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JAN 05 2017

December 28, 2016

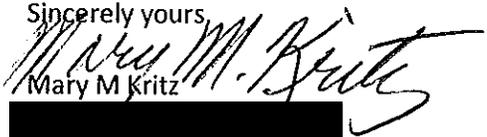
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridheville, PA 15017

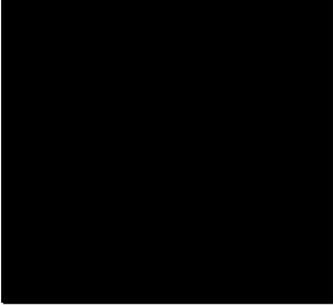
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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 Kritz



Last Name William Ladewig First Name WILLIAM

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Str _____
 Cit _____
 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: _____ 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

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	Agree	Disagree
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.	X	

Signature William Ladewig Date 1/12/11

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

Last Name LAMA First Name LEWIS

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: 18 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Wyoming Township Planning Commission, Community Connections Free Clinic
Interpreter.

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) <u>Application of herbicides near our livestock, impact of herbicides on groundwater and pasture, impact of noise on humans and livestock</u>	Town located in <u>Wyoming township</u>
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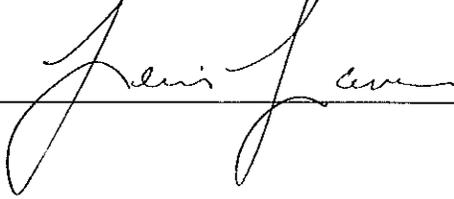
<u>The following species are either endangered or threatened, or the line fully protected, The HV line would further threaten these species: Blanchard's cricket frog, Henslow's Sparrow, Purple milkweed, Arcadian fly catcher, Cherry stone Drop snail, Gopher snake, Cerulean Warbler, Regal Fritillary butterfly, ornate box turtle, Bell's Vireo.</u>	<u>Wyoming, Clyde, Dodgeville Township</u>
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Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. <u>Direct Impact - Our business, Wood and Stone Works, has a client base made up almost exclusively of urban dwellers with second homes in this area. These power lines will make this area much less attractive to my clients</u>	Town located in <u>Wyoming Township</u>
--	--

<u>Indirect Impact - Another very important attraction this area holds is the large number of small artist and artisan businesses. These businesses were drawn to the Driftless area because of its natural beauty. We risk losing this tourist attraction with the construction of the power line.</u>	<u>Wyoming Township</u>
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Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) <u>The Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources notes that Wisconsin has the highest concentration of effigy mounds in the country. We also have very important protected lands and conservation areas. It is vital that we do a proper cost-benefit analysis of alternatives that may be less harmful to such areas.</u>	Town located in
--	-----------------

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
	<u>X</u>	

Signature  Date 2 Nov 2016

2 November, 2016

**EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146**

Lewis Lama
Monica Sella



To whom it may concern,

The power lines are increasing the cost of electricity. We have already been notified of a residential base adjustment rate increase of 4.7% for the 2017-18 period. At the same time, the cost of installing solar panels and wind generators has been dropping steadily. I am a general contractor (Wood and Stone Works), and many of my clients are including solar power as part of their building project. As electric rates continue to increase, so will the incentive to shift away from reliance on the grid.

Further, with the development of the newest generation of heat pumps, efficient LED lighting, and the newest hot water heaters, the per-capita demand for electricity is dropping dramatically. This lends weight to the argument that this transmission line is based on consumption data that no longer applies.

We urge the USDA/RUS EIS to include a comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives, including accelerated spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local, renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Lewis Lama and Monica Sella in black ink. The signature of Lewis Lama is written above the signature of Monica Sella.

Lewis Lama
Monica Sella

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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

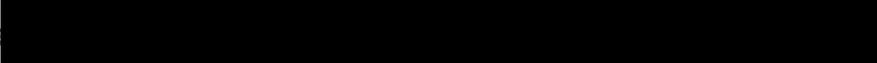
Sincerely yours,


Mary M Kritz



Last Name Larsen First Name Emily

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street 
 City 

EIS Scoping Input
 Mail to: **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: 7 1/2 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

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 Emily Larsen LARSEN 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: [Jack Lenehan](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Route
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 7:17:14 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to oppose the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line through the proposed northern corridor in Iowa County. If it's determined that the transmission line is in the public's best interest, and can be built without unduly burdening ratepayers or damaging the environment, the project's stakeholders should choose the southern corridor, along Route 18.

My family has had ties to Iowa County's Wyoming Valley - home of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin school, and one of his first projects, Unity Chapel - for over 30 years. We operate a small vacation-home business about 3 miles from the proposed northern corridor, and the natural beauty of the surrounding area is one of our best marketing tools. We're not alone, either; numerous local artists, craftsmen, and farmers support themselves by catering to the tourists drawn to the region's rolling hills, open skies, and pristine farmland. Running massive above-ground power lines through the valley would damage and disrupt the beautiful landscape that's both our family legacy and our livelihood.

We understand that new transmission capacity is required to keep the grid running smoothly into the future. And as someone who's concerned about climate change, I can certainly appreciate the benefits of connecting Iowa's wind power to out-of-state demand. But Cardinal-Hickory Creek's stakeholders have a responsibility to choose the lowest-impact site for their project, and that's unquestionably the corridor along Route 18, where vehicle access is already in place and the landscape is already marred by a highway.

Please make the right choice for Southern Wisconsin. Don't build in the northern corridor.

Sincerely,
Jack Lenehan

From: Mike Lenehan
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: I strongly oppose the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line project
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 4:05:19 AM

My wife and I own Aldebaran Farm, a lodging business/vacation house in Wyoming Township, Iowa County, Wisconsin. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek project would severely affect the value of our property and the viability of our business, which depends on tourism. But that's not the main reason I am strongly opposed to it.

Cardinal-Hickory Creek and projects like it represent the power paradigm of the past. Today we need renewable, distributed power. Not only is such power more safely and efficiently produced, it is less harmful to the environment and **less vulnerable to terrorism**. For these reasons I have invested in a large solar energy system on my property, and many Wisconsin residents would do the same given the proper outreach and realistic incentives.

Instead ATC promotes an outmoded technology that will severely harm the natural beauty of Wisconsin's fabled Driftless area and wreak havoc on the appeal of such tourist attractions as Taliesin, American Players Theatre, Wisconsin River, the House on the Rock, and Mineral Point. The Taliesin area is especially important. America's greatest architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, successfully discouraged the use of overhead transmission lines in the valley where he built his famous home; the absence of lines there is an almost subliminal source of its great beauty and appeal.

Demand for electric power is waning in the Upper Midwest. Fears of cyberterrorism are on the rise. Conventional power generation is a major cause of global warming. We should study and promote development of the renewable and distributed power system that the 21st century demands. At a time when we need the Toyota Prius and the Chevy Bolt, ATC is trying to sell us a lumbering Cadillac.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Michael Lenehan
Aldebaran Farm

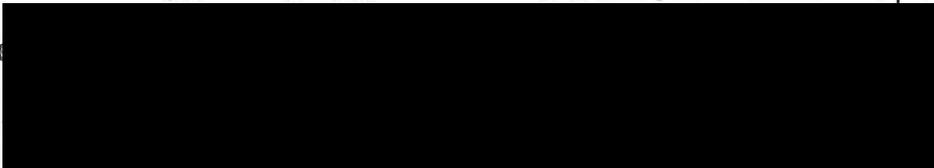
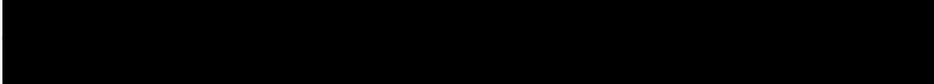
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Last Name Leong First Name Sally

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: 20 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
board member of Clyde Community Center, ran for school board

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>see attached listing</u>	

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>1) Tourism Businesses and lodging in towns of Spring Green and Dodgeville</u>	<u>Spring Green</u>
	<u>Dodgeville</u>
<u>2) Governor Dodge State Park + Rock Shop</u>	<u>Bethel Dodgeville</u>
<u>3) Bethel Horizon</u>	<u>Dodgeville</u>
<u>4) Numerous farms including Swen Seed, Cates Family, Dolan Farms</u>	<u>Spring Green</u>
	<u>Dodgeville</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>This region known as the "Driftless Area" is a special topographic region that 500,000 years old and is unique in the USA</u>	<u>several counties including Iowa, Dane</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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Sally Leong Date Nov. 1, 2016

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species Documented in the **Iowa and Dane County Townships** Crossed by the Proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

The following is a list of species and natural features on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Natural Heritage Working List that have been documented for each Public Land Survey System (PLSS) township in Iowa and Dane Counties that is crossed by the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line

Bald eagles and sensitive species (such as rattlesnakes and bats) are not included in this data, where applicable. Each species or community on the list has been documented in at least one location (but possibly many locations) within the township. These data were last updated on May 13, 2016, so there may be more recent county records not reflected here. Status definitions are located at the end of this document

Please note that absence of data does NOT necessarily indicate absence of a species. Basically, we find species where we look for them, and many of these areas have not been thoroughly inventoried. This data was copied from <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI/data.asp?tool=township> on September 29, 2016

(T7N R2E (includes parts of Clyde, Highland, and Dodgeville Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
Plant	SOC	THR	Hill's Thistle	<i>Cirsium hillii</i>
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>
~Fish		SC/N	Lake Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>
Community		NA	Pine Relict	Pine relict

(T7N R3E (includes parts of Clyde, Wyoming, and Dodgeville Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
Community		NA	Dry-mesic Prairie	Dry-mesic prairie

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Snail		SC/N	Brilliant Granule	<i>Guppya sterkii</i>
Snail		THR	Cherrystone Drop	<i>Hendersonia occulta</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Community		NA	Pine Relict	Pine relict
Snake		SC/P	Gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>
Butterfly		END	Regal Fritillary	<i>Speyeria idalia</i>
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>
Bird		THR	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>

(T7N R4E (includes parts of Wyoming, Arena, Dodgeville, and Ridgeway Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
Plant		END	Wild Hyacinth	<i>Camassia scilloides</i>
Plant		THR	Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
~Community		NA	Emergent Marsh	Emergent marsh
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie Turnip	<i>Pediomelum esculentum</i>
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>
~Community		NA	Shrub-carr	Shrub-carr
~Community		NA	Southern Sedge Meadow	Southern sedge meadow
Plant		SC	October Lady's-tresses	<i>Spiranthes ovalis</i> var. <i>erostellata</i>
~Snake		SC/H	Plains Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>

(T7N R5E (includes parts of Arena and Brigham Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>
Snail		SC/N	Broad-banded Forestsnail	<i>Allogona profunda</i>
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
Plant		THR	Pinnatifid Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium pinnatifidum</i>
Community		NA	Dry Cliff	Dry cliff
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Community		NA	Oak Barrens	Oak barrens
Community		NA	Pine Relict	Pine relict
Bird		THR	Hooded Warbler	<i>Setophaga citrina</i>
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
Community		NA	Southern Mesic Forest	Southern mesic forest
~Community		NA	Southern Sedge Meadow	Southern sedge meadow
~Community		NA	Stream--Fast, Hard, Cold	Stream--fast, hard, cold
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>

(T7N R6E (Vermont Township

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
Bee		SC/N	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus affinis</i>
~Plant		END	Smooth-sheathed Sedge	<i>Carex laevivaginata</i>
~Plant		SC	Drooping Sedge	<i>Carex prasina</i>
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
~Community		NA	Forested Seep	Forested seep
Mammal		SC/N	Prairie Vole	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Mammal		SC/N	Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie False-dandelion	<i>Nothocalais cuspidata</i>
Community		NA	Oak Opening	Oak opening
Plant		SC	Broad Beech Fern	<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie Fame-flower	<i>Phemeranthus rugospermus</i>
Snake		SC/P	Gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>
~Plant		END	Nodding Rattlesnake-root	<i>Prenanthes crepidinea</i>
Plant		SC	Heart-leaved Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria ovata</i> ssp. <i>ovata</i>
Plant		SC	October Lady's-tresses	<i>Spiranthes ovalis</i> var. <i>erostellata</i>

