

I am writing about the 345KV power line with 17 story towers that ATE wishes to construct through the Driftless area of Wisconsin.

I understand the location of this power line does not comply with Wis. siting standards.

I also have not seen the need for this project in this area. Yet we will be paying for it for many years to come - a financial burden on the population. I thought we were developing alternative power sources.

Some of this is prime farm land. This line would destroy some small farms, vacation spots and businesses. I am concerned about land values, local, state and federal governments with loss of income. I don't think the property owner will get much for the 150 foot wide right-of-way. What is the impact on people and livestock?

The Driftless Area is unique and

21

attracts tourists to the area - but who
wants to drive to see 17 ~~foot~~ story towers.

Agree an important economically but a
big impact on the environment which
is very important. We have begun
to see bald eagles in the Cobb area.
It is a popular area for fishing and
environmental studies. Will this
powerline change that?

I own farmland in the Cobb area
and have lived here most of my
life. Southwest Wisconsin is a
beautiful and unique area. I do
not see any reason to put that power
line on this route where it would
impact so many people and land
areas.

It seems that ATC has decided to
put in this line with little regard
for the people and the effect on the area,
and the law. Who gains from this power
line - not the people of the area, not the
environment, not the economy but
the ATC. I am against this plan.



Mrs. June E. Nagel

June Nagel

Last Name Nelson First Name Carol

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street _____
City _____

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

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

Years of residence in area: 68 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
officer at church, 4-H, historians, teacher, FSA clerk

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	Loss of Tourism Related Business
Loss of Business Income		Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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>This line will destroy a wide swath of timber and crop land. It's appearance will be terrible. People drive thru this area because of its beauty. What will it do to our dairy herds.</u>	<u>Arena</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>Our health is a main concern. The farmers will be affected as you pass through. No compensation of land compares to your line passing thru. How can you reach these hilltops without crossing the valleys.</u>	

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>People come to the APT theater for the cultural arts and beauty of the area from out of state as well as in state</u>	<u>Arena/Spring Green</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"/>	

Signature Carol Ann Nelson

Date 11/02/16

Ms Rebecca Nelson
[Redacted]

37 DEC 2016 PM 2



RECEIVED
JAN 05 2017

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

15017-145357
TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

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

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

Name: Rebecca Nelson

Organization (if any): _____

Address: [Redacted]

City/State: [Redacted]

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:

In the print out I read it's stated the reasons for building the transmission line is to improve the reliability of the electric system, provide economic benefits and expand the electric infrastructure to support renewable energy. I don't really understand just how it will do these 3 things. I'm sure right now there is electricity produced and used at each end of the proposed transmission line so how will moving it 90 or more miles improve it. Perhaps this could be explained in more detail.

To me it is a lot of expense and trouble to go through building huge towers over scenic beautiful rural country, disturbing and changing scenic and historical places, and endangering birds and native plants and animals if when there isn't even a real need, maybe even if there is a need.

How will building towers crossing the river at Cassville affect the charming little ferry that runs across the Mississippi River and how will it affect the Nelson Dewey Home outside Cassville?

I'm wondering just how necessary this transmission line is.

Postage
Required

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

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Thank you for your assistance.

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
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- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Stacey Novak

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

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

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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Comments:

I am writing this environmental impact statement to voice my concerns about the potential high voltage power lines.

I am very concerned about the environmental impact. There are many animal species that have not been in the driftless area for years but are now returning. The possibility of taking away areas for these animals to live is saddening to me. I am also concerned about the wildlife and plant life that is already in the area. I would hate to see these animals displaced by the building of these high power lines. Building these high voltage power lines will also kill vegetation. We need all this vegetation to feed the animals that are here which will also feed the larger wildlife. This is helping to make animals native to this area return. I hope to continue to see more wildlife to return.

I am also very concerned that land that has been in my family for over one hundred years will be taken from us. This would be heart breaking and very devastating to me. This land has so much family history and priceless memories. To lose any of this would be tragic as well as distressing.

There will also be agricultural impacts from the building of the high voltage power lines. Research shows that there is an increase in soil erosion, it will create opportunities for weeds and other pest encroachment, compact soil and damage drain tiles as well as hinder or prevent spraying and/or seeding by plane.

The cost of this would be over five hundred million dollars. Madison gas and electric also has said that energy use in the Madison area is decreasing, which is the area that will see the most benefit from the construction of these power lines.

The driftless area is a beautiful area and one of a kind. You will find no other place that looks like this area of Wisconsin.

There is no need to detract from the natural beauty of the land.

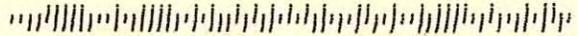
This area is not only valued by the citizens that live here but also those who travel here to see the natural beauty.



RECEIVED
DEC 05 2016

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

1501781453 0004



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

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

Name: Maureen F Nugent

Organization (if any): _____

Address:  Ms Maureen F Nugent

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

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Comments:

1. Why is this transmission line needed?

2. What does Wisconsin get from it?

3. Does this make electrical sense? How much power is lost transmitting power over such a long distance?

Justin O'Brien



Nov. 2, 2016

We understand that studies have shown that energy demand is flat or in decline across the Midwest, partly a result of new efficiencies in appliances and lighting. We also understand that as a result, this power is not destined for our area. Therefore, this entire project is not needed, apart from the fact that your shareholders expect it to be built.

This transmission line would not benefit this community in any way. This transmission line would in fact cost us.

It would cost us in terms of expensive and long-term utility rate hikes, loss of property values, loss of businesses in the corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars, loss of habitat for wide range of native plant and animal species (and therefore loss of species), loss of unspoiled natural landscape which has remained unsullied for millennia.

No jobs are created. None of the energy comes to our community. None of the potential benefits are ours. They will be someone else's. We are being asked to pay all this for nothing. How can this be acceptable to us?

It is not.

Justin O'Brien, Mineral Point

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin O'Brien".

Justin O'Brien



Nov. 2, 2016

We are proud new residents of Iowa County. We chose this area as the place of our retirement after nearly thirty years of visits with our three boys. We have grown to love this area for its nuanced balance of natural and American history, unique geography and geology, abundant nature and gorgeous vistas—coupled with its vibrant agricultural and artistic cultures. We have found nothing quite like it anywhere. The word “balance” is to be emphasized since it does truly seem that these qualities exist throughout the Driftless Area, if not in a true symbiosis, then surely at least in mutual admiration of each other.

But we have just learned of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line project that American Transmission Co. (ATC) has proposed to run from Dubuque to Madison, through 125 miles of our beautiful and unique Driftless Area, the jewel of the Midwest. The 17-story towers of this line, which studies have shown to be unnecessary, and which would ultimately be costly to us rate payers over 30-40 years, would cross the Mississippi River through the Great Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway, climb the majestic river bluffs, stomp across the gorgeous rolling hills of upland farms and fields, mock the progressive and proud wind energy turbines at Montfort, and scar dairyland, wetland and woods through the heart of our backyards. All for the 10.2% profit of ATC's shareholders—whether the power is needed or not. And the facts show that it's NOT needed: energy use throughout the Midwest is flat or in decline, partly the result of modern efficiencies.

