

Mr. Scott Ek

Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

July 15th, 2009

Cc: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue S.W. Stop 1571
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Sirs –

This letter is being written in objection to the proposed reroute / or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. As it understood, the reroute of the CapX2020 Bracking to Hampton line will bring the 200 foot towers within 1/2 mile barrier of Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster MN. This private/public airport houses over 70 registered aircraft and operates as one of Minnesota largest in terms of aircraft on field aircraft.

The proposed alternate route places these towers Directly into the Published Airport Traffic Pattern of the states largest residential airpark. We as aviators recognize this as both a significant and unacceptable risk to lives by placing these lines in such close proximity to operating aircraft such as Ultra lights, Hot Air Balloons, Light Singles, and other low performance aircraft.

Additionally, it should be noted that per both FAA and Minnesota Regulations, any such development within a the navigable airspace as presented in Federal Aviation Regulations, 14 CFR Part 77 would and does require federal review and review of the existing state and local airspace regulations. As listed in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5190-4A, Model Zoning Ordinance to Limit Height of Objects Around Airports I believe that the proposed alternate rerouting has not addressed these critical safety issues to navigable airspace around 1MN8, Minnesota Sky Harbor Airport.

It is the purpose of this letter to convey both the danger and the hazard to navigation that these towers would impose upon one of the states largest aircraft bases. On a personal basis, I do not believe this to be in Webster, MN, Rice County, or it's residence best interest and would like to add my official objection to this project.

Respectfully Submitted



Sky Harbor Airpark
Webster, MN 55088

I-236-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Cochrane Fountain City School

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: It will drop the value of my property

I-237-001

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-237-002

This is a recreation area for children and grand children a great amount of time and money was spent on making trails for their use. My sons also fly RC Airplanes in this area and it will interfere with that also the spraying will be harmful to the abundant variety of wild life

I-237-003

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-237-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-237-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-237-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-237-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: Recreation

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

this will drop through some of the best agriculture land in the area which we must consider for the future generation.

S17 T21N R12W SEs quarter

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-237-004

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Joan Auerbeck

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 52073 Co. Rd. N

City: Alma State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-248-2754

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Ⓞ 819 Route
Ⓞ 845-46 Route

COMMENT FORM

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We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 29~~, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.** July 25

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None, Received information from neighbor who attended meeting

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

Project Purpose and Need

Visual / Aesthetic resources

Proximity to residences

Use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

Wetlands (floodplains, river crossings)

Wildlife resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

Historic and cultural sites

Radio or television interference

Noise

Health and safety

Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

(as above)

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Kessler, Ellen

From: emestinatroielli@hotmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:09 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: opposing capx2020

I-223-001 | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;

I-223-002 | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi flyway.

Lauren found her dream laptop. Find the PC that's right for you.<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/choosepc/?ocid=ftp_val_wl_290>

I-223-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-223-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I live at 3700 Dawnhorn Ct NE, parallel to the
 of B119 proposed line. This line would effectively
 split through my parents' family farm land.
 They farmed this 100 acres on either side
 of the B119 proposed line from 1956 - 2
 The beauty of this farm land would be
 significantly compromised by the poles - we
 project. My view of my parents' home
 will be obstructed by this project, as well.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational) in the Project area and why?

The proposed B119 project would affect the
 wildlife that grazes the farmland - The
 wild turkeys, pheasants, geese & grouse
 enjoy this land of abundant food - shelter
 cutting through, creating this line will
 create disruption of their natural habitat.
 Our neighborhood is a very desirable
 living environment for all of us in part
 because of the quiet surroundings - The
 B119 line would be significantly disruptive
 to an serene neighborhood, with the
 accompanying noise level.

I-238-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-238-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Yes, however it does not make sense to me to use the alternative B119 line which is longer & would cut through a number of properties rather than using the B45-46 line project. We do not need more disruption of what little un-developed farmland we have remaining in NE Rochester.

Historic ar

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Katie Zahasky
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 3700 Dawnhaven Ct NE
City: Rochester State: mn Zip Code: 55906
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-289-9365

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Gary Peters
Annette Peters
2779 450th Street
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

RE: CapX 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to you because we are concerned about the proposed CapX 2020 project that may be coming through Minnesota. Our property is in the area for the Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse 345 KV Transmission Project. Our home is located in Section 28 of Holden Township in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Our property is residential and sits on approximately 3.50 acres. We live in a rural agricultural community. Our home is surrounded by farm fields a small woods that is home to deer, wild turkeys and a wide variety of other wildlife.

The various power companies involved in this project have been providing data showing the increased demand for power through 2004 and thus the need for this project. However, the data for the years after 2004 show that there is an actual decrease in usage. Our hope is that all alternatives to this massive project have been studied and fairly evaluated. This project will stretch from the Dakotas through Minnesota and Wisconsin. The transmission lines are said to lose 30% of the power they are carrying. They propose to use coal. We seem to be making strides in conservation and in using renewable resources to produce energy. Is a project of this magnitude really the best solution?

As we stated before, ours is an agricultural community and our township and county are dedicated to keeping our family farms and our agricultural base. The acres of land that will be taken for right of ways if this project is approved is astounding. There are also small woods and stands of trees that will suffer if these huge lines are allowed to come through our state. Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area, drive down property values, cause potential health threats, and cause various problems that farms will need to "work around" for years to come. Becoming a corridor for transmission lines (for which we see no direct benefit) is not something we or anyone else I know wants. I was told that height of the poles for these lines will be approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty!