(T7N R7E (Cross Plains Township

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
~Dragonfly		SC/N	Springwater Dancer	<i>Argia plana</i>
Plant		THR	Woolly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i>
Bee		SC/N	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus affinis</i>
Moth		SC/N	Abbreviated Underwing Moth	<i>Catocala abbreviatella</i>
Snake		SC/P	North American Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Butterfly		SC/N	Columbine Dusky Wing	<i>Erynnis lucilius</i>
Butterfly		END	Ottoo Skipper	<i>Hesperia ottoe</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Mammal		SC/N	Prairie Vole	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>
Mammal		SC/N	Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie False-dandelion	<i>Nothocalais cuspidata</i>
Plant		THR	Prairie Parsley	<i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i>
Moth		SC/N	Leadplant Flower Moth	<i>Schinia lucens</i>
Plant		SC	Heart-leaved Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria ovata</i> ssp. <i>ovata</i>

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea
Bird		THR	Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina
Community		NA	Southern Dry Forest	Southern dry forest
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
~Snake		SC/H	Plains Gartersnake	Thamnophis radix

(T7N R8E (Middleton Township)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Fish		SC/H	Lake Sturgeon	Acipenser fulvescens
Plant		THR	Roundstem Foxglove	Agalinis gattingeri
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	Asclepias purpurascens
Bee		SC/N	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	Bombus affinis
~Plant		SC	Rope Dodder	Cuscuta glomerata
~Plant		SC	Knotweed Dodder	Cuscuta polygonorum
~Community		NA	Emergent Marsh	Emergent marsh
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii
~Dragonfly		SC/N	Swamp Darner	Epiaeschna heros
Plant		SC	Azure Bluets	Houstonia caerulea
Mammal		SC/N	Prairie Vole	Microtus ochrogaster
~Fish		THR	Pugnose Shiner	Notropis anogenus
~Moth		END	Silphium Borer Moth	Papaipema silphii
Plant		END	Hairy Wild Petunia	Ruellia humilis
~Community		NA	Shrub-carr	Shrub-carr
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
~Community		NA	Southern Sedge Meadow	Southern sedge meadow
~Community		NA	Springs and Spring Runs, Hard	Springs and spring runs, hard
~Community		NA	Stream--Fast, Hard, Warm	Stream--fast, hard, warm
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	Terrapene ornata

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Snake		SC/H	Plains Gartersnake	Thamnophis radix

(T6N R1E (includes parts of Highland and Eden Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Plant		SC	Nodding Pogonia	Triphora trianthophora

(T6N R2E (includes parts of Highland, Eden, Linden and Dodgeville Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	Acris blanchardi
~Dragonfly		SC/N	Springwater Dancer	Argia plana
Plant		SC	Prairie Indian-plantain	Arnoglossum plantagineum
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	Lithobates palustris
Community		NA	Moist Cliff	Moist cliff
Plant		SC	Prairie Fame-flower	PheMERanthus rugospermus
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
Community		NA	Southern Mesic Forest	Southern mesic forest
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	Terrapene ornata

(T6N R3E (includes part of Dodgeville Township

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	Acris blanchardi
Plant		THR	Roundstem Foxglove	Agalinis gattereri

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
~Dragonfly		SC/N	Springwater Dancer	<i>Argia plana</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie Indian-plantain	<i>Arnoglossum plantagineum</i>
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Plant		SC	Violet Bush-clover	<i>Lespedeza violacea</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickereel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Community		NA	Moist Cliff	Moist cliff
~Fish		END	Slender Madtom	<i>Noturus exilis</i>
Plant		SC	Prairie Turnip	<i>Pediomelum esculentum</i>
Community		NA	Pine Relict	Pine relict
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>
Community		NA	Southern Mesic Forest	Southern mesic forest
Butterfly		END	Regal Fritillary	<i>Speyeria idalia</i>
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>
Bird		THR	Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>

(T6N R4E (includes parts of Dodgeville and Ridgeway Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris blanchardi</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>
~Plant		END	Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>
Plant	SOC	THR	Hill's Thistle	<i>Cirsium hillii</i>
Community		NA	Dry Cliff	Dry cliff
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
~Frog		SC/H	Pickereel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>
Community		NA	Pine Relict	Pine relict
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird		THR	Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
Mammal		SC/N	Franklin's Ground Squirrel	Spermophilus franklinii
Turtle		END	Ornate Box Turtle	Terrapene ornata

(T6N R5E (includes part of Brigham Township

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Leafhopper		END	Red-tailed Prairie Leafhopper	Aflexia rubranura
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii
Plant		SC	Prairie Indian-plantain	Arnoglossum plantagineum
Plant		THR	Woolly Milkweed	Asclepias lanuginosa
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	Asclepias purpurascens
Bird		THR	Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda
Bee		SC/N	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	Bombus affinis
Plant		END	Prairie Dunewort	Botrychium campestre
~Plant		END	Smooth-sheathed Sedge	Carex laevivaginata
Plant	SOC	THR	Hill's Thistle	Cirsium hillii
~Plant		THR	White Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium candidum
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Community		NA	Dry-mesic Prairie	Dry-mesic prairie
Plant		THR	Pale Purple Coneflower	Echinacea pallida
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens
Snail		THR	Wing Snaggletooth	Gastrocopta procera
Snail		THR	Cherrystone Drop	Hendersonia occulta
Leafhopper		SC/N	A Leafhopper	Kansendria kansiensis
Bird	SOC	END	Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus
Plant	LT	END	Prairie Bush Clover	Lespedeza leptostachya
~Frog		SC/H	Pickerel Frog	Lithobates palustris

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Community		NA	Mesic Prairie	Mesic prairie
Plant		SC	Prairie Turnip	Pediomelum esculentum
Plant		SC	Prairie Fame-flower	Phemeranthus rugospermus
Plant		END	Rough Rattlesnake-root	Prenanthes aspera
~Plant		END	Nodding Rattlesnake-root	Prenanthes crepidinea
Moth		SC/N	Leadplant Flower Moth	Schinia lucens
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea
Bird		THR	Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
Butterfly		END	Regal Fritillary	Speyeria idalia
Bird		SC/M	Western Meadowlark	Sturnella neglecta
Bird		THR	Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii

(T6N R6E (Blue Mounds Township

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Leafhopper		END	Red-tailed Prairie Leafhopper	Aflexia rubranura
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii
Plant		SC	Prairie Indian-plantain	Arnoglossum plantagineum
Plant		THR	Woolly Milkweed	Asclepias lanuginosa
Plant		END	Purple Milkweed	Asclepias purpurascens
Bird		SC/M	Long-eared Owl	Asio otus
Bird		THR	Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda
Plant		END	Prairie Dunewort	Botrychium campestre
~Plant		SC	Drooping Sedge	Carex prasina
Plant	SOC	THR	Hill's Thistle	Cirsium hillii
Community		NA	Dry Prairie	Dry prairie
Bird		THR	Acadian Flycatcher	Empidonax virescens
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Plant		SC	Twinleaf	Jeffersonia diphylla
Leafhopper		SC/N	A Leafhopper	Kansendria kansiensis
Leafhopper		SC/N	A Leafhopper	Laevicephalus vannus
Bird	SOC	END	Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus
Plant	LT	END	Prairie Bush Clover	Lespedeza leptostachya
True Bug		SC/N	A Planthopper	Myndus ovatus
Plant		SC	Prairie Turnip	Pediomelum esculentum
Plant		SC	Broad Beech Fern	Phegopteris hexagonoptera
Snake		SC/P	Gophersnake	Pituophis catenifer
Leafhopper		SC/N	A Leafhopper	Prairiana cinerea
Plant		SC	Heart-leaved Skullcap	Scutellaria ovata ssp. ovata
Bird		THR	Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea
Community		NA	Southern Dry-mesic Forest	Southern dry-mesic forest
Community		NA	Southern Mesic Forest	Southern mesic forest
Butterfly		END	Regal Fritillary	Speyeria idalia
~Snake		SC/H	Plains Gartersnake	Thamnophis radix
Bird		THR	Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii

(T6N R7E (Springdale Township)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii
Plant		SC	Wilcox's Panic Grass	Dichanthelium wilcoxianum
~Turtle		SC/P	Blanding's Turtle	Emydoidea blandingii
Plant		SC	Prairie Turnip	Pediomelum esculentum

(T5N R2E (includes parts of Linden and Mineral Point Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
~Frog		END	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	Acris blanchardi
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii
~Fish		THR	Ozark Minnow	Notropis nubilus
~Fish		END	Slender Madtom	Noturus exilis

(T5N R3E (includes parts of Dodgeville and Mineral Point Townships

<i>Group</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>WI Status</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bird	SOC	THR	Henslow's Sparrow	Ammodramus henslowii
Bird		THR	Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda
Plant		THR	Pale Purple Coneflower	Echinacea pallida
~Fish		END	Slender Madtom	Noturus exilis
Plant		SC	Pale Beardtongue	Penstemon pallidus

.WI Status: Protection category designated by the DNR

;END = endangered

;THR = threatened

.SC = special concern*

;SC/P = fully protected

;SC/N = no laws regulating use, possession, or harvesting

;SC/H = take regulated by establishment of open closed seasons

.SC/M = fully protected by federal and state laws under the Migratory Bird Act

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and federal regulations regarding special concern species* range from full protection to no protection. Special concern species are those species about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proved. The main purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they become threatened or endangered

Federal Status: Federal protection status designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program indicating the biological status of a species in Wisconsin

;LT = listed threatened

SOC = species of concern*

Federal species of concern are those species that may be in need of concentrated conservation actions,* which vary depending on the health of the populations and degree and types of threats. They receive no legal protection and are not necessarily species that will eventually be proposed for listing as threatened or endangered

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: Jon Lewis

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:

I understand the requirement to show two different corridors, but it would seem obvious that following an existing line & leveraging 18151 would make the most sense. I have property in Arena Township & to have a power line go through my property would be devastating & would have a huge financial impact on us. I would ask that you strongly consider using an already established route down the 18151 corridor so that you impact the fewest number of landowners.

From: CAROL LIND
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments - CHC High Voltage Transmission Line
Date: Monday, January 02, 2017 2:30:23 PM

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 attended the scoping meeting held by the RUS in Middleton, WI. At this meeting I got the impression that the primary question the EIS would assess is which of the currently proposed routes for the transmission line would be preferable. To fairly evaluate this project and fulfill the obligations of the RUS, the EIS needs to address a much broader range of questions.

1. Is another high-voltage transmission line needed at all?

- Today, demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. The project proponents are relying on outdated industry forecasts of steadily increasing demand that have proven to be inaccurate for this region. The RUS should use current demand data for the region and look at new electricity generation sources that are being built and planned.
- In addition, would the proposed open-access transmission line actually meet the purpose of helping move wind energy or helping Midwest states meet Renewable Portfolio Standards as *vaguely* claimed by its developers?

2. Are there reasonable alternatives?

- This cannot become a false choice between building this transmission line and doing nothing at all. The proponents appear to analyze each alternative one at a time without considering the more likely scenario of a combined approach. Can a combination of non-transmission alternatives—new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response—meet whatever needs actually exist? Could less damaging transmission alternatives—upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines, or routing a higher-voltage line outside the Driftless Area—satisfy any genuine demand requirements?

3. What damage might be done to vital conservation and natural resource values?

- A large project like this can have devastating effects on natural resources in an area as critical and fragile as the Driftless Area and the national wildlife refuge. The EIS must analyze and evaluate:
 - Impacts on the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
 - Impacts on the Military Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity, Governor Dodge State Park, Pecatonica State Trail, and other special natural resource features
 - Impacts on aesthetics and recreation values throughout the area
 - Impacts on waterways and wetlands
 - Impacts on forested areas
 - Impacts on conservation lands
 - Impacts on archaeological and historic sites
 - Impacts on eagles and other migratory birds
 - Impacts on endangered, threatened, or protected species

Those impacts and others should be assessed, not just for the proposed project, but for any and all reasonable alternatives. And, in each case, the EIS should identify and fairly evaluate the effectiveness of possible mitigation efforts.

4. What might be the negative economic impacts?

- The EIS must address the potential economic impacts on ratepayers, on tourism and

recreation, on farm and other business operations, and on property values.

5. What are the potential cumulative impacts?

I can speak personally to some of the impact that the proposed line could have on my small corner of the Driftless Area. My family owns almost 200 acres just North of the intersection of State Rd. 23 and Cty. ZZ in Iowa County, WI. The proposed Northern route for the line goes right by/over our property. We are working on our land to return what we can to its natural state through prairie and oak savannah restoration. We have had a series of grants under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Landowner Incentive Program. The goal of the LIP is “to help private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/lip.html>

I trust that the RUS will work with the Wisconsin DNR to get the full list of such projects throughout the Driftless, including the results of bird, reptile, snail and other surveys they have done in the area. At the open house I was asked to send in all of the details of my project and to ask my neighbors to do the same. It would seem to be much more efficient and complete for the RUS to work with the Wisconsin DNR to get a comprehensive list of projects and survey results. Nevertheless, I will mention that a number of species of bird in particular have been documented on our land, including the following identified by the Wisconsin DNR as 2017 “species of greatest conservation need” – Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush.