The only “benefits”: take-it-or-leave-it offers to a handful of landowners in eminent domain seizures. The cost: I think you can clearly judge for yourselves.

Justin O'Brien, Mineral Point

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin O'Brien".

Justin O'Brien



Nov. 8, 2016

To the Editor:

The American Transmission Co. (ATC) is poised to build a power line, referred to as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line, from Dubuque to Madison. The 17-story towers of this line would cross the Mississippi through the Great Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway, climb the majestic river bluffs, stomp across the gorgeous rolling hills of upland farms and fields, mock the progressive and proud wind energy turbines at Montfort, and scar dairyland, wetland and woods for 125 miles—through the heart of the Driftless Area.

I understand that studies have shown that energy demand is flat or in decline across the Midwest, partly a result of new efficiencies in appliances and lighting. I also understand that as a result, this power will not be destined for our area. Therefore, this project is not needed, apart from the fact that ATC's shareholders expect it to be built for the promised 10.2% profit.

This transmission line would not benefit the Driftless Area community in any way. This transmission line would in fact cost us.

It would cost us in terms of expensive and long-term utility rate hikes, loss of property values, loss of businesses in the corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars, loss of habitat for a wide range of native plant and animal species (and therefore loss of species), loss of unspoiled natural landscape which has remained unsullied for millennia.

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It should not be.

Justin O'Brien, Mineral Point



Justin O'Brien

Justin O'Brien



Oct. 31, 2016

To the Editor:

My wife and I are proud new residents of Iowa County. We chose this area as the place of our retirement after nearly thirty years of visits with our three boys. We have grown to love this area for its nuanced balance of natural and American history, unique geography and geology, abundant nature and gorgeous vistas—coupled with its vibrant agricultural and artistic cultures. We have found nothing quite like it anywhere. The word “balance” is to be emphasized since it does truly seem that these qualities exist throughout the Driftless Area, if not in a true symbiosis, then surely at least in mutual admiration of each other.

But we have just learned of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line project that American Transmission Co. (ATC) has proposed to run from Dubuque to Madison, through 125 miles of our beautiful and unique Driftless Area, the jewel of the Midwest. The 17-story towers of this line, which studies have shown to be unnecessary, and which would ultimately be costly to us rate payers over 30-40 years, would cross the Mississippi River through the Great Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway, climb the majestic river bluffs, stomp across the gorgeous rolling hills of upland farms and fields, mock the progressive and proud wind energy turbines at Montfort, and scar dairyland, wetland and woods through the heart of our backyards. All for the 10.2% profit of ATC's shareholders—whether the power is needed or not. And the facts show that it's NOT needed: energy use throughout the Midwest is flat or in decline, partly the result of modern efficiencies.

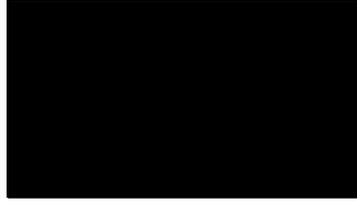
The only “benefits”: take-it-or-leave-it offers to a handful of landowners in eminent domain seizures. The cost: I think you can clearly judge for yourselves.

Justin O'Brien, Mineral Point

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin O'Brien".

(multiple simultaneous submissions)

Karen O'Brien



Nov. 2, 2016

We are proud new residents of Iowa County. We chose this area as the place of our retirement after nearly thirty years of visits with our three boys. We have grown to love this area for its nuanced balance of natural and American history, unique geography and geology, abundant nature and gorgeous vistas—coupled with its vibrant agricultural and artistic cultures. We have found nothing quite like it anywhere. The word “balance” is to be emphasized since it does truly seem that these qualities exist throughout the Driftless Area, if not in a true symbiosis, then surely at least in mutual admiration of each other.

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The only “benefits”: take-it-or-leave-it offers to a handful of landowners in eminent domain seizures. The cost: I think you can clearly judge for yourselves.

Karen O'Brien, Mineral Point

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen O'Brien".

Karen O'Brien



Nov. 2, 2016

We understand that studies have shown that energy demand is flat or in decline across the Midwest, partly a result of new efficiencies in appliances and lighting. We also understand that as a result, this power is not destined for our area. Therefore, this entire project is not needed, apart from the fact that your shareholders expect it to be built.

This transmission line would not benefit this community in any way. This transmission line would in fact cost us.

It would cost us in terms of expensive and long-term utility rate hikes, loss of property values, loss of businesses in the corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars, loss of habitat for wide range of native plant and animal species (and therefore loss of species), loss of unspoiled natural landscape which has remained unsullied for millennia.

No jobs are created. None of the energy comes to our community. None of the potential benefits are ours. They will be someone else's. We are being asked to pay all this for nothing. How can this be acceptable to us?

It is not.

Karen O'Brien, Mineral Point

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen O'Brien".

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)

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

Name:

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

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

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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Comments:

I have read studies that show that the demand for energy ~~demand~~ has declined or is flat because of everyone's now buying energy efficient appliances + lighting. So this project is not needed so apart that it is not needed. Then the fact that ATC's shareholders expect it to be built for the promise of 10.2% profit and this power line will not benefit our communities at all.

The damage to our Driftless Area will be awful: Our utility rates will increase, loss of property values, loss of business in this corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars, loss of habitat for native plant and animal species + possible loss of species, loss of unspoiled natural landscapes which has remained unspoiled for millennia.

No jobs are created and none of the energy comes to ~~our~~ our community and none of the energy benefits are ours. We are asked to pay all of this for nothing. No Thank you

Karen O'Brien, [REDACTED]

From: Joe O'Connell
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Emailing: Transmission Line Letter January 6, 2017.docx
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 8:27:44 AM
Attachments: [Transmission Line Letter January 6, 2017.docx](#)

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:
Transmission Line Letter January 6, 2017.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants:

This letter is to comment on the new transmission line known as Cardinal Hickory Creek, that is being proposed near our home since 1965. Our address is [REDACTED].

We strongly oppose the proposed power line for the following reason: Farming concerns including stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).

1) Farm Impacts including Stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields-

According to the PSC report referenced and mentioned above: *"The placement of transmission structures can cause the following agricultural impacts:*

- a. Create problems for turning field machinery and maintaining efficient fieldwork patterns;*
- b. Increase soil erosion by requiring the removal of windbreaks that were planted along field edges or between fields;*
- c. Create opportunities for weed and other pest encroachment;*
- d. Compact soils and damage drain tiles;*
- e. Result in safety hazards due to pole and guy wire placement;*
- f. Hinder or prevent aerial spraying or seeding activities by planes or helicopters;*
- g. Interfere with moving irrigation equipment;*
- h. Hinder future consolidation of farm fields or subdividing land for residential development."*
- i. Stray voltage- "Stray voltage and its impacts on livestock and other confined animals have been studied in detail by state and federal agencies, universities, electric utilities, and numerous scientists since the late 1970s. The PSCW has opened investigations, encouraged the upgrade of rural distribution systems, established measurement protocols, and compiled a stray voltage database to track investigations, all in order to develop successful strategies for minimizing stray voltage in farm operations (<http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/electric/strayVoltage.htm>). Over the decades, significant resources have been allocated to understand this issue. Electrical systems, including farm systems and utility distribution. "*

Items mentioned above from the report significantly concern us. We have agricultural backgrounds and are concerned for the nearby large farm operations, which there are a number of large operations in the proposed patch with thousands of acres of working farmland that would be destroyed by the construction of this power line. There have been studies that stray voltage has caused problems and the transmission lines also have been known to interfere with GPS systems used on tractors. This GPS technology is very expensive for the farmers. The best solution is

not to build a power line anywhere near a farm to alleviate these concerns including stray voltage potential.

