in the years ahead as long as the pristine landscape of the Driftless Region remains intact.

Because of the changing usage of land and increasing attention to prairie restoration in the Driftless region, many endangered plants and animals can be found in this area. I have seen Regal Fritillary butterflies, Blanchard's cricket frogs, ornate box turtles, Henslow Sparrows, pale purple coneflower, and Wild Hyacinths on my land. I am currently retired and spend a great deal of my time working on prairie and forest restoration on my land. It is beautiful land and it breaks my heart to think that the ATC towers may cross this landscape.

While I understand that stabilization of the national and regional electricity grid remains an important Federal and State government priority, questions are being raised by people in this community about whether that is best done by building a transmission line of the scale that has been proposed or through alternative approaches. At the least before the WI Public Service Commission and the Federal Government approve the proposed project, further cost/benefit analysis needs to be done that would tally up the environmental and economic costs of siting the ATC towers in the Driftless region.

Respectfully yours,



Mary M. Kritz

Property owner in Wyoming Township, Iowa County, WI.

Last Name KRITZ First Name MARY

EIS Scoping Input  
Cardinal Hickory Creek  
PSCW Docket 05CE146

Individual  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: 77 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:  
farmer,

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		Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health		Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock		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>Regal fritillary butterflies</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>Ornate box turtle, Blanchard's cricket frog</u>	<u>WY, Spring Green</u>
<u>Wild Hyacinth, Pale purple cone flower</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>Henslow Sparrow</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>Driftless (Paleozoic) Region's pristine ecology</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.</u>	Town located in
<u>Farming</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>Tourism (motels, restaurants, B&amp;B's, taverns, etc)</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville, Spring Green</u>
<u>biking (pedal &amp; motor bikes)</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>hunting (deer, turkey)</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville</u>
<u>convenience stores, gas stations</u>	

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>Driftless Region has a large # of cultural institutions (eg. American Players Theater, Fall ART TOUR, Taliesin, House on the Rock) that were established here because of the region's ecology</u>	<u>WY, Dodgeville, Spring Green</u>

<b>3. Energy Investment Priorities</b>	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 Mary M. Krutz Date Nov. 2, 2016

**From:** Todd Kummer  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Comment on Cardinal - Hickory Creek transmission line  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 4:00:45 PM

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I am writing to raise questions about the validity of the planned transmission line. I am a land owner near the proposed line in Ridgeway Township.

I question the need for a new transmission line rather than strong proposals for reducing energy use to live within our current energy availability. It seems to me that a new line will only encourage greater energy usage "because it is available." The discussion should be how do we live within our means with available energy or less energy. Additionally, new energy should come from renewable sources.

I am also concerned about the visual impact of such a large line in one of the more pristine areas of Wisconsin. Once built it will never come down and will affect the quality of life for residents of that area for ever. I am concerned about the adverse affects on property values near the line.

In summary, I think the line will adversely affect nearby protected prairie areas and quality of life for residents. And, the need for such a line is very suspect in my opinion.

Todd Kummer

**From:** Joel Kurth  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** comments - Cardinal - Hickory Creek Transmisson Line Project  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 9:36:51 PM

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TO: USDA RUS

RE: Comment on the Cardinal - Hickory Creek Transmisson Line Project

This project makes significant use of greenfield corridors in the Driftless Area of Iowa and Dane Counties in Wisconsin. For this reason alone the RUS should not be a source of funding for Dairyland Cooperative for this project.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW), by law, must follow in order: (1) existing utility corridors, (2) highway and railroad corridors, (3) rec trails, (4) new corridors, in determining where transmission lines are to be built. In Iowa County, WI, the revised preliminary corridors each have significant amounts that do not utilize existing utility or highway corridors at all. The existing utility corridors around Spring Green aren't even in the study area anymore. The northernmost preliminary route is mostly greenfield, cutting across beautiful rural and visually unspoiled areas, much of which is wooded. The landowners in this rural area should not suffer the burden of a transmission line that will mostly be built to benefit the significant load centers in Madison and eastward. At least the southern route runs along a busy existing highway corridor and certain utility corridors; nevertheless, a transmission line along US HWY 151 will further spoil the view south from Military Ridge.

Throughout the numerous reports on the USDA website, it is stated that an important purpose of this project is in meeting Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). This project connects to wind power generation. But, given the Wisconsin RPS is by and large satisfied coupled with the declining cost (which will likely continue to decline) of solar power and its usefulness in meeting demand at peak times in the summer, it is debatable this transmission line should be built at all.

Best,  
Joel Kurth, Frame Road Properties  
Landowner in the Towns of Arena and Clyde, Wisconsin

Tamar Kusma



Postage  
Required

RECEIVED  
JAN 09 2017

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

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

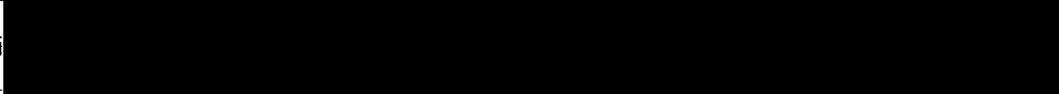
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.  
Thank you for your assistance.

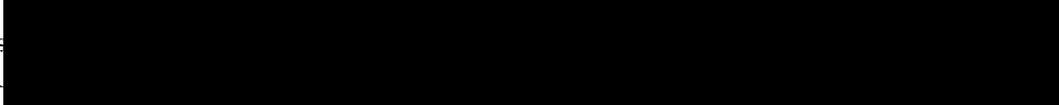
- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Tamar Kusma

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

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### Comments:

My husband and I moved out to our beautiful rural property five and a half years ago. I am a teacher, he has worked for start-ups and has had no pension. This property represents the vast majority of our assets, and our plan is to convert it to a Bed and Breakfast when we retire, to supplement our insufficient retirement income. Alternatively, or later, we will have to sell to fund our later retirement years. If the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line is built, we will personally see our life savings dramatically diminished (value of our property) as well as losing a necessary source of income. A bed and breakfast in the beautiful driftless with gorgeous unobstructed views will do a good business. A bed and breakfast with views of 160 foot tall transmission lines will not.

This spectacular region has irreplaceable value for the state of WI (tourism dollars), the residents, and any and all who care about preserving the last small remnants of a unique geological region.

This transmission line is both unnecessary and unjust. There are many, more affordable, sustainable and local ways of providing energy for Wisconsin, should we

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Comments:

(cont) need more in the future, which is unlikely, given the downward trends of energy usage in recent years.

ATC has no justification for effectively robbing landowners of their potentially only assets in order to satisfy their shareholders "guarantee" of a 10% rate of return.

The RUS must act to prevent this patently unnecessary and unjust destruction of a unique and irreplaceable local, state and national treasure. The Dryflatt region can not be recreated elsewhere, and this transmission line will damage it and those of us who have chosen to live here and to invest here, beyond repair.