I will also take a moment to mention our neighbors – Grass Dairy and Uplands Cheese Company. The proposed Northern route goes right through the dairy farm and creamery. You can find more information on them at the following: <https://www.uplandscheese.com>

Upland Cheese’s Pleasant Ridge Reserve is America’s most awarded cheese, having won Best of Show in the American Cheese Society’s annual competition three times (2001, 2005 and 2010), and having also won the US Cheese Championships in 2003. It is the only cheese to have won Best of Show three times, and the only cheese to have ever won both of the major, national cheese competitions. It also made the finals of the World Championship Cheese Contest this past year. Uplands Cheese Company was named one of Martha Stewart’s 2016 American Makers. <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/2016/11/03/wisconsin-cheesemaker-andy-hatch-honored-2016-martha-stewart-american-maker/93230280/>. The families who run the operation are featured in this month’s Martha Stewart Living magazine.

I recite all of these awards so that you can better understand how the very local impact of the proposed transmission line impacts all of Wisconsin and beyond. The construction of the proposed line, along with the large structures, management of the associated easements and potential stray voltage issues will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the herd and ultimately the cheese. This award-winning cheese, along with the future of family farmers, is dependent on the health of the herd and flavor of its milk, which is in turn dependent on the health and mix of the grass on which it feeds.

The negative impacts of transmission lines on agricultural lands and livestock are acknowledged. <http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric10.pdf>. In this case, the negative impacts go beyond the milk directly to the cheese operation. During construction, some paddocks would be lost and others could be damaged due to resulting overgrazing. The

cows may also be disturbed by the construction process. This could negatively impact milk production and flavor and, ultimately, cheese production and potentially taste and reputation. Longer term impacts to the herd and the cheese are also possible. Please consider this full economic impact when putting together the EIS.

The environmental impact, as well as the negative aesthetic and economic impact of the line, will be felt just a few miles South of us at Governor Dodge State Park. It could also negatively impact the impressive cycling terrain, which in turn negatively impacts area economics. You will note that a number of the bicycling loops identified for the 2016 Olympics bid would be bisected by the proposed lines.

http://www.cyclesouthwestwisconsin.com/images/loops/Bike_Routes_flat2.pdf

There are a number of loops right by our property that are also used for annual cycling events such as the Dairyland Dare, Horribly Hilly Hundreds and Wright Stuff Century.

<https://www.dairylanddare.com> <http://www.horriblyhilly.com/index.htm>

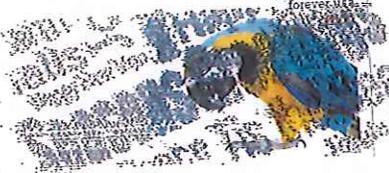
<http://wrightstuffcentury.com>

These are just some of the potential impacts of the proposed line - the ones that I can see from my front door. These stories undoubtedly repeat themselves along the full length of the proposed line. Please consider these negative impacts as a whole, along with the full combination of alternatives and actual demand, in making your assessment.

CAROL LIND

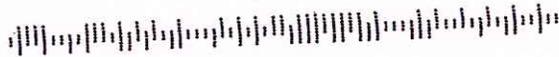


Matt & Joyce Link



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JAN 05 2017

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



Last Name Link First Name Joyce & Matt

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street 

City 

Notify/update me via 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

Joyce C Link

Date

12/17/16

Name ~~Link~~ Link First Name Joyce

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek

[] Individual Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

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

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email (Yes) No

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 13+ 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	
Effects on My Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals		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	
Effects on My Livestock		Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	
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

We live in a very special area of Dane County. It's a nature lovers' region, including trout streams, parks, & wildlife areas. With all of the urban sprawl around Madison, we need to be conscientious of preserving this area of Dane Co. Town of Vermont

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

If we focus on local energy, small businesses would have a stronger impact, employing people who live in the area, rather than money being pulled out of the community & pocketed by corporations that have no local

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) Location by Municipality

The health impacts are a great concern. I feel that renewable energy, generated locally, has less impact on not only the health of people, but also animals & plants that thrive in this area

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 Joyce C. Smith Date 1/2/17

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

Last Name Lisse First Name Linda

EIS Scoping Input
 Cardinal Hickory Creek
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 100 Bursca Drive suite 207
 Ridgeville, PA 15017
 Scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 14 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 <u>Property Value</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of <u>Environmental Assets</u>	<input 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 <u>Rising Energy Costs</u>	<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 type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on <u>Raptors & Waterfowl</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on <u>Surface & Ground Water</u>	<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
We are concerned about land fragmentation.	
We are concerned about the use of herbicides.	
We are concerned about high voltage electromagnetic pollution.	Town of Arena
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
Our property values will plummet.	Town of Arena
Our rates will skyrocket of with this unnecessary line/project.	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
Why use taxpayer dollars to incentivize utilities to invest in an energy model that is outdated. Renewables are the future.	Town of Arena

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 Linda R Lisse Date 12/6/16

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

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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

Comments:

I am attending this scoping meeting because it is doubtful that this project is needed. The future energy model will not be supplied by fossil fuels piped on high voltage lines. Communities will produce energy on homes using renewables. These lines are already obsolete and burden ~~to~~ ratepayers for 40 years, while they builders (ATC et. all) are guaranteed a 10% annual return.

We own 60 acres near the northern proposed route. The line would cut across pristine land and fragment ~~our~~ parcel. We have many species of birds, turtles, and frogs that we are concerned about. We have a pond and a spring too. A powerline of this magnitude has no place cutting across virgin land.

Why are we using taxpayer dollars to incentivize utilities to invest in projects that will make our rates higher? We have the highest rates in the midwest. Please do your job for the environmental impact statement and make sure that includes a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives. (as required by NEPA code).

Thank you,

please include me ~~to include~~ by sending a copy of your draft environmental impact statement.

From: Patty Lucas
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: NO to high voltage transmission lines
Date: Saturday, November 19, 2016 11:09:43 AM

Dear ATC,

I am writing to voice my concern and fear of this proposal. I can't imagine the very idea of allowing high voltage transmission lines to cross one of the most beautiful and valued areas in this country.

The Driftless area is special and prized by many and not only those that reside here.

And the very idea that my utility rates will rise without any service in return is preposterous. We know only the ATC shareholders will be winners. And they will take their money and buy some quiet little place with beautiful rolling hills, majestic river bluffs and abundant wildlife and you can bet there will be no **17 STORY HIGH VOLTAGE** power lines in sight!

I am in the process of alerting all my neighbors of this losing proposition for us all.

Sincerely,
Patty Lucas
Dodgeville WI

From: [Patty Lucas](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: High voltage transmission lines
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 8:15:22 AM

The driftless area in the southwest part of the state of Wisconsin is found in no other part of this country. To deface this delicate area with 17 story high voltage transmission lines is just plain wrong.

In addition I, as a resident of this area and close to one proposed line, do not want to pay higher utility rates to support these lines; the demand for electricity is flat.

And the very idea of running these structures across the Mississippi River is unbelievable!

I am completely against these structures.

Patty Lucas
Dodgeville WI



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

high tension lines

2 messages

Patty Lucas [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Thu, Jan 5, 2017 at 8:46 PM

There are too many unanswered questions concerning construction of the high voltage transmission lines through southwestern Wisconsin. Is there truly a need for it ? Will it serve the people whose property it will cross? Will compensation be fair ? What will it do to the wildlife of the area? Wouldn't it make more sense to develop more solar and wind energy? Will these towers affect my cell phone or radio reception? What do our elected officials think of this program ? I moved here to get away from man made structures. This area is beautiful, don't mess it up ! I am totally against this proposed project !

John Kevin Lord
Dodgeville, WI.

Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>
To: Adrian Hogel <AHogel@swca.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 2:50 PM

[Quoted text hidden]



Mr David Lucey
[Redacted]
05 JAN 2017 11:53



RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

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

145357



Last Name lucey First Name David

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [Redacted]
City [Redacted]

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: the line will travel down the Black Earth Creek for several miles. This will affect the trout fishing experience and plans for a neighborhood bike trail planned to extend from Middleton to Sauk Mazomanie to Sauk City
Signature David Lucey Date Jan 3, 2017

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 Kritz



Last Name Lyonhart First Name Margo

EIS Scoping Input

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

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Or scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

Years of residence in area: 1 1/2 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, <u>animals</u> , <u>plants</u> , 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, <u>health conditions</u>)	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 Margo H. Lyonhart MARGO LYONHART Date 11/26/2016

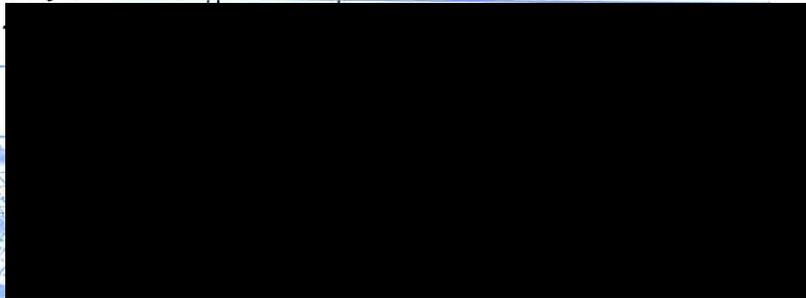
I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

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,



Last Name Maerz First Name Nick

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street _____

City _____

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
 Bridgeville, PA 15017
 Or scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

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

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

Loss of Property Value	Loss of Environmental Assets	Loss of Tourism Related Business
Loss of Business Income	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
Effects on My Personal Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	Conflicts with My Energy Goals
Effects on Others Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	Compromises on Local Economy
Effects on My Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	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
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. 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 [Signature]

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.

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: regarding the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Date: Friday, December 30, 2016 4:03:06 PM

As a resident and landowner in Iowa county, I feel compelled to comment regarding the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line. Regardless of whether the line approximates our property, I am opposed to its construction for a number of reasons.

What is the real need for a new transmission line? This has not be adequately presented or defending considering flat or declining electrical demand. Nor has adequate consideration be given to alternate renewable (clean) energy sources such as wind or power to offset any future demand. Has due consideration been given to local generation of clean energy and energy conservation to meet future demands? Is the transmission line really necessary to meet demand or is it a method for concerned commercial interests to justify raising rates and increasing profits?

What is the effect of a high voltage transmission line on the environment? Never mind the visual pollution of large towers interrupting the pristine landscape of the Driftless Area, but what is the direct and indirect effect of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF's) carried in these lines. It is well established that radiation of the magnetic waves generated by high voltage transmission lines has a deleterious effect on the flora and fauna in close proximity to these lines. Has due consideration been given to the direct effect of this radiation on wildlife and domesticated animals that may stray into the vicinity of these EMF's, let alone the effect on human beings that are exposed to this radiation? Further, what about the direct loss of habitat for wild animals by the presence of transmission lines, the disruption of conservation areas, degradation of streams, wetlands and waterways? How does the presence of EMF's disrupt the migratory pattern of birds and animals?

I realize that I have raised my objection to the high voltage transmission line and then listed a series of unanswered or inadequately answered questions. But these questions have a direct impact on the advisability of this construction project.

Paul Manley DVM, MSc, DACVS
McManus Veterinary Specialists LLC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

December 17, 2016

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

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dorothy Martin. I grew up in Illinois at the edge of the southern tip of the Driftless Area. My husband (deceased) was a veteran. His military career took me to all parts of the world and I ended up in California. My heart belongs in the Midwest.

My sister lives in rural Southwest Wisconsin. I have been searching for a home in this beautiful native countryside, the Driftless Area. Recently I have heard about the ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line project.

One of the suggested routes of this transmission line runs through the property of the family home of my sister. This horrific monstrosity would destroy the aesthetics of this natural landscape of pristine prairies, woodlands, and rugged bluffs, never disturbed by glacial activity. Habitats for thousands of wild animals would be obliterated.

I feel it is an abomination to scathe the natural beauty of Wisconsin. I have delayed my home search until I hear exactly where this line will ravage the land as any real estate would be devalued immediately.