We would like confirmation of this response and would appreciate updates to the proposal.

O'Connell Farms LLC
Joe O'Connell



Keith O'Connell



From: [Gary and Gaila Olsen](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek power line
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 3:19:50 PM

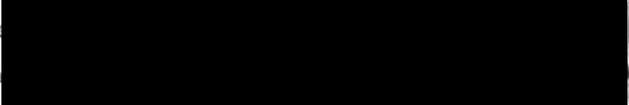
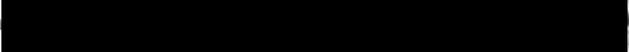
I'm writing to express my concern regarding the route of the ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek power line. I believe existing corridors should be used wherever possible to minimize impact to the Black Earth Creek watershed area. As a member of Vermont Lutheran Church, which has always prided itself on the scenic and idyllic location of the church, I'm especially concerned about the routing of a power line in the vicinity of the church. Thank you.

- Gary Olsen

Last Name OLSON First Name Robert & Julie

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: 0 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
*NOT YET QUANT

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

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

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

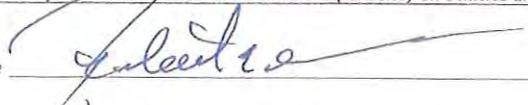
Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>It will impact all types of habitats, plants/animals, old forest-</u>	

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
I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long term debt.

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

Signature 
Julie Olson

Date 1 NOV 2016
1 Nov 2016

From: [Lisa Orman](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: letter of concern
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 5:40:59 PM
Attachments: [Daniel Orman letter re Cardinal Hickory Creek line.pdf](#)

Please see my attached letter of concern on this project. Thank you,
Daniel Orman

Last Name Orman

First Name Lisa

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek

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

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

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Or email: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 16 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Publisher, Vermont's Voice newsletter, 16 years

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

<u>Loss of Property Value</u>	<u>Loss/diminished Environmental Assets</u>	Loss of Tourism Related Business
<u>Loss of Business Income</u>	Effects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<u>Impacts on Rising Energy Costs</u>
<u>Effects on Personal Health</u>	Effects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<u>Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance</u>
<u>Effects on Others Health</u>	Effects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<u>Compromises on Local Economy</u>
Effects on Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<u>Loss/diminished Cultural Assets</u>
<u>Effects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise</u>	<u>Effects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water</u>	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 (e.g. water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town/Municipality
<u>We have 25 acres of woods which are habitat for deer, birds, other wild life & many old trees (big). Less than 1 mile from us is a wetlands, a Black Earth + Vermont Creeks - great fishing waters. The Driftless is nationally known for its beauty. Businesses impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.</u>	<u>Town/Municipality</u>
<u>Our home is for sale for \$1.1 million, down \$100K because of your project. Our Realtor told us we had to list the CHC project as pending on our property & that this would impact our ability to sell our house at what price. If a buyer is looking at our house with this unknown blight & another without, which will they buy?</u>	<u>Vermont</u>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town/Municipality
<u>We are right in the blue path zone. Please use existing right-of-ways!!</u>	

3. Energy Investment Priorities

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

Signature: Lisa Orman

Date: 12/11/16

I am aware that my comments and contact information may be included in the EIS report.

[Attach any other comments which you may have on a separate page.]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [David Reinhart](#)
Subject: FW: Dairyland Power Cooperative & Cardinal - Hickory Creek Xmsn
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 12:47:47 PM

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

From: Carol A. Overland [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative & Cardinal - Hickory Creek Xmsn

Dennis -

Yes, I'm at it again (well, hey, I'm consistent in transmission for at least for over 21 years)!

Two things:

1) I'm looking for the Construction Work Plan ("CWP") referenced in the Alternatives Evaluation Study dated July 2016 (p. 13). Can't find it in any appendices, nor is it available online on DPC's site (I've asked Chuck Thompson and an anon "info" link for it ASAP). Is it part of the record in this docket/funding request?

2) I'm also looking for information on the delay of this project, the reasons, and whether that is considered in this RUS process. This project is 1/2 of the MISO MVP 5, the Badger Coulee is the other. Does RUS have any info on that in the record? I'm reviewing the July 2016 AES right now (only to p. 13), but apparently this delay was stated by ATC in April, prior to the May RUS scoping activities.

Make it 3 things:

3) Why another round of scoping meetings/hearings?

Please forward info!

Thanks,

Carol

(as an individual, and not in the course of representing any client, thus far)

--

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Carol A. Overland
Attorney at Law
Legalelectric - Overland Law Office

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.legalelectric.org
www.nocapx2020.info
www.not-so-great-northern-transmission-line.org

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: No Lines Please
Date: Saturday, November 05, 2016 10:07:13 AM

My name is Carol Parrell and your company is looking at our property ,outside of Black Earth, as a path for the transmission lines. We whole heartedly object to this destruction of our homeland. This farm was purchased by my husband's grandparents in the 1930's and has been in the family ever since. This is a natural resources corridor with many plant and animal species that thrive. We have one of the few remaining cattle herds pasturing on the hillside. Thousands of bicyclists, hunters and nature lovers enjoy this area daily. The idea of your company running high power lines through this area with trucks, land movers and unsightly high line structures is unacceptable. I speak for my neighbors in Vermont township that your plan will be met with resistance at every level. I am also a member of the Vermont Luthern Church, a country church that has served the area for well over 100 years. This is spot of peaceful solitude for many. The power lines threaten this sacred setting as well. We say no power lines here, you will not destroy what is so sacred to so many!!

Carol S. Parrell

December 19th, 2016

To whom it may concern

We invested in the drift less region a little over a year ago by buying a home and land. The plan was to escape the chaos of Chicago and have a place to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with natural beauty.

Our home sits on a bluff and has a panoramic view. Our property has dramatic rock outcroppings, remnant native vegetation, a pine relict, and incredible views that look onto Blue Mounds State Park. We have contracted with Quercus, a land management firm, to help us restore and maintain our oak savanna, woodlands and prairie.

We've have the thrill of looking out our window and seeing a pileated wood pecker that has made it's home out of a dead tree on our property. I have identified over 100 different birds that have come to our feeders over the year. The red tailed fox greets us as we head up the driveway. In 18 months we have become completely at home in our new surroundings.

Mother nature designed this region by having the glaciers pass us by. A power line going through this geographically significant area was not in her design.

We have invested in the future of the drift less region of Southwestern, WI.

For what? The proposed power line would degrade the views and therefore the property values. Construction of the power line, even if done carefully, would disturb the native vegetation and introduce invasive species that would degrade the ecological integrity of the area.

I have yet to see a study that proves the need for this.

Electric consumption is down and families continue to find new ways to conserve on their usage. Why not produce energy locally so it does not need to travel. here are non-transmission alternatives that would be less costly. Why not be investing in our future and a better way to do this.