The proposed route though our township appears to be very close to many homes. We know that these power lines can be harmful to both people and

I-239-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-239-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-001
I-239-004

I-239-005
I-239-002
I-239-006

I-239-007
I-239-008

wildlife but still do not know the full effect of long term exposure. We know it interferes with various electrical and GPS systems, etc. We were informed at one meeting we attended that farmers may need to ground their machinery when working around these lines. We also understand that it can interfere with radio and television transmission.

I-239-009
I-239-010

I have read many of the comments submitted by others regarding this project and I have heard many others speak at previous meetings. The reasons for not wanting these lines in our area are the same reasons others do not want them in their areas; including the effect on our property values. We don't want the view from our homes to be massive transmission lines. There is no compensation for those living near the lines and no amount of money would suffice for the loss we would incur in so many ways.

I-239-003

We hope that another solution can be found so none of us will have to have these huge transmission lines near our homes. However, we know that the power companies involved as well state and local governments will prosper from this project and fear that it will be approved. If this project is approved we hope that the least invasive route would be used. We appreciate attempts to stay away from homes when possible, but these lines will still be very close to many homes. Also, is taking this valuable rural land really the best answer? If the project goes forward we feel that the most logical route is not through Holden Township and Highway 56 or Highway 60. The other route goes along Highway 52. Homes in this area would be further from the line. It would also seem to be a shorter and thus less expensive route to use. This route is also more industrial and commercial than the route along Highways 56 and 60.

Sincerely,

Gary & Annette Peters



I-239-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-239-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-008

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-239-009

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-239-011

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

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We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 29~~ ^{July 6}, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-240-003 | The need for things like this?

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Crystal Valley Rd. Gale, WI Acres of
trees would be lost. wildlife loss.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-240-002

Aesthetic is the most sensitive resource

I-240-001

A massive new line would be ridiculous eye
sore. Do nothing. It worse place new/Bigger
and more lines on existing poles.

I-240-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-240-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-240-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-240-004

NO. The need for the new High Voltage Power is not explained. Power usage is decreasing!

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Michael Batzler

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 1898 Conestoga Ct

City: Richfield State: WI Zip Code: 53076

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-240-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

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I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-241-002 my concern includes wild life, noise level, if any,
I-241-001 over safety, why not use non-farm land, if
available.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

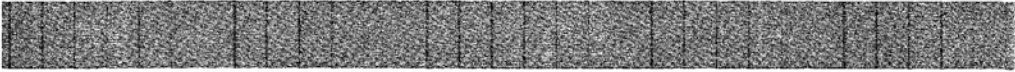
I-241-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-241-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise and to wildlife and human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-241-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

We are possibly having wind towers on our land. Would the wind towers and the transmission be able to work together?

Multiple horizontal lines for additional handwritten input.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: JoAnn Dubbels

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 5831 51st St NE

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-282-2991

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-241-003

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:

http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

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We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Cap & 2000 Galesville in June, 2008 meetings by LaCrosse Clean Energy Coalition, local concerned citizen meetings in Galesville, WI

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

Project Purpose and Need

Visual / Aesthetic resources

Proximity to residences

Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

Historic and cultural sites

Radio or television interference

Noise

Health and safety

I-242-001 Other: Decentralization of energy production

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-242-002 Increased thrust for long-term sustainability with use of diversified renewable energies.

I-242-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-242-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-242-001.



I-242-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

At present I don't believe I'm under a corridor. However I continuously here of changes in the routing.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-242-003

I do not appreciate forcing the bill for energy lines which will not directly service me. Instead there ought to be continual compensation for the environmental, agricultural, biological, and recreational damage and destruction paid by the receivers of the energy to those within this proposed corridor, at least. Another words no rate hike to us.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-242-004

No. In fact, it's unclear to this day where the lines are actually going to be installed, or whether wind energy will be accessed with this project.

I-242-005

I've also been told it's a "done deal" with permission from Wisconsin to move forward with this project. If that's so what's the purpose of this comment form? I want accurate detailed information on the final corridor choice and an opportunity for public input on it. Or is it the strategy of the organizers to divide the public, so they can conquer, so to speak?

I-242-006

I want accurate detailed information on the final corridor choice and an opportunity for public input on it. Or is it the strategy of the organizers to divide the public, so they can conquer, so to speak?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Lois Taylor, MA, RN
 Representing (Optional): Quantum Living - E.N. consultant
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 213
 City: Tempecaleau State: WI Zip Code: 54661-0213
 Daytime Phone (Optional): (608) 5345008

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-242-004

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-242-005

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

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I-242-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-242-005.

4372 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088
July 22, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

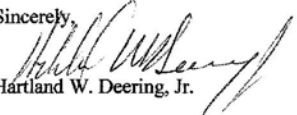
As a resident of Sky Harbor Airpark, I am writing to officially object to the proposed reroute or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. I understand the reroute of the CAPX2020 Brooking to Hampton line may bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile of the Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster, Minnesota.

The proposed alternate route places these towers DIRECTLY INTO THE PUBLISHED AIRPORT TRAFFIC PATTERN of the state's largest residential airpark. With over 70 registered aircraft using the field, this is a significant and unacceptable risk to safe navigation that could result in loss of lives.