Please do your best to alter your plans of crossing the Driftless Area and develop a source of power nearest the areas that need it. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,
Dorothy Martin

From: [RODERICK J. MATTHEWS](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Re: Norwegian Hollow Road
Date: Saturday, November 05, 2016 10:19:12 AM

My wife and I own 92 acres on the north side of Norwegian Hollow Road which appears to be smack dab in the middle of the proposed rural alternate siting for the new transmission lines. The land has been in the family for about 50 years.

We can't imagine a greater environmental travesty than to site the lines through such beautiful land instead along 18&151.

Roderick J. Matthews

Last Name MAYHEW First Name LAWRENCE

[] Individual [x] Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

EIS Scoping Input

Mail to: 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: 37 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONER, CO-AUTHORED TOWN MASTER PLAN, LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE, LAND USE POLICY SIGN ORDINANCE PLAN

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

Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rising Energy Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Others Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rare & Endangered Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
my Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raptors & Waterfowl	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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
<i>The proposal violates the Town of Wyoming Land Use Policy Plan adopted by Town Ordinance 6-13-1989, negatively impacting standards for Environmental Protection, Town Character, Agricultural and Commercial Developments. Written impact statements are required for Town review. (attached)</i>	Wyoming, Wi
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
	Wyoming, Wi
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
	Wyoming, Wi

RECEIVED
 JAN 09 2017

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 Lawrence Mayhew 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.

June 20, 1989

LAND USE POLICY PLAN
TOWN OF WYOMING

Prepared by

Town of Wyoming
Planning Commission

with assistance from

Vandewalle & Associates
Madison, Wisconsin
608/255-3988

- PUBLIC HEARING
5/20/89
- ADOPTED AT TOWN
BOARD MEETING
6/13/89

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I. INTRODUCTION

For many years the Wyoming Town Board felt the need for guidance and long range continuity in land use decisions. Indiscreet land division was occurring as a result of land speculation driving land values up and increasing property taxes. With no guidelines or town ordinances, land development progressed with little or no concern for the impact on agricultural and natural resources.

With the number of family farms rapidly decreasing, the scenic qualities of this unique area threatened, residents became concerned about the future of Wyoming Township.

In 1984 the Town Planning Committee was formed. A township planning survey was drafted, distributed and analyzed. The results of the survey emphasized the need for planning and have guided the development of this long range plan.

II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Protect the lands suited for agricultural use in the Town so that the family farm and the Town's distinctive rural character and economic base may be preserved.
2. Provide for orderly growth and development of the Town by limiting residential development to densities and in locations that are best suited to preserving the Town's distinctive rural character.
3. Ensure the adequate provision of necessary public services by encouraging development which will not over burden the Town's capacity to provide such services.
- ✓ 4. Protect the natural, scenic, historical and cultural resources of the town by guiding development to those areas which are most suitable for development.
- ✓ 5. Discourage development in the floodland, shoreland, steep slopes and wetland areas of the Town in order to prevent servicing, developmental and environmental problems.
6. Achieve good soil and water conservation practices, reduce runoff erosion and stream, lake and ground water pollution.

III. POLICIES, STANDARDS & CRITERIA

1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LAND USE POLICIES

- A. Recognize the fact that lowlands, floodplains and wetlands are sensitive environmental features and are extremely important in preserving groundwater quality.
- B. Wetland and floodplain areas shall not be altered unless such alteration would result in an enhancement of the natural resources being disturbed. Recognize that these environmentally sensitive areas have soils with a limited capability of supporting development.
- C. Recognize that steep and/or wooded slopes are extremely sensitive environmental features that are vital in maintaining wildlife in the Town. Development including roadways, driveways and buildings on steep slopes should be avoided to minimize soil erosion, disruption of important wildlife habitat and to keep maintenance costs for foundations, roads, utilities and waste disposal systems to a minimum.
- D. Recognize that ridge tops are important groundwater recharge areas. Concentrated sources of pollution such as landfills and truck yards will not be allowed in these areas.
- E. Recognize that while flat valley bottoms are often the most desirable areas for new development, these areas frequently contain highly productive and irreplaceable agricultural soils. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that development occurs on the least productive valley soils.
- F. Recognize that sensitive environmental features such as lowlands, floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes are extremely important in helping to define the distinctive character and scenic beauty of the Town.
- G. Construction practices that will protect surface water quality from siltation and pollution shall be required. This includes minimizing soil erosion both during and after construction.
- H. The Township will require all proposed public recreational development to conform to all of the policies and performance standards in the Land Use Policy Plan, particularly those aimed at protecting the agricultural character and farm vitality of the community.
- I. The Township intends to cooperate with and promote measures of erosion control recommended by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

- A ~~X~~ No development or other destrutuve activities will be allowed in the wetland, floodplain and steep sloped areas of the Town.
- B ~~2~~ Lots created in the Town should be configured to respect the natural land forms and woodlands so that the natural system is respected.
- C ~~3~~ Construction of driveways and houses in the Town should be designed to minimize the removal of trees and other natural vegetation.
- D ~~A~~ Fit development and roads to the natural features of the site to preserve features such as topography, vegetative cover and the natural drainage system.
- E ~~5~~ All new development, including single family residences, shall be required to strictly adhere to stormwater control and erosion control practices as prescribed by Soil Conservation Service reviews and publications.
- F ~~6~~ For all new development in the town, surface water run-off should be minimized and detained on-site if possible or practicable. If it is not possible to detain water on site, down stream improvements to the channel may be required of the developer to prevent flooding caused by the project. The natural state of water courses, swales, floodways or right-of-way shall be maintained as nearly as possible. The design period is the 50 year storm.

2. TOWN CHARACTER

LAND USE POLICIES

- A. Recognize the critical role that farmland, open space, historical architecture, scenic vistas, landscapes and riverscapes, natural resources and designated features, scenic roads, the Wisconsin River, Taliesin, The House on the Rock and archeological and cultural features play in defining and enhancing the Town's distinctive rural character.
- B. Require new development in the Preservation District(s) to be harmonious with the surrounding natural landscape. This includes building set backs, color and materials and location of parking, signage and landscaping.
- C. Recognize that the Wisconsin River is a major natural resource which helps define the Town's distinctive character. Scenic vistas of the Wisconsin River should be preserved through scenic easements and building practices which do not diminish the quality of the vistas.
- D. Preserve natural roadside vegetation on scenic roads within the Town.
- E. Use natural or traditional colors and materials when building along or in the view of scenic roads.

- F. A sign ordinance shall be adopted and enforced to help preserve the visual quality of the Town.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

- A 1. All new development along or within the viewshed of scenic roads and within the Preservation District(s) should be designed to blend in with natural appearances with regard to building design and appearance, driveway construction, grading, etc.
- B 2. Within the preservation district, the Town should prohibit billboards and to the greatest extent possible, directional signage shall be designed to fit the natural character of the Town as it relates to materials, colors and lighting. Secondary signage not providing direction or advertising a primary business should be restricted.
- C 3. Because roadside trees are extremely important to the character of the Town, removal of trees must be minimized.
- D 4. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation should be involved in the preparation of design standards for signage to be applied within the boundaries of the Spring Green Golfcourse Sanitary District. Such standards should require all signage to be compatible with Prairie Style architecture so that the unique visual quality and historical character of this portion of this Town can be preserved and enhanced.

3. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE POLICIES

- A. In areas not lying within sanitary districts, the minimum lot size for new single family development in the town is 15 acres.
- B. All new driveways and access easements will require review and approval by the Town. Driveways must be constructed prior to commencing construction of any development activities.
- C. All new residential development, including access driveways, will be required to conform to the natural limitations presented by the topography, soils and vegetation of the land being developed.
- D. The Town will not accept the dedication or maintenance responsibility for any additional roads servicing residential development.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

1. New lots should be created by dividing land along natural boundaries such as hills and woods whenever possible.
2. When dividing a parcel of land, care should be taken so that road access to the remaining parcel is not cut off.
3. When building roads and driveways, avoid excessive cut and fill by working with the existing grade.
4. To preserve the visual quality and rural character of the Town, any new subdivisions on unwooded or highly exposed parcels of land should be approved on the condition that:
 - (a). Deed restrictions on each lot in the subdivision require the planting of deciduous and/or evergreen trees on each lot.
 - (b). A landscape zone should be planned into the development so that the visual quality of the Town is preserved.
5. Lots should be laid out, to the greatest extent feasible, to achieve the following objectives:
 - (a). On the most suitable soils for sub-surface septic disposals.
 - (b). On the least fertile soils for agricultural uses and in a manner which maximizes the useable area remaining for such agricultural use.
 - (c). In locations least likely to block or interrupt scenic vistas, as seen from the public roadway(s).
 - (d). To minimize conflict with agricultural activities.
6. Livestock other than domestic pets shall be kept on lots at least five acres in size to avoid conflicts with residential areas. The number of animal units should be governed by zoning standards that allow no more than one large sized animal (i.e. horse) for each two acres. In no case should there be more than 20 animals or fowl on a single lot unless the lot is more than 10 acres in size.
7. Overall residential density: 1 house per 40 acres.
8. Residential developments of more than one (1) single family home must have plans submitted to the Planning Commission for review and approval prior to construction or sale of individual lots. Plans must meet criteria (to be) established by the Planning Commission and (made) available to prospective developers. (Criteria might include: road widths, grades, locations, turn radii, driveway locations, cut and fill slope limits, maximum slopes etc.)

9. Minimum parcel size for AR-1: 15 acres.
10. Minimum platted parcel size for residential development for more than one (1) single family: 5 acres. Maximum density: 1 unit per acre. (Eg: 5 units could be built on parcel. Units could be clustered.)
11. Additional roads to service residential development: at expense of developer. Roads to Town standards but to remain private.
12. Proposed mobile homes: Permitted only in mobile home parks as defined in Wisconsin statutes. Park plans must be submitted to Planning Commission for review and approval prior to construction.
13. Buildings for recreation other than use as permanent dwellings may be reviewed and approved on a conditional basis. Single buildings shall meet criteria (to be) established by the Planning Commission. (Recreation development must have plans submitted for review and approval same as Item 8 above.)
14. Cluster platted or "Planned Complex Development" development minimizing adverse impacts on land, views, traffic, woods and scenic sites shall be encouraged. Overall density in Town shall be as in item 7 above. (Eg: Available house permits cannot exceed total Town acreage divided by 40. Variances may be granted to developments meeting criteria for minimizing adverse impacts.)
15. No more than two (2) dwelling units will be allowed to cluster with abutting parcels boundaries on a shared driveway on parcels of 40 acres or less.
16. The minimum parcel site for development will be 15 acres in conformance with all of the other policies and standards set forth in the Land Use Guide. All building parcels will be required to meet the land division requirements of the Town.

4. AGRICULTURE

LAND USE POLICIES

- A. Understand that farm economics are cyclical and that prime agriculture soils and major infrastructure (e.g. farm buildings) investments should be preserved for future agricultural use as much as possible.
- B. Encourage and protect agricultural operations as a primary land use in the Town.
- C. Recognize that cyclical and short term economic conditions related to agriculture are the greatest threat to long term farmland preservation.
- D. Allow opportunities for and encourage specialized forms of agriculture such as orcharding, truck farming, etc., as a way of preserving farmland.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

1. Development will not be permitted on productive farmlands having a history of farming activity (including cropland and pastureland) and/or lands containing prime farmland soils defined as Class I, II and III or as designated by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Farmland areas should be preserved in blocks as large as possible to ensure the economical use of the resource.
2. Development abutting active farm operations shall be fenced and contain set backs with the intent of reducing residential nuisance complaints that could limit agricultural practices.
3. Whenever possible, development in farmland areas should be limited to housing for owners/operators and their immediate family members.
4. Proposed developments shall be restricted to not less than 500 feet from any operating agricultural activity.
5. Farm-related housing shall occur on the least fertile soils for agricultural uses and in a manner which maximizes agricultural use of the remaining useable area.
6. New private driveways or roads shall not be permitted to cross or bisect productive farmlands unless aligned along existing lines, fences or appropriate natural features such as a stream.
7. Utility extensions (electric power lines, telephone lines, gas distribution lines) may not cross productive farmlands in a manner that will disrupt farming activities.
8. Certain large scale confinement or intensive farming operations as set forth in the definitions section shall be considered commercial.
9. Erosion control practices shall be encouraged in accordance with recommendations of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

5. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE POLICIES

- A. All commercial development shall be subject to review by the Town Planning Commission.
- B. Developers are required to submit written impact statements assessing their developments impact on farms, farmland, natural resources, scenic qualities, town roads, taxes and opportunities for employment.