So the big question is...

who is truly going to benefit from this project besides ATC and its' shareholders? And who actually has the power to change this?

Darla and John Patterson

██████████
██████████

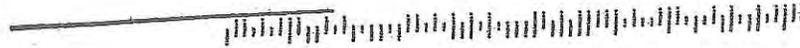


Family Farm Defenders



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

RECEIVED
DEC 19 2016



Last Name Peck First Name John

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:

Family Farm Defenders is strongly opposed to the ATC project, mostly due to its adverse impact on family farmers including the Amish which are members of our organization.

Signature John Peck Date 12/14/16

D. Pellitteri



RECEIVED
JAN 10 2017

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)

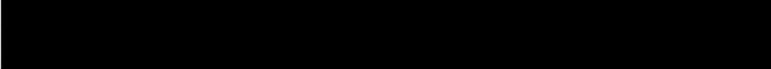
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes. Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: Danielle Pellitteri

Organization (if any): _____

Address: 

City/State/Zip: 

Email address: _____

Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made public 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:

Potential 175 ft transmission
line running through Vermont Valley, WI?

We have friends who live in the area. They
have been stewarding their property for decades,
which includes the only upland cover for
adjacent wetlands.

They love their property, the gorgeous
Driftless Area.

They have shared with me that electric
usage in their area is flat + declining. And
we've talked about Public Funds for Private
Gain.

The idea is appalling.

I am opposed.

From: Joan Rohlf
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Comments re: proposed transmission line
Date: Saturday, December 31, 2016 7:50:47 PM

Greetings,

I would like to submit my comments and concerns about the proposed transmission line by ATC. My husband and I bought a 42 acre parcel in the Driftless Area in 2011, and moved permanently here earlier this year from Chicago. We chose this area for our home because of its limited development and the local emphasis on renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. The Driftless Area is a unique geologic area, with many important habitats that need protection. Dozens of endangered and threatened species could be negatively impacted by construction and operation of this transmission line. Please make sure that the EIS carefully researches and considers whether this proposal warrants the significant environmental risks it presents.

In addition, I'm concerned that the proposed project will not be beneficial from an economic viewpoint, other than to ATC. Our region's economy relies heavily on agriculture, tourism, and recreation. The scenic beauty in the Driftless is hard to find anywhere else in the Midwest and creates significant economic opportunities. The proposed line will certainly have negative impacts on these economic sectors, as well as diminish nearby property values. Moreover, I understand that demand for electricity in this area is declining, while the proposed line will actually result in higher energy costs to ratepayers. What positive purpose can this project actually serve for the area it will impact?

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan Peterson

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:

see other card

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

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

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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

Comments:

My wife and I live at [REDACTED]

We live here because of its unspoiled beauty. We will move elsewhere if forced to look at an ugly 120' high power line every day we walk or bike or drive around our home.

Our community is based on valuing our natural beauty in the Skyless area. Please draft an EIS that doesn't force us to move away

Tom & Julie Phillips

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Proposed Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 4:41:20 PM

I am opposed to the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Transmission line.

The proposed corridors plow through environmentally sensitive areas, harming vital conservation areas, degrading streams and wildlife habitats, and disrupting the scenic landscapes that are part of our heritage and that attracts tourists to the area.

Further, ATC has not been able to document a need for additional imported out-of-state electrical supply to be carried by the proposed line. Electrical sales have declined in Wisconsin over the past decade, and there are better, more cost-effective alternatives if a need for more electric supply should arise in the future.

Allen Pincus
[REDACTED]

Tom Porter



MILWAUKEE WI 530

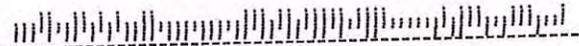
10 NOV 2016 PM 4 L



USA FOREVER

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

15017-145357



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

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- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name:

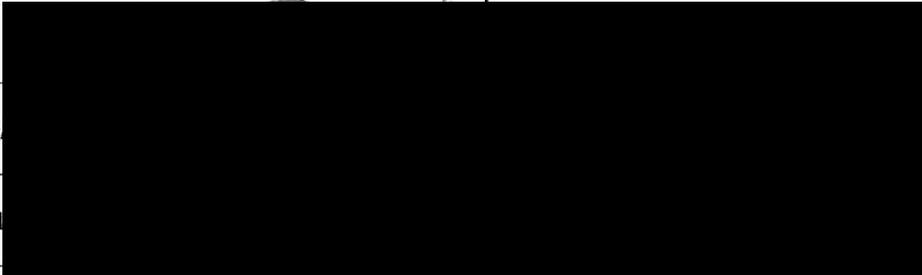
TOM H PORTER

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 14 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. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS TRANSMISSION LINE
GOING THROUGH IOWA COUNTY

From: [Joe](#)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek Comment
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 4:48:08 PM

Dear Environmental Scoping staff person:

Thank you for your unheralded but important work of collecting my input for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed high capacity transmission line that would span 125 miles across the driftless region of southwest Wisconsin from Madison to Dubuque IA. I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service < <http://bit.ly/Ltr-Debt> > from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied. I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investments in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increased dependency on utilities and create long-term debt. I realize that my comments can be included in the federal level Environmental Impact Statement and that I can submit additional requests up to January 6, 2017. You may use my email address to notify me when the draft statement is available. Thanks again for your attention to this important matter.

Joseph Prescott

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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:

Would prefer new line to go with the existing line on our farm near the Hickory Creek substation. Really do not want transmission line to go through middle of farm with buildings and timber. Have area of wetlands identified more central on farm.

Donna Pried -

farm located
SW Holy Cross
IA

From: Coleman Burnett
To: [David Reinhart](mailto:David.Reinhart)
Subject: FW: TAXPAYERS GOUGED FOR PROFITEERS IN DAIRY CRUELTY AND BRUTALITY
Date: Thursday, October 27, 2016 5:17:55 PM

Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 2:10 PM

To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>; KELLIE.KUBER@wdc.usda.gov; YOURVIEWS@app.com

Cc: foe@foe.org; The Pew Charitable Trusts <info@pewtrusts.org>; center@biologicaldiversity.org; info <info@earthjustice.org>; INFORMATION@sierraclub.org; humanelines <humanelines@hsus.org>; PETA Info <info@peta.org>

Subject: Re: TAXPAYERS GOUGED FOR PROFITEERS IN DAIRY CRUELTY AND BRUTALITY

PUBLIC COMMENT ON FEDERAL REGISTER

I AM IN FAVOR OF NO ACTION. I SEE NO REASON WHY THE US GOVT SHOUDL BE INVOLVED IN THIS TRANSMISSION LINE. IS DAIRYLAND THE ONE THAT JUST KILLED 500 COWS BECAUES THE MILK PRICE WAS NOT HIGH ENOUGH TO SUIT THEM. 500 COWS KILLED. THE FACT IS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE DRINKING LESS AND LESS MILK BECAUSE THEY SEE THE AWFUL WAY COWS ARE TREATGED IN THESE AG PROFITEER SITES. THE PICTURES AND VICEOS ON THE INTERNET ARE LEGION. WE ARE ALL SICK OF THIS TREATMENT OF COWS. THEY ARE KEPT PERPETUALLY PREGNANT WITH NO RELIEF WITH HANDS INTO THEIR REARS TO INSEMINATE THEM. THEY HAVE THEIR BABIES TAKEN FROM THEM IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH SO THAQT THEY ARE IN STRESS FOR DAYS. I DONT WANT TO DO A THING FOR THESE CRUEL AG PROFITEERS. I THINK THEY NEED TO BE PUT OUT OF BUSINESS. I HAVE GIVEN UP DRINKING MILK AS HAVE MILLOINS OF OTHER PEOPLE. THIS INDUSTRY DOES NOT DESRVE TAX DOLLRS IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM.