Sky Harbor Airpark has also been used numerous times for emergency medical helicopter operations. These operations may occur during times of adverse weather making the towers an even greater danger. We also have, on occasion, had gliders from Stanton Airport use this facility when the gliders were not able to return to their home airport. Gliders by nature have very low angles of approach to landing, and these towers would pose a very real threat to their maneuvers.

The FAA and Minnesota Department of Aeronautics have numerous regulations on regard regarding the construction of tall towers near airports. I would like to stress the importance of compliance with these regulations.

Sincerely,


Hartland W. Deering, Jr.

C: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I-243-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

4372 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088
July 22, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

As a resident of Sky Harbor Airpark, I am writing to officially object to the proposed reroute or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. I understand the reroute of the CAPX2020 Brooking to Hampton line may bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile of the Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster, Minnesota.


The proposed alternate route places these towers DIRECTLY INTO THE PUBLISHED AIRPORT TRAFFIC PATTERN of the state's largest residential airpark. With over 70 registered aircraft using the field, this is a significant and unacceptable risk to safe navigation that could result in loss of lives.

Sky Harbor Airpark has also been used numerous times for emergency medical helicopter operations. These operations may occur during times of adverse weather making the towers an even greater danger. We also have, on occasion, had gliders from Stanton Airport use this facility when the gliders were not able to return to their home airport. Gliders by nature have very low angles of approach to landing, and these towers would pose a very real threat to their maneuvers.

The FAA and Minnesota Department of Aeronautics have numerous regulations on record regarding the construction of tall towers near airports. I would like to stress the importance of compliance with these regulations.

Sincerely,


Melanie K. Deering

C:  Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I-244-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

personal care from lawyers who care

July 20, 2009

Ms. Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CapX 2020
Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse Route Options
Affected Kroening properties in Olmsted County:
R73.11.23.1033364; R73.10.42.033357; R73.11.33.033366; and R73.14.22.03387

Dear Ms. Strength:

Recently I wrote you regarding my client, Dr. David Lowe. I have now also been retained to represent his neighboring property owner, Randy Kroening. Mr. Kroening's home is also threatened by the east-most proposed route options for the 161 kV transmission line running from the southeast Rochester/Chester substation northwest. A CapX 2020 map and plat book page are enclosed here showing the Kroening homestead!

Mr. Kroening owns and farms over 300 acres in four adjoining parcels sections 11, 12 and 14 in Haverhill Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. The eastern-most of the two transmission line route options is proposed to occupy one and one-quarter miles of the Kroening property (all of the west boundary of section 11, and the west boundary of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 14).

The proposed line would be unsightly and an obstacle and intrusion on his farming operation. It would cross through and over a century-old grove of oak and other hardwoods adjacent to his home. Mr. Kroening has lived in this family farm home all his life, and the homestead is the center of his farming operation. It is a beautiful, rural setting that would be despoiled by a high power line, and the necessary long-term maintenance required to keep the right-of-way clear of mature trees.

I-245-001 More significantly, the proposed line is sited to pass within one hundred feet or so of his home. If the transmission line is truly over 150 feet tall, then the line as proposed would be closer to his



Attorneys

Mark W. Delehanty
JoMarie L. Morris*
Carole A. Pasternak
Shareholders

Anne M. Dennison**
Associate

Michael D. Klampe
{1947-2001}

LAW OFFICES OF **KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC**
Broadstreet Building | 300 First Avenue NW | Rochester, MN 55901 | 507 288 2447 | fax 507 288 4412 | 800 972 2447 | www.klampelawfirm.com
*Also licensed in Wisconsin **Also licensed in Iowa

I-245-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

Stephanie Strength
July 20, 2009
Page 2

home than the height of the line. His home would be within the necessary setback zone. This poses an unacceptable safety risk.

I-245-002

Mr. Kroening wants it to be clearly understood that he will not willingly accept any power line easement or intrusion onto his property, and will take all available legal steps to protect and keep his home. Clearly the other, west-most alternative route for this power line is the better option. It has an existing People's Coop Power right-of-way, is shorter and straighter, and poses less threat to existing homes.

Respectfully submitted,

KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC



Mark W. Delehanty

MWD/jc
Enclosures

Cc: Randy Kroening
CapX 2020, attn: Jim Alders, 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
People's Cooperative Power
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Misc/kroening/strengthltr