- C. Strip commercial development along Highway 23 and County highways shall be discouraged. New commercial development should be clustered rather than "spot zoned."
- D. Highway commercial or tourist related commercial development should only be allowed in areas where they will not conflict with other land uses.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

- 1. All commercial development shall be subject to site plan and architectural review standards to be incorporated into the Town ordinance which considers parking, lighting, loading, building materials, landscaping, driveways, etc.
- 2. Cross easements allowing frontage road access between businesses will be encouraged so that clustering of commercial development can be facilitated.
- 3. The Town shall adopt a sign ordinance so that the visual quality of the community may be preserved. Billboards should be prohibited in the Preservation District and secondary signage not providing direction or advertising a primary business shall be prohibited.
- 4. Cottage industry will be permitted in any part of the Township

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. Town. The township of Wyoming, Iowa County, Wisconsin.
2. Strip Commercial Development. Two or more commercial parcels less than 1,200 feet apart.
3. Farm. Any tract of land consisting of one or more parcels devoted entirely to agricultural purposes, including, but not limited to the raising of domestic or other animals, the cultivation of land for raising crops, all under the direct management of the land owner or tenant.
4. Cottage Industry. A craft, art or small business based upon the family unit as the primary labor force in which workers using their own equipment at home, process goods which are sold in a market place away from the home. No commodities sold other than what is made on the premises. No retail sales to be made on the premises.
5. Family. Any number of individuals related by blood, adoption, or marriage, or not to exceed four persons not so related, living together on the premises as a single housekeeping unit, including any domestic servants.
6. Confinement Operations. Any farm operations confining more than 200 animal units as defined herein.
7. Farmland. Lands having a history of farming activity (including cropland and pastureland) or lands containing soils defined as Class I, II or III soils as designated in the Soil Survey Report for Iowa County prepared by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.
8. Animal Unit. One animal unit shall be defined as being equivalent to 1 cow, 4 hogs, 10 sheep, 10 goats, 100 poultry, 1 horse, or 1 pony.
9. Farm Unit. Farm buildings, structures and/or dwellings arranged in a cluster served by a common driveway and meeting the definition of farm herein provided.
10. Development. A change in land use.
11. Subdivision. The division of a lot, parcel, or tract of land by the owner thereof or the owner's agent for the purpose of transfer of ownership or building development where the act of division creates two or more parcels on building sites of five acres each or less in area or four or more parcels or building sites of less than 15 acres each in area or where the act of division creates two or more parcels on building sites of 5 acres each or less in area or four or more parcels on building sites of less than 15 acres each in area by successive division within a five year period.
12. Designated Feature. Any manmade or natural features which are recognized as important culturally, historically, or aesthetically by the local community.
13. Confinement. Enclosed in a building for a life cycle.

14. Preservation District. Those portions of the Town which shall be given special attention and control, as specified by ordinance.
15. Scenic Roadway. Natural scenery contributing to the rural atmosphere along any town thoroughfare, woodlands, hedgerow, marshes, streams, scenic areas and other resources as designated by the people of Wyoming Township, as specified by ordinance.

V. PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Permits and fees. The Planning Commission shall establish fees for reviewing plans and fees for permits. The fees shall be adequate to cover any expense the Town may incur in having the plans checked by consulting professionals as well as expense incurred by the Planning Commission and Board.
2. Variances may be applied for and granted by the Town Board after review and recommendation by the Planning Commission. Fees for this process shall be established to cover any expense to the Town.
3. Enforcement. The Town Board shall establish an enforcement procedure as recommended by the Planning Commission.



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Dairyland Power Cooperative's application for RUS support.

2 messages

Michael McDermott [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Michael McDermott [REDACTED]
To: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Thu, Jan 5, 2017 at 12:47 PM

I am Michael McDermott. I live in Town of Vermont, Dane County, Wisconsin. I am the chair of the Vermont Citizens Powerline Action Committee, appointed as such by the Town chair.

I am concerned about many aspects of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line. My property is within the northern corridor of one of the two proposed routes for the line.

My concerns include the areas of a) property values; b) loss of endangered habits particularly those related to groundwater, wetlands and important creeks; c) impact on fish and plants in those areas; d) demonstration of need for the line; e) cost of the line for years to come; f) the line taking away resources of increasing energy efficiency, load management and local generation and distribution; g) impact on tourism and recreational activities in the area and finally the process which does not include any real analysis of non-transmission alternatives given that all such analyses are presumed to be within the transmission based paradigm.

This last dooms any consideration of such alternatives. In discussion with principals of Dairyland Power Cooperative, SWCA, and RUS there was admission that all considerations were based on acceptance of transmission dominant analysis. Modeling and all other analyses were based on this acceptance. Resources and expertise are not planned for non-transmission alternatives outside of this paradigm and as above this is acknowledged in all "town hall" and scoping meetings held to date.

The only analysis that supports need is that done based on MISO's figures, other estimates do not support this need and when the same resources are put into non-transmission alternatives these support both sufficient supply and more than adequate use. Electricity demand growth is near flat and contradicts MISO's figures and does not support the need for the line.

The proposed northern route cuts through valuable wetlands along Hwy F between south of the intersection of F and FF and north of the DNR designated fishing area near Swetler Road. Though for the moment the area of the Pleasant Valley conservancy has been excluded in the most recent version the wetland west of PVC in the area described is directly in the route. This is an extensive wetland of many hundreds of acres and is wider than the maximum distance between transmission towers thus requiring placement of towers within the wetland itself. There are many endangered and threatened species in this area including purple milkweed, glade mallow, and woodland boneset. The wetland feeds Elver's Creek which then goes into East Blue Mounds Creek and into Black Earth Creek, a class one trout stream.

Property values near or even some distance from the line. Neighbors have been told by their realtors that in planning to sell they must disclose the planned line and have been warned that this will lower the potential sale price.

The area is important to local tourism and activities as motor cycle and bicycling. These would be impacted by the line. The line will increase utility bills for years to come for no real benefit except to the investors.

For these reasons the line not only should not go through the Town of Vermont but should not be built at all. Almost all of these points also apply to the southern route proposed for the line. Cost, need, dismissal of alternatives, and impact on property values clearly apply regardless of specific route.

In particular the RUS should not support the application of Dairyland Power Cooperative for load support for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael McDermott
Vermont Citizens Powerline Action Committee

Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>
To: Adrian Hogel <AHogel@swca.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 2:46 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

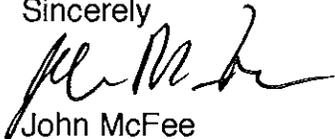
RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

1/5/2017

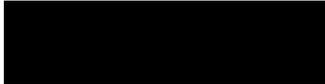
TO: SWCA Environmental Consultants
200 Bursca Drive
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA

As a landowner in Dane County's Town of Vermont, Dane County, Wisconsin, I would like to register our opposition to the proposed American Transmission Company (ATC) power-line route that would run through a portion of our township. I oppose the lines in general and have not seen a needs assessment or environment impact of the proposed new power lines. If the needs assessment and environmental impact review can justify the implementation, I would strongly urge that they are built along the Highway 18-151 corridor. This would minimize the impact to an already disrupted area and would allow for less environmental impact to service and maintain the system.

Sincerely



John McFee



From: Aaron McGee
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Proposed power lines
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 8:40:28 PM

I am writing concerning the proposed power line from Dubuque area to Middleton area (Cardinal Hickory Creek).

I am opposed to the two routes shown on maps.

While I'm normally in favor of high voltage lines running along existing highways (since highways are already ugly and minimal environmental damage will occur by locating lines along such road corridors), in this instance I'm against it.

Highway 18/151 runs along an unusually high ridge and you can see for miles to the north and south. It would be a shame to add highly visible power lines to this scenic and historic route. Military Ridge, as it is known, should be free of this sort of ugliness.

The second option running through the beautiful hills and valleys between Hwy 14 and Dodgeville is equally disturbing. It is a highly desirable part of the county in it's natural and touristic state. Running power lines so close to Governor Dodge State Park is a big mistake. It would be visible from the whole area and detract from the natural aesthetic that draws thousands of tourists.

If the lines are even necessary, which is not convincingly the case, an alternative, less attractive route would be better.

For example, the lines could run due east along Highway 11 and then northward along Hwy 69/PB corridor toward Middleton. This route consists mostly of large corporate farms on relatively flat land. It's much less beautiful, less natural, and not used nearly as much by tourists.

Please consider this route and not the norther routes as proposed.

Thank you,
Aaron McGee

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"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."  
Mahatma Gandhi.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS: I stand for beauty  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 27, 2016 4:28:38 PM

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My concerns about the proposed new power line are those of a long-term Wisconsin resident who considers the Driftless region the most beautiful part of our state.

I leave it to others to stress the lack of need for this costly transmission project and the reasons to prefer other, most cost-effective means to meet electrical demand. I agree with their points.

What grieves me most about this project is how ugly the power lines would be. I have seen similar towers in western Wisconsin and on a trip returning to the Madison area from up north. At present ATC towers are being constructed through my Town of Middleton neighborhood. I see other towers every time I am on Madison's Beltline. There are already more than enough unsightly, huge towers crossing Wisconsin's landscape.

The proposed corridors lie completely within the Driftless Area, our very special scenic landscape. The region is acknowledged as important by the four states involved, which have designated it a region of critical conservation opportunity and concern. Personally I love to spend time enjoying its hills, valleys, watersheds, and wildlife.

To me it would be a tragedy to run huge power lines through the area. The proposed routes would mar vistas from many special natural areas, such as the Black Earth Creek Watershed, Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Governor Dodge State Park, Blue Mounds State Park, and/or the Mississippi River, plus other State Natural Areas, restored prairies, restored oak savannas, and watersheds.

I use Pleasant Valley Conservancy as one illustrative example of my opinion. The Conservancy is on my favorite bicycling route, which often involves a stop there for a walk up to the ridge top. The private landowners have worked strenuously for almost 20 years to restore a native oak savanna landscape on their property, which is open to the public and protected by a conservation easement. After all that effort and expense, after so much native beauty has been restored, it would be a tragedy to run huge power lines near this property.

I stand for beauty. The human soul needs beauty, although all too often our species creates ugly things like power lines. I advocate for preservation of the aesthetic character of the Driftless Area.

Nancy McGill  
[REDACTED]

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:

*Michael McGowan*

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**

RECEIVED  
NOV 21 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.

**Comments:**

The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project cannot be anywhere near Seven Seeds Farm in Spring Green, WI. It would cause irreparable harm to the farm, which prides itself on being organic, natural, and restorative. Seven Seeds Farm provides healthy, organic food and grass-fed beef to the community, and it also provides tours to school children and adults who want to learn more about organic farming. We need to protect and support businesses like Seven Seeds Farm, not destroy them with high voltage power lines. This cannot be allowed to happen.

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)

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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: Renee McGowan

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.

RECEIVED  
NOV 21 2016

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

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**Comments:**

I feel very strongly that the high voltage power lines would be devastating to Seven Seeds Farm in Spring Green, WI. Seven Seeds Farm is an organic, seven-generation farm. They believe in restorative and regenerative agriculture, and having high voltage power lines on or near the farm would be detrimental and cause permanent damage to the farm. We need more organic, sustainable farms in our country, and allowing the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project anywhere near the farm would be terrible for the farm and the community. Please do not allow this to happen.

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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)

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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:

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Organization (if any):

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Address:

---

City/State/Zip:

---

Email address:

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# Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

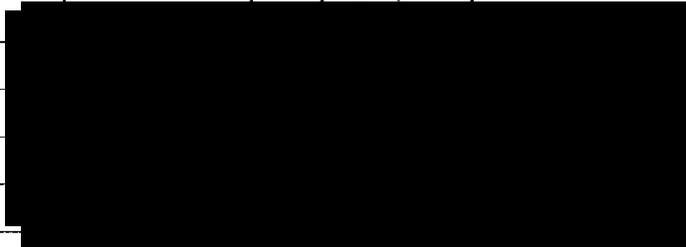
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## Comments:

Not enough notice for this meeting!

Please send a 1st Class mailing to  
-township residents, and town government  
officials about these meetings.

Katie McGrath



Schedule another properly notified  
meeting!

Thank you.