AS TO USACE GIVING APPROVAL, THEY APPROVE EVERYTHING. THEY HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS THAT THEY OVERLOOK EVERY SINGLE TIME. THEY LET UNION GOONS COME TO MEETINGS TO PUSH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, UNION GOONS WHOI ARE PAID TO COME TO TESTIFY AND USACE DOESNT QUESTION THAT AT ALL. USFWS IS MANAGED BY A KNOWN WILDLIFE MRUDERER NAMED DAN ASHE AND HE WILL APPROVE ANYTHIGN THAT HURTS OUR NATIONAL WILDIFE, SO HIS APPROVAL HAS REAL CONSTRAINTS. WE NEED TO GIVE MORE THORUGHT TO THIS SPENDING OF AMERICAN TAX DOLALRS SO THAT IT IS UTILIZED FOR CRUELTY, BRUTALITY, CORRUPTION AND MANIPULATION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLI.

NO ACTION SHOULD BE THE CHOICE HERE. NO TAPAYERS DOLALRS FOR THIS CRUEL INDUSTRY. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. PLEASE RECEIPT. JEAN PUBLIEE JEANPUBLIC1@YAHOO.COM

On Tue, Oct 18, 2016 at 3:34 PM, Jean Public [REDACTED] wrote:

[Federal Register Volume 81, Number 201 (Tuesday, October 18, 2016)]
[Notices]
[Pages 71696-71697]
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
[FR Doc No: 2016-25132]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service

Dairyland Power Cooperative: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and hold public scoping meetings in connection with possible impacts related to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). Other utilities participating in the Project are American Transmission Company LLC, by its corporate manager ATC Management Inc. and ITC Midwest LLC.

The proposal consists of the construction of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin (near Madison, Wisconsin). The Project also includes a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant County or Iowa County, Wisconsin. The total length of the 345-kV transmission lines associated with the proposed project will be approximately 125 miles. DPC and the other project participants have identified proposed and alternate segments and locations for transmission lines and associated facilities and for the intermediate substation. Dairyland Power Cooperative is requesting RUS to provide financing for its portion of the proposed project.

DATES: RUS will conduct four public scoping meetings in an open-house format at the following locations:

Time	Date	Venue	Location
	October 31, 2016	Peosta Community Center, 7896 Burds Road, Peosta, IA 53068.	Peosta, Iowa..... 3:00-6:00 p.m.....
	November 1, 2016	Cassville Middle School Cafeteria, 715 E. Amelia Street, Cassville, WI 53806.	Cassville, Wisconsin.. 4:00-7:00 p.m.....
	November 2, 2016	Dodgeville Middle School Cafeteria, 951 Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533.	Dodgeville, Wisconsin. 4:00-7:00 p.m.....
	November 3, 2016	Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI 53562.	Middleton, Wisconsin.. 4:00-7:00 p.m.....

ADDRESSES: To send comments or for further information, contact Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 Email: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov Washington, DC 20250-1571.

An Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro Corridor Study (MCS), prepared by Dairyland Power Cooperative, will be presented at the public scoping meetings. The reports are available for public review at the RUS address provided in this notice and at Dairyland Power Cooperative, 3251 East Avenue, South, La Crosse, WI 54602. In addition, the reports will be available at RUS' Web site, <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements> and at local libraries in the project area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Preliminary proposed transmission line corridors, the siting area for the intermediate substation, and the two existing end-point substations have been identified. The EIS will address the construction, operation, and

[[Page 71697]]

management of the proposed project, which includes the following: A new 345-kV terminal within the existing Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa; a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant or Iowa County, Wisconsin; a new 345-kV terminal within the existing Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton in Dane County, Wisconsin; a new 45- to 65-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line between the Hickory Creek Substation and the intermediate substation; a new 45- to 60-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line between the intermediate substation and the existing Cardinal Substation; a short, less than one-mile, 69-kV line in Iowa; facility reinforcement needed in Iowa and Wisconsin; construction and maintenance of access roads for all proposed transmission lines and rebuild of the Turkey River Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa with two 161/69 kV transformers, four 161-kV circuit breakers, and three 69-kV circuit breakers.

Total length of the transmission lines for the proposed project will be approximately 125 miles. The project study area includes part or all of the following counties in Iowa: Clayton and Dubuque. In Wisconsin, the project area includes parts of the following counties: Dane, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette.

Among the alternatives RUS will address in the EIS is the No Action alternative, under which the project would not be undertaken. In the EIS, the effects of the proposed project will be compared to the existing conditions in the area affected. Alternative transmission line corridors and the intermediate substation location will be refined as part of the EIS scoping process and will be addressed in the Draft EIS. RUS will carefully study public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of the proposed project and all related facilities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are participating in the environmental review process as cooperating agencies, with RUS as the lead Federal agency.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be available for review and comment for 45 days. A Final EIS that considers all comments received will subsequently be prepared. The Final EIS will be available for review and comment for 30 days. Following the 30- day comment period, RUS will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). Notices announcing the availability of the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and the ROD will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1970).

Dated: October 12, 2016.

Kellie Kubena,
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. 2016-25132 Filed 10-17-16; 8:45 am]
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [David Reinhart](mailto:David.Reinhart)
Subject: FW: comment
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 12:38:49 PM

From: jean public [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2016 3:43 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>; humanelines <humanelines@hsus.org>; INFORMATION@sierraclub.org; PETA Info <info@peta.org>; info <info@idausa.org>; INFO@foa.org; Erica Meier <info@cok.net>; foe@foe.org; center@biologicaldiversity.org
Subject: Re: comment

PUBLIC COMMENT ON FEDERAL REGISTER

I AM OPPOSED TO THIS TRANSMISSION LINE. I BELIEVE ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL REPRESENTING A SEVERE IMPACT TO ALL WILDLIFE AND TO ALL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS DURING THE SITE PROPOSED. I NOTE THAT AS USUAL PROFITEERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO USE PUBLICLY OWNED LAND THAT SHOULD BE SAVED AND PROTECTED FOR NATURE FOR THEIR PROFITMAKING OPERATION. THE TIME FOR THEM TO DO THAT IS OVER. THIS UTILITY SHOULD BE BUYING PRIVATE LAND TO DESTROY, NOT LOOKING TO BE A PUBLIC WELFARE CHARGE BY USING PUBLIC LAND. WE NEED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE EVERY ACRE OF PUBLIC LAND WE HAVE LEFT FROM THE PROFITEERS WHO NEVER STOP SEEKING TO USE AND ABUSE OUR PUBLIC LAND. THIS PROJECT SHOULD NOT GO FORWARD. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. PLEASE RECEIPT. JEAN PUBLIEE [REDACTED]

On Tue, Nov 22, 2016 at 12:12 PM, barbara sachau [REDACTED] > wrote:

[Federal Register Volume 81, Number 225 (Tuesday, November 22, 2016)]
[Notices]
[Pages 83797-83798]
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
[FR Doc No: 2016-27988]

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Notices
Federal Register

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

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Federal Register / Vol. 81, No. 225 / Tuesday, November 22, 2016 /
Notices

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service

Dairyland Power Cooperative: Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Additional Public Scoping
Meetings

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and hold additional public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and hold additional public scoping meetings in connection with possible impacts related to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). Other utilities participating in the Project are American Transmission Company LLC, by its corporate manager ATC Management Inc. and ITC Midwest LLC.