I-245-002

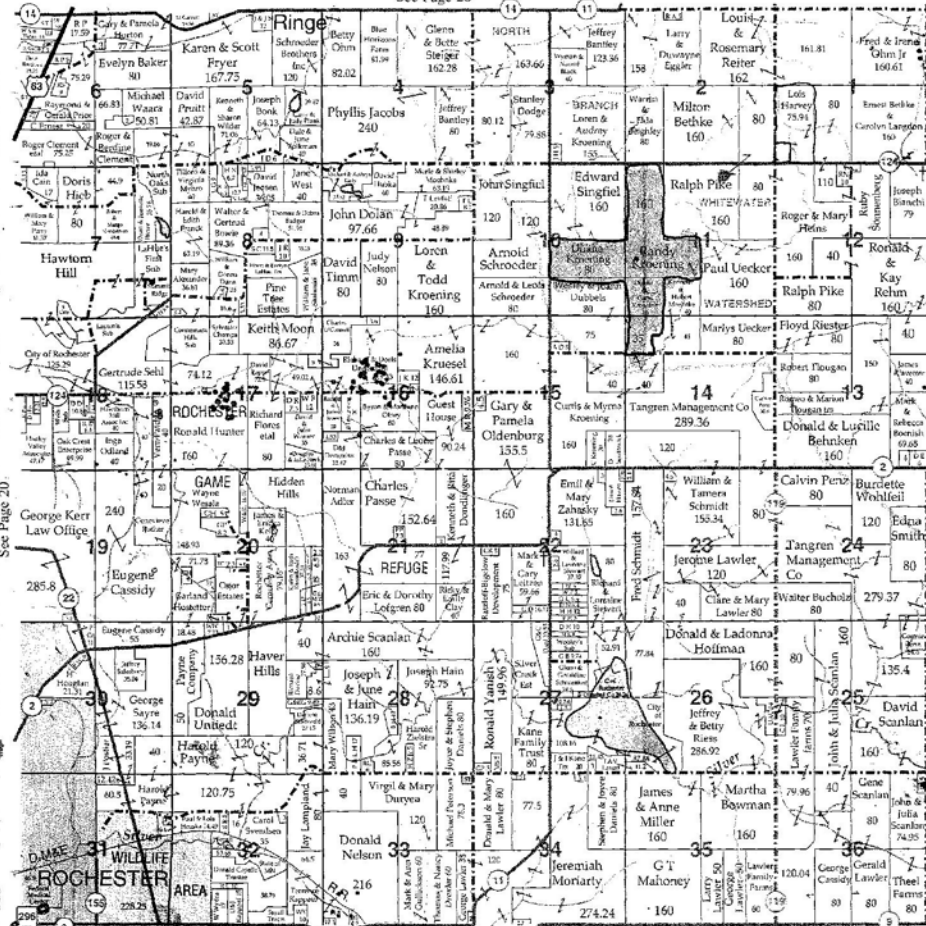
Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

**HAVERHILL
TOWNSHIP**


T.107N. - R.13W.



See Page 26



See Page 16



ROOT RIVER

State Bank

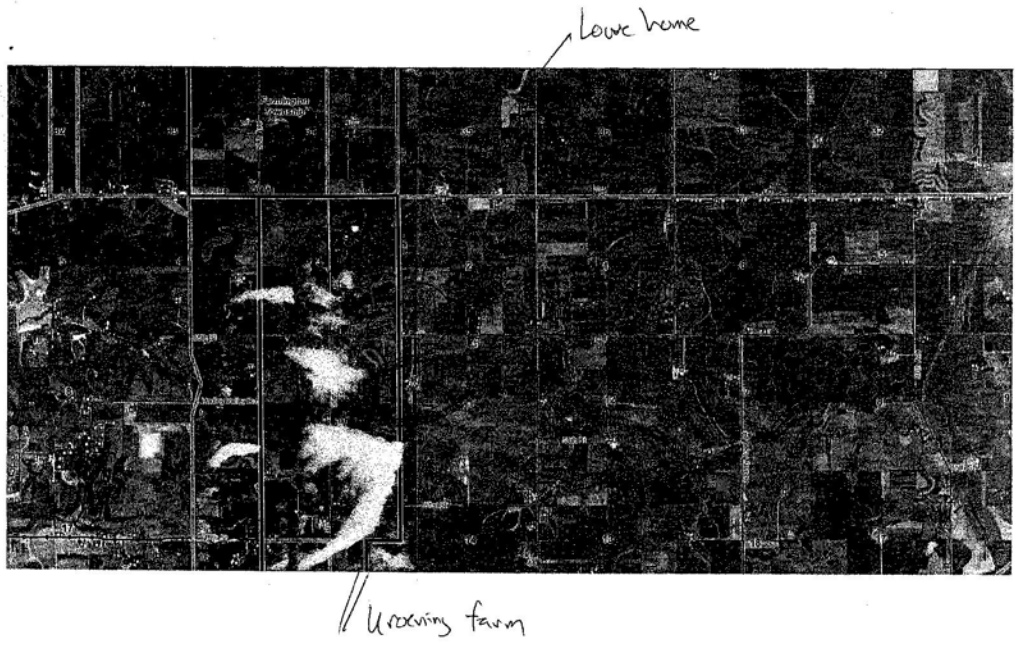
Established 1856 • The Oldest State Chartered Bank in Minnesota