**From:** Katie McGrath  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** EIS Scoping Input Comments  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 9:28:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [EIS Scoping Input072.pdf](#)  
[Untitled attachment 00767.htm](#)

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Last Name McGrath First Name Katie

EIS Scoping Input  
Cardinal Hickory Creek  
PSCW Docket 05CE146

Individual  Family  Business  Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]  
City [REDACTED]

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

Years of residence in area: 25 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>Ridgeway Township provides high-quality habitat for threatened, endangered, and SOC species. Many reside on my 39 acre farm. I have spent 25 years cultivating these habitats and this proposed Transmission line (un-needed) will negatively impact these habitats. I have been cultivating Henslow Sparrow habitat for 25 years.</u> | <u>Ridgeway Township</u>  |
| Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Town located in           |
| <u>Our area derives much of its income on revenues generated by tourism. Tourists come here because of the unique and beauty and singular geologic makeup of our area. The proposed transmission line will change the scenic beauty of this area and threaten the economic viability of businesses and individuals who reside here.</u>   | <u>Ridgeway, Township</u> |
| Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Town located in           |
| <u>The proposed Transmission line would destroy the cultural identity we have fought hard to preserve. There is no proven need for this line - no cost/benefit analysis by an independent agency.</u>                                                                                                                                     | <u>Ridgeway, Township</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 Katie McGrath Date 11/2/2016

# Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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## Comments:

Submitted by: Katie McGrath

Endangered or threatened species & habitat on my 89 acres that would be negatively impacted by the construction of CHC.

- Little Brown Bat
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Bull Snake
- Bob's Link
- Eastern Bluebird
- Purple Milkweed
- Prairie Milkweed
- Pale Purple Coneflower

We also have:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| - Bald Eagle         | Migratory Tundra Swans |
| - Harrier Hawk       | Sandhill Cranes        |
| - Red Tail Hawk      | Wild Turkey            |
| - Broad winged Hawk  | White Tail Deer        |
| - Kestrel            | Coyote                 |
| - Merlin             | Badger                 |
| - Shrike             |                        |
| - Sharp-shinned Hawk |                        |
| - Cooper's Hawk      |                        |
| - Black Bear         |                        |
| - Bobcat             |                        |
| - Flying Squirrel    |                        |

**From:** SHEILA M MCGUIRK  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project  
**Date:** Monday, January 02, 2017 6:23:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [CDCBDDDD-062F-43EF-9058-C6216A8FF350.png](#)  
[Cardinal-Hickory\\_Creek\\_Transmission\\_Comments\\_SMMcGuirk.docx](#)

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January 2, 2017

**Regarding:** Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project

**Comments Submitted By:** Sheila M. McGuirk



I am among many who question the need for the proposed Transmission Line Project. While I respect that energy needs are growing and that electricity is a valuable energy commodity, the need for clean, renewable, non-environmentally intrusive solutions must be a priority. My objections to the proposed project are the following:

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The need is ill-defined. Getting bigger, faster and more responsive are insufficient and short-sighted.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Alternative considerations for a need that is as yet ill-defined has not been satisfactorily explored. Alternatives and merged solutions, that are creative, productive, safe, environmentally responsible, and sustainable have not been forthcoming.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->The environmental impact on the Driftless Area, considered by many to be an environmental wonder to be cherished, preserved and nurtured, is largely negative in terms of water quality, wildlife habitat, fauna, flora and potentially climate.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->Electromagnetic field emissions have been shown to have immune consequences on people and increased mortality in reptile studies, all of which needs greater research before a project of this magnitude potentially magnifies a known health hazard.

In summary, if there is a truly credible need, a project like this must be presented along with alternatives or merged solutions that report comparative environmental impact on a very important and unique geographic area to Wisconsin. Give serious consideration to the negative impact on the health of wildlife, the safety of the residents near the proposed line, water quality and environmental destruction when weighing the value of just getting bigger and more powerful to satisfy the growing material needs of a select few.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously.

<!--[if !vml]-->  <!--[endif]-->

January 2, 2017

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**Comments Submitted By:** Sheila M. McGuirk



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Thank you for taking these concerns seriously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila M. McGuirk".

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**Comments Submitted By:** Sheila M. McGuirk



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- The environmental impact on the Driftless Area, considered by many to be an environmental wonder to be cherished, preserved and nurtured, is largely negative in terms of water quality, wildlife habitat, fauna, flora and potentially climate.
- Electromagnetic field emissions have been shown to have immune consequences on people and increased mortality in reptile studies, all of which needs greater research before a project of this magnitude potentially magnifies a known health hazard.

In summary, if there is a truly credible need, a project like this must be presented along with alternatives or merged solutions that report comparative environmental impact on a very important and unique geographic area to Wisconsin. Give serious consideration to the negative impact on the health of wildlife, the safety of the residents near the proposed line, water quality and environmental destruction when weighing the value of just getting bigger and more powerful to satisfy the growing material needs of a select few.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila M. McGuirk".

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** power lines  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 11:04:33 AM

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I was at the meeting in Dodgeville and much to my amazement the good turnout. Expressing my opinion, the north corridor (esp not knowing the exact lines) is as disturbing as I can think of If and only IF you have ever traveled the area. There already is enough power lines running through that whole north route that takes enough away from the natural state that it is in nonetheless add huge powerlines with hanging wires everywhere. I sit and think....is this what we pay people for to think of how to destroy what's left? Common sense has to tell some that the corridor along a 4 lane highway that has no beauty is the only way even if it costs more. But I'm more amazed that this is even a thought.....sometimes you have to do what's best for the area not the pocketbook!  
Wrote enough, hope good judgement is used not to use north route....can't even believe this was proposed!

Shawn McSherry

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** Windy Ridge Farm Inc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 12:02:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[Church.jpg](#)

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Windy Ridge Farm Inc. located at [REDACTED] would like to voice our concerns regarding the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. Based on the provided documentation at the latest Public Scoping Meetings, Windy Ridge Farm Inc. is well within the proposed corridor.

Following are reasons we oppose the transmission line within Windy Ridge Farm Inc. property:

Our property sits on one of the higher ridges in Dane County. You can be located on any site and will always have a view of the transmission line. We strongly believe this is an unfair and unwarranted request, on your part, that Windy Ridge Farm Inc. provide an easement for this powerline. Windy Ridge Farm Inc. has been required, on 3 separate occasions, to provide land to the DOT. Expansion of US Highway 18-151 has removed over 20 acres of land from our property.

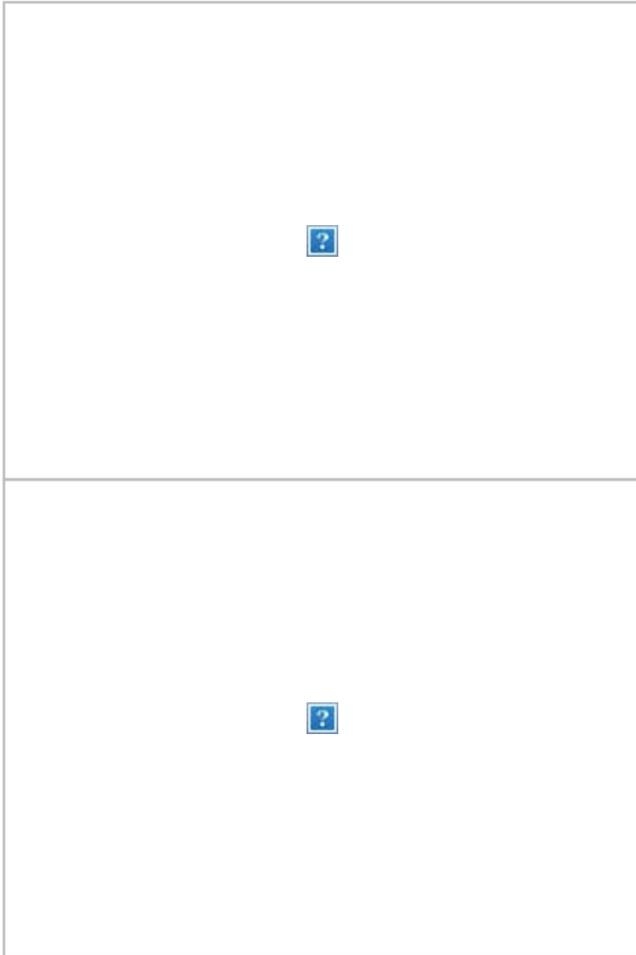
If you look at the proposed corridor, the Springdale Lutheran Church is located at the end our driveway, which is 70 ft. from our property. We cannot even think of having this powerline within viewing sight of this church. This historical church along with our house which was built in 1904 cannot and should not be subject to powerline polls which can reach 150 ft. or greater.

Throughout the existence of this property, a dairy operation has been present. Based on conversation with other dairy operations, your proposed transmission line is their biggest fear. At no time, is it a positive to have this type of electric power system be an everyday burden on animals, the family living and working on the farm along with the potential for decreased production or increased health issues.

Opposition is very strong, not only with Windy Ridge Farm Inc. but also all property owners within or remotely close to the proposed corridor. You have stated this project is considered a "Multi-Value Project" for delivering multiple benefits to electric customers across the Midwest Region. Our question is who's benefit are you really speaking of? Energy sources will be increasing from additional coal, gas and oil production, which will benefit our area. This line will only benefit consumers outside of our region!!

Finally, based on conversations with other property owners, we have yet to hear anyone feel they have been fully compensated for their land, view, and future value of the land. It has been documented, once the lines are in place, value of your property decreased 13 to 20%. In the case of Windy Ridge Farm Inc. the decrease in value is greater than 13 to 20% based on the historical site of the house and church. We all agree, if there is a new business venture or possible sale of the property, we would suffer a substantial decrease in the value of land and buildings. At present, Windy Ridge Farm Inc. has 5 additional building site splits available for sale. If this powerline would be built, there is a very strong possibility none of these sites would be purchased.

I am attaching/providing several pictures for your review. We all agree, there is no reason for the proposed transmission line to proceed within the Windy Ridge Farm Inc. property.





**From:** Susan Michmerhuizen  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** high voltage transmission lines  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 6:37:44 PM

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

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing about the high voltage transmission lines proposed in SW Wisconsin. I own a house on County Highway ZZ in Iowa County, Wisconsin, that is on one of the two proposed routes, and in fact if the land were to be taken by eminent domain, the house would likely come down as it is close to the road and would come within the sweep of the area taken 90 feet from the placement of the lines.

My personal loss would be considerable as this is my retirement setting, and I have groomed it for ten years to include an orchard, a garden, a prairie and a diverse woodlot. It abuts and overlooks Governor Dodge State Park, a 5000 acre park with three lakes and some spectacular geologic landscapes. My property, only 5.35 acres, slopes steeply down to the park boundary line where the long term campsites are located. This is part of a larger parcel that was subdivided for building since the terrain is rocky and unsuitable for farming. We are up on the lip of the ridge, named Pleasant Ridge, that boasts prize-winning cheese named for it.

Birds and other wildlife don't recognize the property lines and drift through our yard at will. Outcropping of ancient rock formations look from the edge of ours into this magnificent 5000 acre valley. It is said that native peoples gathered here. You can feel the special beauty of land that has not been run over by glaciers for 3.5 million years. Dramatic peaks and outcroppings look familiar from their use in movies and pictures even postcards. This is an area of distinctly American beauty. It holds a reservoir of calm and joy through nature. The American upper Midwest is at its best in this landscape.

Now comes a proposal to cut a swath through this land and to install horizon defacing transmission towers the height of skyscrapers in my front yard. Now if the power was needed and being sent to a place where it would improve the lot of the people living there, it would be harder to object. However, all indications are that this is a last ditch money making attempt in the face of a declining demand for power and a decentralization of power sources.

The driftless area relies heavily on farming. and an industrial project such as this would devastate the character of the community. Additionally, we rely heavily on tourism, artists, and retirees to survive-- all of these sources of income would be adversely impacted by this transmission line destroying the views and the entire identity of this valley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Michmerhuizen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mark](#)  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** EIS assessment of Need and Alternatives  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 11:33:03 AM

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I was concerned to learn recently that RUS does not seem very inclined to look into the Need for the CHC line or Alternatives to transmission (Need/Alt), but will apparently focus more effort on assessing one proposed line route vs the other.

I believe NEPA (and also Wisconsin law) require that Need/Alt be addressed before a new line can be considered. ATC et al do not seem to have considered Need/Alt, or at least they have not demonstrated such. The EIS is intended to counterbalance the industry's view, as such for-profit companies are inherently biased to build. Lack of Need/Alt assessment by the petitioners cannot be met with similar lack of such assessment by the EIS.