The proposal consists of the construction of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin (near Madison, Wisconsin). The Project also includes a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant County or Iowa County, Wisconsin. The total length of the 345-kV transmission lines associated with the proposed project will be approximately 125 miles. DPC and the other project participants have identified proposed and alternate segments and locations for transmission lines and associated facilities and for the intermediate substation. Dairyland Power Cooperative is requesting RUS to provide financing for its portion of the proposed project.

DATES: RUS will conduct two public scoping meetings in an open-house format at the following locations:

Time	Date	Venue	Location
	December 6, 2016	Peosta Community Center, 7896 Burds Road, Peosta, IA 53068.	Peosta, Iowa 4:00-7:00 p.m.
	December 7, 2016	Deer Valley Lodge, 401 West Industrial Drive, Barneveld, WI 53507.	Barneveld, Wisconsin.. 4:00-7:00 p.m.

The additional meetings are being held to give the public more opportunities to review the project and provide comments.

ADDRESSES: To send comments or for further information, contact Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571 Email: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov Washington, DC 20250-1571. The public comment period for the proposed project will extend through January 6, 2017.

An Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro Corridor Study (MCS), prepared by Dairyland Power Cooperative, will be presented at the public scoping meetings. The reports are available for public review at the RUS address provided in this notice and at Dairyland Power Cooperative, 3251 East Avenue South, La Crosse, WI 54602. In addition, the reports will be available at RUS' Web site, <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements> and at local libraries in the project area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Preliminary proposed transmission line corridors, the siting area for the intermediate substation, and the two existing end-point substations have been identified. The EIS will address the construction, operation, and management of the proposed project, which includes the following: A new 345-kV terminal within the existing Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa; a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant or Iowa County, Wisconsin; a new 345 kV terminal within the existing Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton in Dane County, Wisconsin; a new 45- to 65-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line between the Hickory Creek Substation and the intermediate substation; a new 45- to 60-mile (depending on the final route) 345-kV transmission line between the intermediate substation and

the existing Cardinal Substation; a short, less than one-mile, 69-kV line in Iowa; facility reinforcement needed in Iowa and Wisconsin; construction and maintenance of access roads for all proposed transmission lines and rebuild of the Turkey River Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa with two 161/69 kV transformers, four 161-kV circuit breakers, and three 69-kV circuit breakers.

Total length of the transmission lines for the proposed project will be approximately 125 miles. The project study area includes part or all of the following counties in Iowa: Clayton and Dubuque. In Wisconsin, the project area includes parts of the following counties: Dane, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette.

Among the alternatives RUS will address in the EIS is the No Action alternative, under which the project would not be undertaken. In the EIS, the effects of the proposed project will be compared to the existing conditions in the area affected. Alternative transmission line corridors and the intermediate substation location will be refined as part of the EIS scoping process and will be addressed in the Draft EIS. RUS will carefully study public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of the proposed project and all related facilities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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Service (USFWS) are participating in the environmental review process as cooperating agencies, with RUS as the lead Federal agency.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will be available for review and comment for 45 days. A Final EIS that considers all comments received will subsequently be prepared. The Final EIS will be available for review and comment for 30 days. Following the 30-day comment period, RUS will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). Notices announcing the availability of the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and the ROD will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in the RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1970).

Dated: November 15, 2016.

Kellie Kubena,
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. 2016-27988 Filed 11-21-16; 8:45 am]
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DAMAGED IN HANDLING
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PLEASE ALLOW 2-3 BUSINESS DAYS

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

RECEIVED
JAN 17 2017

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: Amanda Purcell

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

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

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line. Comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed on 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

Comments:

Friends of ours live in Ver. nt
Township, Wisconsin. I have known
them for years + have visited them on
their property. It is beautiful in
the Driftless Area.

So when they informed me of the
proposed transmission lines which would
run through such a gorgeous + sensitive
environmental area - I quite frankly
couldn't believe it.

I stand with them totally opposed.

Last Name RADTKE First Name JOSEPH

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

Street [REDACTED]
 City [REDACTED]

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

Years of residence in area: 4 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
VOLUNTEERS AT FOOD PANTRY, ART & LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

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

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

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>THE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE - SUCH AS THE BLANCHARD CRICKET FROG, HENSLAW SPARROW, ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, PICKEREL FROG, BELL'S VIREO, ORNATE BOX TURTLE</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u>
<u>IMPACT ON NATURAL</u>	

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATER</u>	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u>
<u>TALIESEN</u>	
<u>HOUSE ON THE ROCK + ALL ASSOCIATED HOTELS</u>	
<u>SILVER STAR</u>	
<u>ALL RESTAURANTS</u>	
<u>TOURISTS COME TO THIS AREA FOR ITS NATURAL BEAUTY - NO ONE WANTS TO SEE IT DISRUPTED BY HIGH VOLTAGE WIRES - RESIDENT</u>	<u>ESPECIALLY</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
	<u>WYOMING TOWNSHIP</u>

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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Joseph P. Radtke Date 12/5/16
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

R E C E I V E D **D**
DEC 08 2016

Last Name RANDALL First Name DOUGLAS

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.

OWN 118 ACRES IN TOWN OF DODGEVILLE, MFL, WITH CABIN > 52 YEARS

Years of residence in area: 53 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

MIDDLETON PLAN COMMISSION / FOUNDING MEMBER PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, DOX, STATE OF WISCONSIN

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		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		Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock		Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water		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>PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.</u>	<u>DODGEVILLE</u>	
<u>INDIRECT EMISSIONS: WE SEE RESULTS OF POWER USAGE ALL AROUND US. EACH DAY, THE GENERATION AND USAGE OF ENERGY PRODUCES MORE POLLUTION THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE INDUSTRY.</u>		
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	
<u>PLEASE SEE ATTACHED / VISUAL IMPACT OF TRANSMISSION TOWERS & LINES CREATES A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE FOR THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE THAT IN A PRISTINE AREA AS THE DRIFTLESS AREA THE TALLEST THING SEEN IS A TREE.</u>	<u>DODGEVILLE</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 Douglas Randall

Date Nov 2, 2016

High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines (HVOHL) impact the environment in six ways: a) Landscape, b) Biodiversity, c) Land use, d) Proximity effect, e) Indirect emissions and f) Resource depletion.

Landscape – HVOHL cause a visual deterioration of the skyline reducing its aesthetic appeal. In passing through populated areas this results in a loss of property values in the vicinity ; and in less populated areas, with a scenic, cultural or natural importance, this affects the tourism potential.