CHATFIELD, MINNESOTA 55923

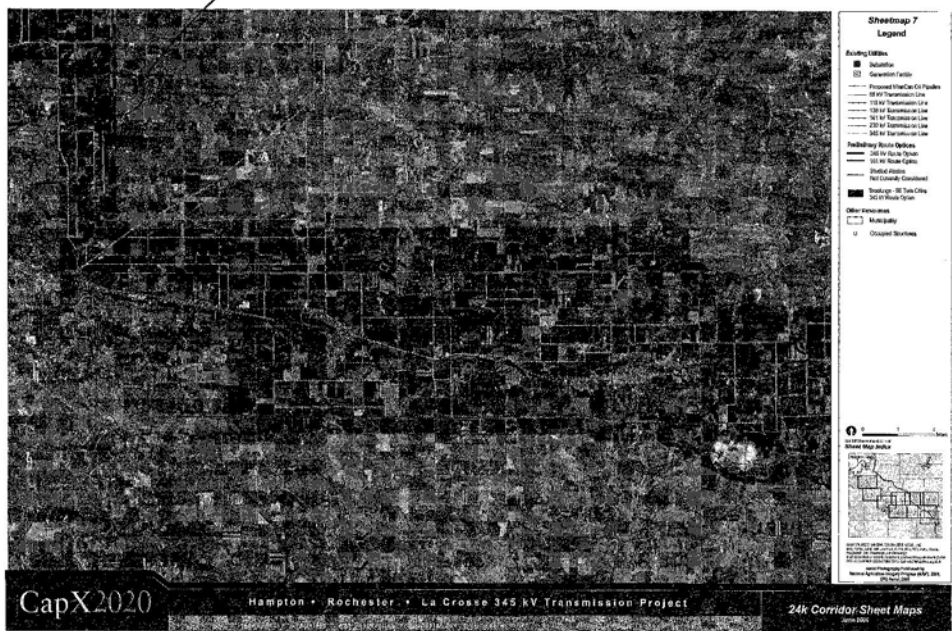
(507) 867-4120

FAX (507) 867-3940

**Your Community Bank with Strong Reserves
Largest in the Root River Valley**



Kroening farm



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? JUNE 25, 2009 COCHRANE-Fountain City High School

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-246-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

GREAT RIVER ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY
 THERE IS EXISTING RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS
 NORTH, SOUTH, EAST & WEST OF THE PROPOSED
 LINE C10 - C11. THIS LINE SPLITS OUR FARM
 LAND WHICH IS ALSO POTENTIAL PREFERENCE FOR
 BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LAND.

PROPERTY LOCATION: T20N R12W SECTION 25 E36

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

STATE HIGHWAY 35, TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
 THE GREAT RIVER ROAD, THE PRIME BUILDING
 PROPERTY FOR BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
 AREAS FROM FOUNTAIN CITY NORTH TO ALMA WIS.
 WILL HELP TO GENERATE FUTURE TAX DOLLARS TO HELP
 SUPPORT OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT ~~AND~~, SCHOOLS
 ETC. TO BRING A HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION
 LINE THROUGH THIS AREA WOULD NOT BE GOOD IN
 MY OPINION.

I-246-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

YES it was adequate!

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: LESLIE J. HANEY & LORRAINE H. HANEY

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: S 2966 ST. HWY 35

City: Fountain City, State: Wisconsin Zip Code: 54629

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-687-3741 (HOME)

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

CapX2020

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

Delivering electricity you can rely on

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Unable

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

We own land on an alternate route - Proposal is to build a second line next to present line - Replacing the present ~~line~~ with a double line would be more acceptable

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-247-001

I-247-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-247-002

Our farmland is zoned exclusive ag II. A second line has the following problems.

I-247-003

1- additional obstacles to farm around. Requires more time to farm around, more overlaps and constant fear of hitting poles and potential riparian tree + wet.

I-247-004

*2- Greater restriction to aerial applications of chemicals which is becoming more common.
3- Potential subtraction on farmland zoned to remain farmland.*

Property in Town of Gale Sec. 36 T19N R8W

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Prime farmland - because it's my livelihood.

I-247-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-247-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-247-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I did not attend but did read the material.

I-247-005

My question was why put a second line beside that present instead of replacing with one new line - I didn't see any good explanation of that.

I-247-006

Another question is why aren't Interstate highway right-of-way used for ~~transmission~~ transmission lines?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ken Congdon
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: W16618 St. Rd 54
City: Salesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630
Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-582-4476

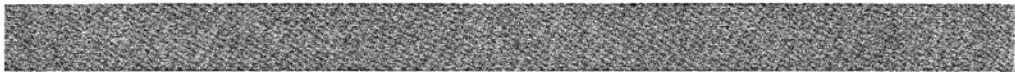
Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.
Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-247-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-247-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our house is located in the Haverhill township Section 15
Olmsted County Rochester MN 55906

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-248-001

We don't want the B119 proposed site going through our
yard. If a new line needs to be ran why is the B45
Site being utilized.

I-248-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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Which meeting did you attend? Northfield - Wauamingo - St Charles

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety

I-249-006 Other: Geologic Impact on the land in Holden Township

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-249-007 This is a fragile area with a large limestone cavern
A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling
Township and Richland Township in 1986. - A witness post sign can
be found on 210th Wheeling Township Verifying the study - mineral
rights were purchased from some land owners
The project was abandon when the large cavern was
found to have large limestone faults.
During the governmental study family water wells were destroyed
when the limestone faults shifted.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: NORMA MONROE

Representing (Optional): ~~NA~~

Mailing Address: 2162 HWY 246 BIRD

City: KENYON State: MN 55946 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5497

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

July 22, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020

CAP X 2020 Would carry coal generated electricity, hundreds of miles with a 20% compounded loss to an area that is producing electricity from wind projects and proposing new wind projects to be built.

Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous and solid waste products.

Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy which generates the majority of its electricity from coal (which spews global warming gases into the atmosphere) could easily be a big loser if a strong climate-change bill passes in Washington. A strong climate-change law could dramatically decrease the value of hundreds of millions of dollars of Minnesota Power's and Xcel Energy's investment in coal-burning infrastructure.