There is ample reason to believe that there is no need for this line, enough reason that ignoring Need is inexcusable:

- 1) Electric use is flat or slightly declining in the area that would be served by the proposed line, and the trending is toward declining use.
- 2) Even ATC & partners are not saying use is increasing; the only justification they could give for the last line (Badger-Cooley) was Emergency Need, not day-to-day use or peak load (and even Emergency Need is presently being challenged in court as not valid).
- 3) Additional generation has already been approved in this area, which will result in local production in excess of demand. This new generation will be on line before the CHC line could be built.
- 4) a) If the Badger-Cooley line is stopped by the court for lack of need, there would not be any reason the CHC line would be needed, b) If the B-C line is put into service, there would not be any need for an additional line to the same substation.

Even Emergency Need seems questionable, given new generation and improved storage that would be in place before the line. If there is any belief that Emergency Need might be a justification, the EIS must address it. I suggest that RUS/SWCA explore the ongoing case in LaCrosse Co, WI as part of the basis of Need or Emergency Need for this line.

I understand that RUS's intent to minimize assessment of Need and Alternatives is based upon budget; limited funding for the EIS. Yet I do not believe that limited funding overrides legal obligation. I also suggest that an inadequate EIS is a ready basis for legal challenge; and if RUS feels it hasn't the budget for a proper EIS, it should consider the budget for a legal challenge (and then likely doing a proper EIS anyway per court order).

To perhaps simplify the matter, and to also accommodate funding limitations, it seems

prudent to focus on Need. If no Need can be shown, the other steps would seem unnecessary or at least much easier (cheaper) to address.

I see no logical or legal justification for largely bypassing assessment of Need and Alternatives, or to determine where a line should go if the line isn't needed.

Mark Mittelstadt



David Reinhart &lt;comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us&gt;

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**multiple comments attached**

3 messages

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Mark [REDACTED]  
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Fri, Dec 30, 2016 at 1:10 PM

Thank you for incorporating these comments. Do you have a date by which you expect to have them summarized, or by which the summary will be available?

Mark Mittelstadt

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 Other economic impacts of the line.docx  
19K

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Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>  
To: Mark [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 1:16 PM

On behalf of RUS, your comments were received for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS. The comments you provided will be reflected in the forthcoming scoping report. The scoping report will be available in the spring 2017.

Thank you,

SWCA Environmental Consultants

[Quoted text hidden]

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Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>  
To: Adrian Hogel <AHogel@swca.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 2:44 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

## Other economic and ecologic impacts of the line

Various parties will address the major costs and impacts of the line. The purpose of this set of comments is to raise concerns which may not be so generally recognized or commented upon. ("ATC" refers collectively to ATC, ITC, Dairyland and their affiliates and associates.)

### Land Devaluation:

We understand that lands under or near such a line lose about 20% of their value, perhaps twice that for homes under a line (Valuation Guidelines for Properties with Electric Transmission Lines; by Kurt C. Kielisch).

Landowners whose properties are crossed would receive some payment from ATC. We understand, from a firm that represents landowners in trying to get fair payment from transmission companies, that ATC habitually pays less than the actual devaluation of the land. (We understand that the appraisers ATC uses are inclined to use their own prior appraisals as comparables for their current appraisals, not a fair market arms-length approach. We further suspect that ATC selects appraisers who provide values most favorable to ATC.)

Landowners who are near the line's path but not under the line are apparently not compensated. Yet they will see the line for as long as it exists and the values of their lands will be diminished as well.

Potential home sites would be affected as well, not just existing home sites. Many of these sites may cease to be marketable as home sites due to the line.

The EIS must address loss of land value as a cost the line would create, including undercompensated and uncompensated losses.

### Ecologic Impacts:

Certain ecologic habitats have been largely lost over much of the region. This driftless area has many of the existing remnants because of its topography of highly variable hills, slopes, soils, streams and drainages.

Nationally, savanna remnants have been reduced to much less than .1% of their original acreage. Many of the dry hilltops that the proposed line might potentially cross could be remnants of savannas. DNR Forestry commissioned a study of such remnants a few years ago which may provide further information (the study was done by Bob Wernerehl, who is now the Chief State Botanist of Massachusetts).

Pine Relicts are remnants of communities that were here as the glaciers receded from northern Wisconsin toward the arctic. They exist in scattered locations where the slope, rockiness and moisture are just right. Several such relicts exist along the northern proposed route from Montfort through Middleton, and probably in the Grant County portion as well.

Wetlands exist along most streams and in other locations as well. The issues are many, and go well beyond simple drainage or soil disturbance, and wetland experts can better describe them. Damage would go well beyond just the simple repair of rutting or the like.

The EIS must identify these habitats and require that they be avoided. Repair of damage or replacement of losses would be difficult and expensive, or impossible.

#### Rare Species:

Some plant and animal species have become quite rare for various reasons including loss of the habitat they need. Some rare species have legal protection, while others without legal protection are nevertheless ecologically important. State and federal law protects some of these species from being taken or destroyed without the landowners' permission, which would seem to include activities of construction or maintenance of a power line.

Some locations of rare species are not yet known. Some known locations are not recorded in public records to avoid someone illegally collecting them. It is not satisfactory to simply say that there is no record of some species at some location. A survey of likely habitats for rare plant species needs to be conducted during the growing season (probably multiple visits between May and July). A survey of rare birds needs to be done during the breeding season when calling is most active (May and June). DNR or others may be able to advise on times and methods of surveying for other rare animals.

#### Invasive Species Control:

Various non-native plants and animals have gotten into our farmland, woodlands and roadsides. These species can multiply rapidly and take over native vegetation, and sometimes cropland and pastures. DNR maintains a list of these invasive species, and has partial mapping of them (although the mapping is subject to change). Their specialist, Kelly Kearns, can provide further information. The concern is that invasives can be moved around by construction equipment and vehicles, and are likely to be spread into areas where a line would be constructed.

Maintenance of vegetation under the line would provide further opportunities for seed to inadvertently be spread around, on equipment, clothing and footwear.

The cost of controlling or eliminating invasives can be considerable, including several years of active control and perpetual monitoring in case some were missed (dormant seed can subsist in the ground for years).

Certain animals are invasive as well.

Cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of woodland birds including some rare species, and their chicks out compete the chicks of the other species. The adults feed in grasslands outside of the forest, and their nest predation occurs more often within a couple hundred yards of the forest edge, much less so in the interior of larger blocks of forest. Thus, every time an area of forest is cleared, such as for a power line, more edge is created and more nests of rare birds are compromised.

Other animals and diseases may be invasive in waterways. Equipment traveling from one stream to another during construction or maintenance could transport such species from one stream system to another; once in a new stream they could spread up and down the entire length of the waterway.

Costs of controlling and eliminating invasive species must be included in the EIS. Such costs must be assigned to ATC as a cost of the project, or they will be an uncompensated cost that the landowners will be stuck with.

#### BMPs:

State agencies have developed Best Management Practices for erosion, water quality, avoidance of invasives and other, which would provide a base level of guidance for construction and maintenance of such a line. DNR Division of Forestry has a Field Manual on water quality, specifically for certain forestry activities. DNR Water Regs probably has something in addition that would be useful. Some are practices beyond anything that can be required in a permit, thus not addressed by simply obtaining the required permits.

The EIS must address how or if these standards can be met. If they cannot be identified or met, such a line should would have negative impacts upon the land and should not be built.

#### Timber Value:

The clearing of forests under the line will result in some lost timber value. A growing forest can produce more timber value every year, which adds to the value of future harvests. Present and future values vary a great deal from one forest to another. There has been no indication from ATC that it intends to compensate landowners for present timber value or future growth.

Many landowners have invested in their forests, via planting trees or otherwise managing their timber. Wherever the line interferes with these expenditures, the investment is lost. In some cases, where government programs have shared the costs, repayment by the landowners may be required.

The EIS must address these losses, preferably on a property-by-property basis since they will vary considerably.

#### Program Penalties:

Many forests are enrolled in the Wisconsin DNR's Managed Forest Law program. Forests cleared for a line would need to be removed from the program, which will involve a significant cost to the landowners as well as a cost for re-writing the MFL plan for acreage remaining in the program.

Some fields in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program have been planted with trees or wildlife shrubs, which would need to be cleared for the line. Withdrawal can require that landowners refund past payments and other costs. Withdrawal may also lead to soil erosion which the program was designed to eliminate.

Trees sequester carbon, and sequestration is a goal of both programs as well as a part of federal policies. If cleared, the carbon would be released, whether burned or left to decompose.

The EIS must address costs of withdrawals from programs, as well carbon and soil losses.

#### Costs of Opposition:

Organizations and people are impacted as soon as such a proposal is announced. Include are time devoted to investigating and opposing; hard costs including staff, attorneys, signs and mileage; stress and uncertainties of land management. Legal & staff costs for PSC hearings and any court challenge based upon misinformation by ATC may be significant; the local land trust is budgeting about \$250,000 for legal representation, staff and experts. The more ATC misrepresents facts or fails to follow existing laws and siting standards, the greater these costs become. ATC certainly must recognize the costs of its own staff, attorneys and expenses. It must also recognize such costs in the organizations which it has been paying to promote its proposal. Thus it must recognize that there is considerable cost of opposing the line, including investigation of omissions and dubious representations. Costs of opposition would not be necessary if the line had not been proposed; but given that the proposal was made they are reasonable because they are less than the losses of value if the line is built.

The EIS should recognize that the proposal creates costs for those who would be affected, whether the line is approved or not. It must attempt to quantify those costs, both financial and personal.

### The Scope of the EIS:

Because of the dubious claim of “need” for this line, and the high levels of ecologic, aesthetic and financial impact that it would create, it is imperative that the full costs of the line be explored. To construct such a line through an area without such features would be an unfortunate waste of ratepayers’ money; but to construct it through this area of high values and potential damages would be much worse, thus the EIS must be a robust assessment of the full impact of such a line.

We citizens appreciate the efforts of RUS and SWCA in exploring the Impacts and costs thereof.

Mark Mittelstadt

Jack Momchilovich



November 25, 2016

Comments on PROPOSED PRELIMINARY CORRIDOR OF LIMA TOWNSHIP:

American Transmission Co., ITC Midwest LLC and Dairyland Power Cooperative have plans to string a 350,000 volt transmission line with gigantic 170 foot tall steel suspension towers, each having eight arms, connecting northeast Iowa and western Wisconsin. One of the corridors would traverse the Platteville Mound.

Platteville Mound is a historical gathering place for thousands each year. Dozens of roads in the area are named "Mound View"... another dozen businesses in Platteville and surrounding areas have "Mound View"... in their name. Do outsiders like ATC get an idea how treasured our 'Mound View' is to us?

The Platte Mound first became a historical symbol when Major Rountree, founder of Platteville, had a picnic on top to celebrate the 51st birthday of the country on July 4th, 1827. On October 16, 1937, the "M" was lit for the first time for the Miner's Homecoming. The illuminated "M" could be seen from as far as twenty-eight miles away. Thousands of people have watched the relay of the torch commencing at the Tech building, four and one-half miles away. Before 1940, it was only lit at Homecoming, but after the war, the lighting was changed to the night of the Miner's Prom. The lighting of the "M" is an annual homecoming/alumni ritual dating back to 1937.

Furthermore, it's not only local students and residents, but on any given day, people from distant areas collect daily to hike and picnic the "M". You can see for miles atop the Platteville Mound, all the way across the opposite side of Mississippi River, 30 miles distant, to the Iowa Mounds beyond. No wonder that every day of week, at any time of day, there's a half dozen cars parked at base of Platteville "M".

This route is a favorite for bicyclists coming from the city of Platteville. County Road B to the "M", West Mound Road, and then Mound view Road and back onto County Road B to town. We bicycle this route regularly and bring friends for the wonderful view. We also have a tiny Civil War Cemetery along Shady Lane that we visit.

Every July the little town of Rewey has the largest fireworks around, a display that attracts 15,000-20,000 people. How will these scenic spots and events would be changed with towering, buzzing, snapping 350KV Transmission lines and towers scarring up the countryside? Heart-Breaking!

Raptors are attracted to the Platteville Mound whenever a Southwest wind is blowing in order to hunt. Juvenile bald eagles, red tail hawks, are often seen collecting here especially in late summer and fall. No doubt for similar reasons this has become a favorite place for hang gliders, who come from all over United States, to use the same updrafts to soar. This phenomenon would definitely be disrupted by these transmission towers.

The Blanchard's Cricket Frog, an endangered species finds its home throughout Lima township, including the Mounds Branch of the Little Platte River.