Biodiversity – The main impact is avian collisions which is particularly significant in high risk areas such as wooded regions and bird migration corridors. Can have high impact on fauna and other animal species. i

Land use – HVOHL passing through agricultural lands may permanently reduce the area under cultivation and cause physical damage during construction and maintenance.

Proximity effect – The “proximity effect” on human beings in the vicinity of HVOHL encompasses a fear of the adverse health effects of electromagnetic fields, annoyance and noise. Restrictions on distance to human habitation as a precautions not bee addressed.

Indirect emissions – Energy losses during transmission cause indirect carbon emissions and air pollution in power generation plants which vary with the type of primary energy source.

It is important to integrate these environmental impacts into the cost-benefit evaluation of HVOHL projects in order to avoid decisions that may be biased towards less environment friendly solutions.

Impacts on nature

In the planning of new transmission line routes, the starting point is avoiding important natural sites. The preservation of nature values identified at the planning stage is ensured during the construction of the transmission line by means of separate guidelines. Permanent impacts on nature are mainly caused in new tower locations and the border zones of the line clearing. In forests, the most significant permanent change is that the line clearing becomes treeless.

Last Name Randall First Name Sherrill

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

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

Street [Redacted] Additional information supplied for USDA/RUS
City [Redacted] Environmental and Economic Impact
Statement Scoping Input.

Years of residence in area: 53 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

Retired elementary school teacher - Middleton; Founder & Chrm Middleton Conservation Committee
City of Middleton Beautification committee; volunteer at Arboretum (Citizen action group)
Native Plant Sale - 16 yrs

1. I have marked impacts of concern regarding the high voltage transmission option:
own property & cabin in town of Dodgeville family ownership - 52 years * 52 yrs

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		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	
Affects on my Livestock		Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise		Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water		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>1) Diminished & disturbed aesthetic character of Brights Area, the most important ecological region in Midwest</u>	<u>Dodgeville Iowa County</u>
<u>2) Disturbance of native species and increase of invasive species due to soil disturbance during construction</u>	<u>Iowa County Range 3W</u>
<u>3) Disturbance of at-risk bird population & their habitat - (Acadian Flycatcher & Hooded Warbler)</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>
<u>4) Diminished Eagle population</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>
<u>5) Disturbance & loss of birds, native species & other natural resources in all sensitive areas along proposed routes</u>	<u>Entire c&C routes</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>1) Governor Dodge State Park</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>
<u>2) Hayland Lane - Bike ride & other charity bike rides</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>1) Increase of wild persim in construction of Towers that can potentially impact persons who unknowingly walk through it - painful blisters are harmful to health - 2) personal mental health anguish</u>	<u>Iowa Co</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 Sherrill B Randall Date Nov 3, 2016

November 3, 2016

To: Rural Utilities Service Scoping Session Members

Re: Cardinal-Hickory Creek High Voltage Transmission Line EIS

Because of the permanent disturbance to the unique beauty and ecology of the Driftless Area that the Cardinal-Hickory Creek High Voltage Transmission Line will cause, I oppose the proposed routes that traverse this area. I also oppose this line because of the impact it will have on all sensitive areas along the routes, notably the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area and the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge.

I relate specifically to the Driftless Area because this is where we have had a cabin and property at [REDACTED] for 52 years. It is inconceivable to me that high voltage lines are being proposed in this unique Driftless Area with its scenic ridges and deep valleys. It is this geological uniqueness and natural beauty that draws people to live here and others to visit. The Driftless Area is recognized as the most important ecological region in the Midwest. The urban visual impact of tall towers and lines will change its natural character forever. Once changed it can't be restored. It is incumbent upon us to see that future generations will also be able to enjoy this precious area just as it is now.

My mother purchased our property in Upper Wyoming Valley in 1964 with the explicit purpose of preserving the land in its natural state for perpetuity. My life mission is the stewardship of this land. We have entered it in the MFL program and now have a grant from the Landowners Incentive Program (LIP) for restoring a parcel to savanna/prairie and encouraging at-risk bird species. The visual intrusion of high voltage transmission lines will interrupt the tranquil quality of life we choose on this land.

Specific environmental concerns from our property for EIS analysis:

1. **Invasive species** in the 150' right-of-way. During the construction of these lines the soil will be disturbed and invasive species will grow in the right-of-way even if the area is planted with grass or farmed. This will be especially true in natural areas where native species will be destroyed. We have now seen photos of right-of-ways below high voltage lines in Wisconsin that are full of invasive species. It takes persistent work to eradicate invasive species and a utility company has to use weekly maintenance in the growing season to stop each emerging species from dropping seeds, unlikely on a 125-mile route.

The two most aggressive species along Hwy ZZ are Wild Parsnip and Garlic Mustard. Seeds from these and other invasive species will migrate down into our property where we have worked for 30 years to remove invasive plants and encourage the native plants that belong there. We know from past experience with local power line work how hard it is to prevent weeds from growing in disturbed soil. We do not support the use of strong herbicides to eradicate them.

My concern about invasive species increases when I consider the entire Cardinal-Hickory Creek Line. Wild Parsnip is out of control along many roads due to poor timing in cutting of these plants by various governmental units. Transmission line construction will only exacerbate this problem increasing the health risk to unknowing persons who walk into these plants and develop painful blisters. This has been a problem at Governor Dodge State Park. The EIS must assess the effects of high voltage transmission line construction on invasive species. How will this be done?

2. At-Risk Bird Species and Habitat Protection. On our property we have a unique habitat pocket for two threatened birds. The Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded Warbler have been found in this pocket as well as in one area in Governor Dodge State Park. They have been documented on ebird.org and the Acadian Flycatcher is listed in Range3W on the Wisconsin DNR Natural Heritage working list. We are setting aside a non-productive area in our MFL plan to protect their habitat.

The CHC transmission line route is proposed between Governor Dodge State Park and our property. We do know that birds fly from Governor Dodge Park down into our valleys. Eagles fly from the park and perch on snag trees on our ridge. It is unknown what affect the transmission lines could have on these birds, as there is little documentation in our area on collision with wires. The EIS must thoroughly evaluate the impact of high voltage transmission lines on these at-risk birds. We are concerned about their colliding with the lines. How will this be done?

The harmful effects on at-risk bird life and habitat from high voltage power lines will occur in many environmentally sensitive areas. I leave the impacts on birds in all these areas for other persons to address.

Besides so many potential environmental impacts on terrain, fauna and flora from the proposed CHC high voltage transmission line, there is no benefit to our community. There is the loss of property values for all who live along these routes. There is no benefit to us, the ratepayers, who will pay for the transmission lines with higher rates and at a time that electrical demand is decreasing. We don't even benefit from the electricity that is being transmitted past us to other areas. For those who visit the Driftless area, there will be an impact on tourism. Governor Dodge State Park recreational activities and various organizational bike rides rely on scenic beauty. Gigantic towers dominating the landscape diminish these recreational activities.

For these environmental and economical reasons, I believe that the CHC project should not be undertaken and that alternatives to large-scale transmission be created and implemented instead. This is the time to brainstorm different ways of meeting future and existing electricity needs, such as the use of local renewable energy sources, more efficiency and upgrading existing low-voltage lines. The EIS must include an **independent** analysis of non- transmission alternatives. Will this be done?