Minnesota Power now reports that money invested in wind power produces cheaper electricity than money invested in coal power and money invested in energy-efficient buildings is more than paid for by energy savings.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:

Why do we need additional transmission lines?

EXEL'S has had a shrinking demand for electricity from the year 2006

DAIRYLAND POWER'S representative stated "there is already too much electricity being produced by the new wind projects in Southern Minnesota and they need to move it to other locations. We can't use it all."

—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and La Crosse, Wis. **WHY THE NEW LINE?**

I-249-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-249-001

GEOLOGIC IMPACT: Holden Township –a proposed line route -- is a fragile area with a large underground limestone cavern.

A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling Township and Richland Township Minnesota in 1986. — A witness post sign can be found on 210th Street East, Wheeling Township verifying the study — The study was to determine how big the cavern was, if it contained natural gas, and if the limestone was solid or fractured. The study - project was abandon when the large cavern was found to have large limestone faults. During the governmental study family water wells were destroyed when the limestone faults shifted. Heavy equipment and earth pounding was used during the study. Mineral Rights were purchased from some land owners.

I-249-008 **VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES:** we have a rolling country farming community and the large poles would ruin the view, disrupting and destroying our rural landscape. A swath 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state will remove woodland habitat and farmland from our State's precious natural resources.

I-249-009 **PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES:** No people should have a line build on their homestead, for their health and safety. Electric and Magnetic fields still have unknown effects on all living creatures.

I-249-003 **LAND USE AGRICULTURE:** I have worked for thirty years to build my farmland. I have installed tile, build terraces, with the goal to stop erosion and run off. Farmland is not a renewable resource we need to protect every field, every acre. Holden township and Goodhue County are both dedicated to keep our family farms and our agricultural base. We do not want the transmission lines, as those proposed by the Cap X2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.

I-249-004 Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area and drive down property values, and cause problems for farmers.

I-249-010 **WATER RESOURCES:** Most of the family water wells are shallow and will be disturbed with the digging of large holes and limestone fracturing,

I-249-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-249-004

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: RAPTORES: Hawks nest in my woods on my farm, in Holden township. They thrill everyone who hears their call or sees them fly. They are majestic and should not be disturbed.

I-249-005 | **TELEVISION INTERFERENCE:** The large poles will interrupt the poor television we now receive Also there will be interference with GPS systems..

I-249-011 | **NOISE:** We enjoy the quite in the country. We can hear the birds, insects, and the trees rustle. We do not want to hear the mum of electricity lines.

PROPOSED WIND PROJECTS: Three companies are proposing wind projects for the Holden, Kenyon and Wheeling Township areas.

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



Norma Monroe
2162 HWY 246 BLVD
Kenyon MN 55946
Phone no# 507-789-5497

I-249-005

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-249-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to water resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-249-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts due to noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why? AESTHETICS VISUAL / RESOURCES

Winona has benefitted from the natural beauty of the surrounding bluffs. And, the community enforces strict restrictions on building along or on the bluffs in order to preserve the aesthetics for all of its citizens.

I-250-001

A compromise would be to have the power line travel on the east side, not the west side of the last bluff as it descends the bluff and crosses highway 61.

I-250-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____ 507 - 454 - 3800



Dr. Thomas E. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Dr
Winona, MN 55987-6221

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Thomas E. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

tmauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

Public Scoping Meeting For An Environmental Impact Statement
CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project

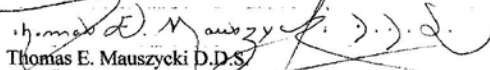
To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

I oppose the development of the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project through the proposed Winona corridor which will cross the Mississippi River.

Negative Impacts include:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| I-250-002 | 1) Environmental issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor. The environmental issues include plant and wildlife species. |
| I-250-003 | 2) Health issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor. |
| I-250-004 | 3) Impact on residential development along the proposed Winona corridor. |
| | 4) Impact on manufacturing development along the proposed Winona Corridor; and, the concurrent decrease in manufacturing positions. |
| | 5) Tourism will experience the negative aspect as related to the natural beauty of this area; including the bluff lands. |

Sincerely yours,


Thomas E. Mauszycki D.D.S.

I-250-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-250-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-250-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Scott Ek

Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

July 15th, 2009

Cc: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue S.W. Stop 1571
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Sirs –

This letter is being written in objection to the proposed reroute / or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. As it understood, the reroute of the CapX2020 Brooking to Hampton line will bring the 200 foot towers within 1/2 mile barrier of Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster MN. This private/public airport houses over 70 registered aircraft and operates as one of Minnesota largest in terms of aircraft on field aircraft.

The proposed alternate route places these towers Directly into the Published Airport Traffic Pattern of the states largest residential airport. We as aviators recognize this as both a significant and unacceptable risk to lives by placing these lines in such close proximity to operating aircraft such as Ultra lights, Hot Air Balloons, Light Singles, and other low performance aircraft.

Additionally, it should be noted that per both FAA and Minnesota Regulations, any such development within a the navigable airspace as presented in Federal Aviation Regulations, 14 CFR Part 77 would and does require federal review and review of the existing state and local airspace regulations. As listed in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5190-4A, Model Zoning Ordinance to Limit Height of Objects Around Airports I believe that the proposed alternate rerouting has not addressed these critical safety issues to navigable airspace around 1MN8, Minnesota Sky Harbor Airport.