Many researchers are studying the effect of an electrostatic field on animals. In order to do so they keep the cages of animals under high electrostatic field of about 30 kV/m. The results of these experiments are, well, shocking. When animals (confined livestock) are kept below this high electrostatic field, their

bodies acquire a charge and when they try to drink water, a spark usually jumps from their nose to the ground or watering trough. Hens are unable to pick up grain because of chattering of their beaks, which affects their growth.

Strong, artificial EMFs like those from power lines can scramble and interfere with your body's natural EMF, harming everything from your sleep cycles and stress levels to your immune response and DNA!

After hundreds of international studies, the evidence linking EMFs to cancers and other health problems is loud and clear. High Voltage power lines are the most obvious and dangerous culprits of EMF.

Researchers found that children living within 650 feet of power lines had a 70% greater risk for leukemia than children living 2,000 feet away or more. (As per British Medical Journal, June, 2005).

Several studies have identified occupational exposure to extremely low-frequency electromagnetic fields (EMF) as a potential risk factor for neuro degenerative disease. (As per Epidemiology, 2003 Jul; 14(4):413-9).

There is "strong prospective evidence that prenatal maximum magnetic field exposure above a certain level (possibly around 16 mg) may be associated with miscarriage risk." (As per Epidemiology, 2002 Jan; 13(1):9-20)

The real or perceived effects of EMF radiation decreases property values by 40% and more. Parents who are concerned about raising children near strong sources of electromagnetic fields will not likely purchase properties near high voltage power lines, I know I wouldn't.

ATC has already been approved to blaze through some of the most beautiful unspoiled coulee region landscapes here in Wisconsin. Apparently these 'public comment' opportunities are futile as barrels of ink have been spilled in newspapers across the state with no real effect on these government agencies, corporations and utilities. If we think that governmental agencies are interested in protecting these landscapes, we'd be mistaken, this is the 'fox watching the henhouse'.

Of course our rural neighborhood hasn't grown enough to warrant this power line. We are using less power every year! More of our neighbors are moving off the grid. Why should our quality of life be so severely compromised for the convenience and mindless growth of the urban population's downline? It is widely accepted and with legal precedent that transmission lines of this magnitude will follow existing right of ways, so why can't the Cardinal-Hickory-Creek Transmission Line follow existing right of ways?

Wisconsin is a lovely state, it has features like none other, but here in Wisconsin we've been given a front row seat to the advance of dozens of industrial sand quarries on our beautiful river banks, iron mines destroying the beautiful Penokees, exploding gas pipelines threaded through our backyards, highly flammable petroleum "bomb" trains rolling through our small towns and gigantic, garish wind farms sprout overnight like mushrooms, their constant humming eliminating soothing silence, and all this in the name "progress" "growth" and "jobs" and we're not supposed to be against it, but I am. As Edward Abbey said "an economic system which can only expand or expire must be false to all that is human." We might not be able to affect present depredations that are already in motion, but if we don't strengthen environmental laws soon, and discontinue our irrational "growth" we will wake up in New Jersey or Southern California instead of Wisconsin.

Please keep me informed of these of these developments.

Jack momchilovich

DEBORA MORTON

Individual  Family  Business  Frequent Visitor

Carroll County Green  
PSCW Docket 05CE146

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Years of residence in area: 37 yrs Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:  
Employer, Previous Executive, Chamber Board Member, LANDOWNER

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 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                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| We own a diverse woodland with many plants & animals thriving there. We have caves, dens, rock outcroppings which provide unique habitat. We are a bird haven & have planted "edges" & created bird habitat over 37 years. We are also planting prairies to increase bird & plant habitat eg Milkweed, grasses, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Lower Wyoming/<br>Dodgeville<br>Township |
| Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. People come to Springgreen/Dodgeville area to experience open space, beauty of nature & agricultural life. People say it is breathtaking in Driftless Area. I own a retail store in Springgreen and we are in business because of the seasonality of the tourist trade. We opened our store to fill a needed gap <del>under</del> that visitors had. Loss of tourism would be devastating economically. We have worked very hard to grow tourism in the River Valley. | Springgreen                              |
| Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Town located in                          |
| Living near or under these towers provides a health risk to animals & people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                          |

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

X

Signature

*DMorton*

Date

11/2/14

11-2-16

Dear RUS Committee Members:

I am extremely concerned and opposed to the ATC project and have many questions.

The demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. Is another high-voltage transmission line needed at all?

The project is relying on outdated industry forecasts of steadily increasing demand that have proven to be inaccurate. RUS should use current demand data and look at new electricity generation sources that are being built and planned.

Will the proposed open-access transmission line actually help move wind energy or help Midwest states meet Renewable Portfolio Standards? We need alternatives to this project! What is wrong with new local wind and solar electricity, energy efficiency, storage, demand response in combination?

We also need less damaging approaches to transmission. What is wrong with upgrading existing low voltage lines or routing this high voltage lines outside of the Driftless Area? I am opposed to devastating animal and botanical habitat, pesticide management, and especially in critical and fragile Driftless Area and national wildlife refuges. What will the impacts be?

- Impacts on Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
- Impacts on Military Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity, Governor Dodge State Park, Pecatonica State Trail, and other special natural resource features in the area
- Impacts on aesthetics and recreation values throughout the area
- Impacts on waterways and wetlands
- Impacts on forested areas
- Impacts on conservation lands
- Impacts on archaeological and historic sites
- Impacts on eagles and other migratory birds
- Impacts on endangered, threatened, or protected species

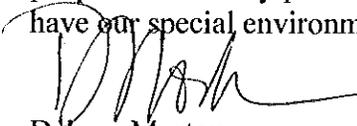
Those impacts and others should be assessed, not just for the proposed project, but for any and all reasonable alternatives. And, in each case, the EIS should identify and fairly evaluate the effectiveness of possible mitigation efforts.

I am business owner, a landowner and fulltime resident of Wisconsin for 37 years. The EIS must address the potential economic impacts on ratepayers, on tourism and recreation, on farm and other business operations, and on property values. What might be the negative economic impacts?

As a business owner, we are heavily reliant on tourism. People come to the area for recreation, theater, House on the Rock, State Parks and they do not want to come to a place with 170 ft high tension wires in their landscape. If we see a decline in tourism, our business will be seriously affected. Many businesses in Spring Green are successful as a result of supporting the tourist trade.

Under federal law, the EIS must assess the impacts of this proposed transmission line in combination with past and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area, including but not limited to the Badger-Coulee transmission line.

It seems to me and others that this transmission project is not needed given current projected power demands, that any needs could be met with non-transmission alternatives, and that the risk to the Driftless Area, its natural resource values, and its people exceeds any potential benefits. I did not come to the Driftless Area 37 years ago to have our special environment irreparably damaged.



Debora Morton



Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce Board Member 2013-2016  
Owner Driftless Depot 140 S Winsted St. Spring Green  
Employed in the state of Wisconsin since 1982  
Landowner

**From:** Dietrich Muller  
**To:** [comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us](mailto:comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us)  
**Subject:** CHC transmission line project  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 12:47:31 PM

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Drs. Dietrich and Renate Muller  
[REDACTED]

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

We own a parcel of 80 acres of mostly wooded property on [REDACTED], and we have built our retirement home at this location. Our property is close to the Pleasant Ridge area, and adjacent to one of the possible corridors for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line project.

We are deeply concerned about the CHC project, not just because it would directly and negatively affect our property, but because the project is proposed to be installed in an environmentally particularly sensitive region in the Midwest, the “Driftless Region” between Madison and the Mississippi river. This region is unique because it was bypassed by the last Ice Age, and hence, is characterized by many geographical and biological features that cannot be found elsewhere: These include sandstone and lime rock formations or even “mini-canyons”, unique vegetation with remainders of oak-savannah and a few native stands of white pine, and a variety of native fauna, some unique to the area. The area also is dotted with pre-Columbian remainders of the native Indian population, such as rock-paintings and burial mounds. Not all of these are well explored and documented. Needless to say, the land has substantial aesthetic and touristic appeal. However, this environment is quite fragile, and can easily sustain severe and irrecoverable damage by major construction projects such as the CHC line.

It appears that the economic justification for the CHC line is not convincingly documented, and that the preliminary plans for CHC corridors do violate the irreplaceable environmental values of the Driftless Region in Southwestern Wisconsin. We hope that permission to proceed with the current CHC plans will be denied.

Dietrich and Renate Muller.  
January 6, 2017

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DEC 20 2016

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: Dona Muller

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*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:

Following a high-voltage transmission line open house meeting in Dodgeville, WI and after reviewing the literature presented, I did not see proof of necessity nor benefit for gigantic transmission lines to cut through the beautiful driftless area. What I did see ...

1. the negative environmental impact on both wildlife and plant life flourishing in the area

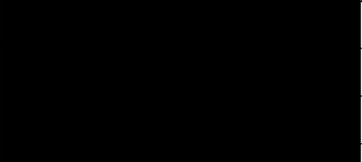
2. the aesthetic rape of the unique beauty of the driftless region which currently attracts new homeowners and tourists supporting our state parks (Governor Dodge), Blackhawk Lake, Talliesin, American Players Theater, Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, Folklore Village, and House on the Rock.

3. The destruction of the character of our unique landscape and its effect on future and existing businesses such as award winning Uplands Cheese, Pleasant Ridge General Store, and Bubbel Horizons.

4. real estate devaluation resulting from the sight and noise caused by these monstrous lines.

I view the unnecessary transmission lines as a hugely expensive project paid for by the driftless area utility customers with investors receiving a 10.2% guaranteed annual rate of investment. Huge profits gained on the backs of tax payers with no proof of electrical need. I am appalled!

Dona Muller



1/4/17

To whom it may concern,

Following a recent meeting at Dodgeville Middle School, I have the following questions concerning the proposed building of an ATC high voltage transmission line in the Dodgeville area.

1. Is there enough valid proof that another transmission line is needed in this area?
2. If needed, are there better alternatives to ugly, invasive large towers and lines?
3. If needed, would there be a less scenic, less environmentally invasive location?
4. If constructed, these towers would not only impact local residents, but would deter the many visitors to Governor Dodge State Park, Bethel Horizons, Blackhawk Lake, House on the Rock, Taliesin and many other area attractions.
5. You will notice there are no visible power lines of any kind in the Taliesin area. This is because Frank Lloyd Wright insisted they be buried to not interfere with the beauty of the area.
6. Does ATC realize that thousands of people travel and relocate to this area, specifically for the scenic, natural beauty which the proposed power lines would destroy

In conclusion, I wish to express my opposition to the proposed building of an ATC high voltage transmission line near Dodgeville, Wisconsin. It has not been proven there is a need for this new line, in fact, electricity use in this area is on the decline. If constructed, local citizens would be required to pay for this line, while not even using the electricity. Numerous landowners, farmers and businesses would suffer financial hardship, in addition to lost property value. The building of 150 ft. towers with heavy lines over a 125 mile area would be a huge scar on the natural landscape of one of the most beautiful areas of the Midwest.

Sincerely,

Monte Muller

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us](mailto:comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us)  
**Subject:** Concerns about the CHC proposed line  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 4:25:55 PM

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I would like to register my concerns with the high voltage transmission line proposed for the area of Wisconsin in which I live. The Driftless area is a unique and internationally recognized land containing rare habitats for fish and wildlife. This power line puts the health, beauty, and eco-diversity of this area at risk for a venture of unproved need. What herbicides will be used in the construction and maintenance of these lines and towers, and what might be the unintended consequences for public, agricultural, and wildlife futures if lands and waters are poisoned?

My husband and I moved to this area in large part because of the unspoiled environment. The economy of our community could be compromised if others choose not to move to or visit this area because of a spoiled environment. The economy of this area relies significantly on tourism, and any diminishment of those tourist dollars would seriously damage a local economy still struggling with the recession. High voltage transmission lines have a negative effect on property values. Loss of property tax revenue could have devastating consequences for our area.

Thank you for gathering and sharing these concerns with decision makers.

Patricia Murphy

[REDACTED]

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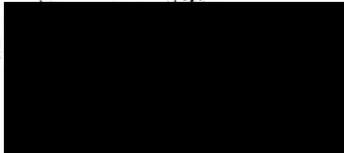
To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line expansion project, since high voltage power lines have negative health effects causing an increased risk of cancer and leukemia, as cited in the November 17, 2016 Mt Horeb Mail. Also, they are hideous to look at. We should focus on renewable energy instead, which is better for our health and the environment.

These lines should never be placed near our schools, towns, or any populated area and more specifically, should not be placed near the village of Mt Horeb.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Myers

Ellen Myers



MILWAUKEE WI 532

13 DEC 2016 PM 1 L



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