The EIS must answer whether questionable future energy demand requires high voltage transmission lines that cause permanent damage to our Wisconsin environment,

Sherrill Randall, [REDACTED]

Randall Ridge Family owned property for 52 years, [REDACTED]

Sherrill Randall Bio:

Volunteer, U of Wisconsin Arboretum Native Plant Sale 2002 to present

Retired elementary teacher, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, 1973-2001

Founder and Chairman, Middleton Conservation Committee citizen action group, 1964-1972. MCC proposed and supported the resulting adoption of the Pheasant Branch Nature Preserve in the corridor of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Member, City of Middleton Beautification Committee, 1968-1972

T7N R3E

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

Hooded Warbler - listed on ebird.org

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

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

Last Name Rauls First Name Mark

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

[] Individual Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

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

Years of residence in area: 16 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Resident, Property Owner

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

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input 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>Loss of habitat for animals, plants</u>	<u>Arena Township</u>	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in	
<u>Lots of tourism in area - American Players, House on the Rock, Taliesin, WI state parks, scenic beauty all impacted severely by 150 foot clear cut of woods to make way for transmission line.</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in	
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Mark Rauls Date 11/2/2016

Postage
Required

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

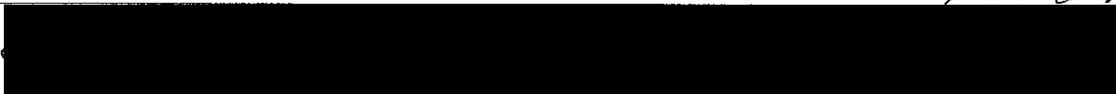
TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

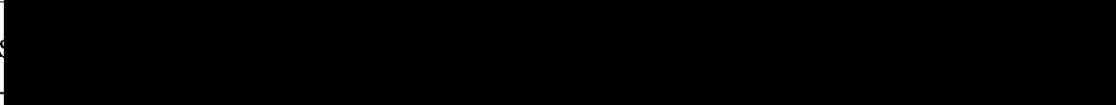
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Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: Mrs. Jael Reinders

Organization (if any): Seven Seeds Farm

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

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Comments:

My opinion is these lines are safe and totally unnecessary. It is proven that EMF's are emitted by them and in my opinion that is a health hazard. My vote for this is no - no - no.

From: [Dana Renor](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: High Voltage Transmission line proposal..
Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:24:54 AM

Hello there-

I'm writing to share my concerns about the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line. As a resident of the driftless area, I'm strongly against this proposal. The Driftless is a unique and beautiful area which is home to a diverse variety of wild plants and animals, and it needs to be protected. We certainly don't need another big transmission line gouging it's way across the landscape. It's already been proven that our area is declining in electricity usage, so why should locals be paying for another big eyesore that we don't even need?

There are also many possible negative effects that these high voltage lines have on the surrounding ecosystem, which includes the animals and people that live near them; from what I've heard and read about them, I don't want to live near one, and I think the fewer of them we have around, the better.

I also think it would be moving in completely the wrong direction to add another high voltage line in order to bring in (unneeded!) electricity from miles & miles away- even as far as Iowa! This is nonsensical. We are at a point world-wide, where we need to be re-structuring the way we live. We need to put our time and money into the further development of clean, sustainable and *local* energy sources, and we need to do it now, not waste more time and money in projects like ths.

Sincerely,

Dana Renor

From: Karen Reppen
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Power line
Date: Saturday, November 05, 2016 9:19:13 AM

Please do not build through the driftless region land. This is sacred space, and it needs to be preserved. Too much already ruined. There must be a better way. Please consider other solutions. Thank you.

From: Kim Reynolds
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: concerns
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 7:01:08 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 encourage you to address a full range of questions with the EIS.

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

Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.

Finally, this is not a false choice between building this transmission line and doing nothing at all. The EIS should analyze whether a combination of non-transmission alternatives – new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response – would meet actual electrical demand at a lower cost both economically and environmentally.

Sincerely,
Kim Reynolds

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: Scott Ringgenberg

Organization (if any): MHB Youth Football

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: 

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

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Comments:

MH ASD owns 25 acres along the proposed highway 18-151 corridor. There are plans to build recreation field / football fields on that land.

? How much acreage will be necessary as a right away into that field?

? Since children will be utilizing that area, what are the precautions taken to determine the routes?

At the sub-station why not follow the higher volt line to Lancaster versus going down to Plattville following the highway? Seems to be a more straight line on a already existing line?

You need to provide a lot more information to the school regarding the electrical concerns to people health to calm some fears.

Are you tied into the current wind mills power station in Montfort?

Last Name Rodriguez First Name Nancy
 Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor
 Street [Redacted]
 City [Redacted]

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

Notify/update Me via email Yes/No
 Years of residence in area: 8 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Wife of Arena native Michael Godfriend, Daughter in law of David & Nancy Giffey, Future Property owner in Region

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

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

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

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
My husband, my sons and I visit my husbands parents on their property in rural Arena, in the zone proposed for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. We will inherit this property, and as future per-	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	
As avid outdoors people, we enjoy sharing our future (and present) home with friends and colleagues from all over the country. The greatest appeal of this location is its pristine wilderness and	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	
My greatest concern is for the mental and physical health of my self, my family, my friends and my in-laws neighbors. High voltage transmission	

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 Nancy Rodriguez Date 12/26/16

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

1 - manent residents who frequently visit this area, I am gravely concerned about the probable negative impacts this line will have on our health and wellbeing, as well as the value of this property. Moreover, the transmission line threatens the safe passage of migratory waterfowl and rare birds, particularly fragile habitats of sandhill cranes, a species that has recently established nesting grounds in the zone proposed for the C-HC line.

2 unspoiled resources. The tourists we bring to this region will not be inclined to continue to frequent rural Arena township for hunting, hiking, biking and other activities if their appreciation of nature is compromised by the C-HC line. This will have an overall negative impact on the local economy, which stands to gain little, if anything, from the transmission line, particularly in an era during which the use of other forms of energy generation and transmission are being championed and developed by leading scientific and engineering entities. Businesses that I will be negatively impacted include local restaurants, stores, outdoor shops, retail outlets, filling stations and real estate interests that benefit from tourism and local economic activity.

3 lines have been proven to emit toxic levels of electromagnetic radiation, which can cause cancer, vertigo, and other health problems for people who experience prolonged exposure to the radiation. Also, given that the appeal of my in-laws property, of which I am an inheritor, is based on its purity and distance from such harmful developments, my mental health will be jeopardized by the imposition of a toxic energy transmission line that will emit harmful levels of radiation. This is underscored by the probable disturbance of ground held sacred by native American populations, and the overall negative impact on the health of my aging in-laws and their neighborhood. At this stage of environmental degradation, we need to find alternatives!

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Comments:

DOWN 18-151 IS THE ONLY
GOOD CHOICE



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Comments:

This area is a unique sensitive environment that needs to be respected and valued. The only sensible answer is going down the highway.



From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: ATC- Vermont Township
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 1:52:01 PM

Hello

Please include this letter in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Olivia Ruckstuhl

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