It is the purpose of this letter to convey both the danger and the hazard to navigation that these towers would impose upon one of the states largest aircraft bases. On a personal basis, I do not believe this to be in Webster, MN, Rice County, or it's residence best interest and would like to add my official objection to this project.

Respectfully Submitted



Sky Harbor Airpark
Webster, MN 55088

I-251-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

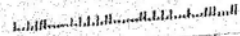
Tom Johnson
4219 Cass Ave
Webster, MN 55088

SAINT PAUL MN 550
21 JUL 2009 PM 2 L



Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW Stop 1571
Washington DC 20250-1571

20250-1571



Mr. Scott EK

Subject: CAPX 2020

I am a Dairy Farmer on your Alternate Route for this new power line. My Son and I farm 500+ Acres and milk 120 Cows & ~~the~~ the Barns and Dairy Cows are located North of the proposed 57th St route, almost 1/2 mile, in Webster township. This route was bad enough but now I understand the route is changed to go north on Elm Ave & then east on 50th St, this route would go on my ~~and~~ Farm's north property line & would only be about 200 yds from my Dairy Barn's. This is not good. I have dealt with stray voltage ~~to~~ in ~~the~~ my dairy barns for years and have spent about 20,000 to bring it to a tolerable level. We ~~are~~ are also about 75% of our way thru for making plans, getting Bids, getting ~~the~~ estimates etc for about a \$600,000 improvement for our Dairy but this will not happen with a large power line so close to ~~the~~ ^{the} Barn's. Power lines and Dairy Cattle do not mix. I object strongly to this route (50th St) in Webster, mn.

Larry Coffing
Coffing Farms
4920 W 50th St
Webster, mn 55088

I-252-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital

July 21, 2009

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I wish to state my strong opposition to the proposed CapX2020 transmission lines proposed on 50th Street West and 57th Street West in Webster, Minnesota. This line will run next to my property, where I have over \$100,000 worth of top show horses and breeding stock on my farm. I raise several foals per year and believe the power line will be a danger to my horses. In addition, the high voltage lines with their magnetic fields of constant humming and cracking from the overhead transmission will devalue my property. Although, on a map it may look like the proposed line is running by vacant fields, it is not because, as stated above, I have top show horses and breeding stock in those fields, and the proposed lines will be detrimental to them.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, and I ask that you find an alternate route that will have less impact on my property.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Ott, D.V.M.

Your Horse's Life is Our Life's Work!

I-253-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 8:48 AM
To: Low, Tara; Collins, Carly; Myers, Stephanie; Hillstrom, Thomas G; cat@dairynet.com
Subject: Fwd: Documents re CapX2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sent from my iphone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC" <Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov>
Date: June 9, 2009 7:22:07 AM MDT
To: "Lilley, Bliss" <Bliss.Lilley@aecocom.com>
Cc: <cat@dairynet.com>
Subject: FW: Documents re CapX2020

Do you have this info?

From: CCuster@winona.edu [<mailto:CCuster@winona.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 8:45 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Documents re CapX2020

Hello Stephanie. I left a voice mail message regarding the following. I have received information that you can provide the Alternative Evaluation Study and/or the Macro Corridor Study for the CAPX2020 project.

I would like a copy of the document(s) that detail the follow:

- I-254-001** |
- 1) The number of households in MN and WI that will benefit from the project
 - 2) The costs of all proposed route option.

I would appreciate receiving the document(s) as soon as possible. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cristeen Custer

I-254-001

Your comment has been noted. Benefits of the proposed project will be discussed and evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Winona State University

507.457.2569

www.winona.edu

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:45 PM
To: Collins, Carly
Subject: Fwd: CapX2020

Sent from my iphone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Schultz, Dawn R" <dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com>
Date: July 23, 2009 9:09:03 AM PDT
To: Dean Regnier <dregnier@us.ibm.com>
Cc: "Lilley, Bliss" <Bliss.Lilley@accomm.com>, "stephanie.strength@usda.gov" <stephanie.strength@usda.gov>, "baregnier@hotmail.com" <baregnier@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: CapX2020

Dean,

I-255-001

Thank you for the information. I've asked our mapping person to make sure your home is recorded on our maps.

Dawn

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

From: Dean Regnier [<mailto:dregnier@us.ibm.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 10:25 AM
To: Schultz, Dawn R
Cc: Lilley, Bliss; stephanie.strength@usda.gov; baregnier@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: CapX2020

Dawn, Stephanie,

Thank you for your response...see our input below...

(Embedded image moved to file: pic17495.jpg)

Dean Regnier
507-843-4381 (Home)
507-253-2257 (work)
EMAIL dregnier@us.ibm.com

I-255-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

"Schultz, Dawn R"
<dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com>
To
Dean Regnier/Rochester/IBM@IBMUS
07/22/2009 09:45 AM
cc
"Lilley, Bliss"
<Bliss.Lilley@aecom.com>,
"stephanie.strength@usda.gov"
<stephanie.strength@usda.gov>
Subject
CapX2020

Dear Mr. Regnier,

Thank you for your contact regarding the CapX2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse project. Your e-mail came to me, and I can help you with your questions/concerns. We certainly want to get your house on our maps. If you would provide me with your specific location, I'll pass it on to our mapping person. I'll also make sure we've got your address on our mailing list.

As for meetings, there will be more meetings in the future. Our next step is to file a Route Permit application with the Minnesota Public Service Commission (PUC). That will likely happen this fall. After that takes place, the PUC will hold meetings to gather feedback on the routes. In addition, the USDA, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is currently gathering feedback to be used to form the scope for their federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The contact at the RUS is Stephanie Strength, who is cc'd on this e-mail. She can also be contacted at 202-720-0468. We encourage you to provide any comments/concerns/suggestions regarding routing to her for the EIS. Please note that the last date to provide comments for the federal EIS is July 25. More information on this can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ecs/eis.htm>, then click Dairyland Power Cooperative, Inc.

Thanks again.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North Xcel Energy CapX2020
800-238-7968

From: Dean Regnier - dregnier@us.ibm.com
Date: Mon, 20 Jul 2009 16:25:54 -0500
To: lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com
Subject: Hampton-Rochester-laCross transmission line project

To: Tom Hillstrom (Project lead),

I-255-001 | Are you the right contact for public input for this project? I just found out this transmission line "preliminary route", runs about 1000 feet from my house (which is located in Mazeppa Township Section 16)..... I have a 1/2 mile driveway and appears my house was not or is not on the map.... Also: are there any more public meetings on this subject?

Thanks....

Dean Regnier

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 10:02 AM
To: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: CapXFactsheet.RightofWay.pdf; EMF_Factsheet3.pdf; RUS direct mail invitation_05 29 2009.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 12:39 PM
To: p.heimbecker@peerlesschain.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Mr. Heimbecker,

Thank you for your contact regarding the CapX2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse line. Just for clarification regarding routing, the route we are currently studying in the Winona area could be included on our Route Permit application to the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC), or we could propose another, or both. (Our routes are still under review.) The PUC could end up choosing one of our routes or their own.

As to how the line would impact Peerless Chain Company, it is too early for us to speculate on that, given the uncertainty of routing. However, I am attaching a handout on easements which may prove useful.

Regarding EMF, I am attaching a handout on that as well. Included in the handout are outside sources that address the numerous studies that have been conducted on this issue. Another source for review would be here: <http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric12.pdf>

Finally, I am forwarding your concerns to Stephanie Strength with the USDA's Rural Utilities Service. They are currently taking comments for their Environmental Impact Statement. More information on this is also attached. They will continue to take comments until July 25th.

Should you have any further questions now or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North
Xcel Energy
CapX2020
800-238-7968

Phillip Heimbecker (507) 457-9132 p.heimbecker@peerlesschain.com
1614 E. Sanborn St.
Winona MN 55987

I-257-002 | The proposed route for the line would run behind Peerless Chain Company if Winona, MN is selected for the
I-257-001 | line crossing into Wisconsin. I would like to know how this would impact the property where Peerless Chain Company sits and what will be done regarding the electromagnetic fields (EMF's) in relation to this project. There are approximately 400 employees at Peerless Chain that could feel the effects of this line being installed. Not to mention the business itself.

I-257-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Per Ms. Schultz' email, additional sources of information on the subject of EMF are available for your review.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-257-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As stated by Ms. Schultz in her email response, it is too early in the process to determine impacts at specific locations.

Thank you.
Phillip A. Heimbecker 7/10/2009 12:47:00 PM

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

www.capx2020.com

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
Dairyland Power Cooperative
Great River Energy
Minnesota Power
Minnesota Power Cooperatives
Missouri River Energy Services
Otter Tail Power Company
Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
Wisconsin Public Power Inc.
Xcel Energy

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): the Basics

EMF exists wherever electricity is produced or used. Electric and magnetic fields are invisible lines of force that surround any electrical appliance or wire that is conducting electricity. You're exposed to these fields in your home when you turn on a lamp, e-mail a friend or cook your dinner. In all likelihood, you're surrounded by EMF from machines in your workplace, too.

The electric power we use daily is a 60-Hertz (Hz) alternating current, meaning that electric charges move back and forth 60 times a second. We use 'EMF' in this fact sheet in reference to these 60 Hz fields, called 'extremely low frequency' or 'power frequency' fields, which are distinct from the much higher frequency fields associated with radio and TV waves, X-rays, and cell phone signals. As a matter of fact, currents from 60 Hz EMF are weaker than the natural currents found in the body, such as those from the electrical activity generated by your brain or your heart.

What are electric and magnetic fields?

Electric fields are created by voltage – the higher the voltage, the stronger the field. Anytime an electrical appliance is plugged in, even if it isn't on, an electric field is created. But these fields are easily blocked by walls, trees, and even your clothes and skin, and the farther away you move from the source of the electric field, the weaker it becomes. Moving even a few feet away from an appliance makes a big difference in the strength of the field that you're exposed to. Electric fields are measured in kilovolts (kV).

Magnetic fields, measured in milligauss (mG), only exist when an electric appliance is turned on – the higher the current, the greater the magnetic field. As with electric fields, the strength of a magnetic field dissipates dramatically as you move away from its source. However, unlike electric fields that are easily blocked, magnetic fields can pass through walls and clothes and other barriers.

Studies on EMF and possible health effects focus on magnetic

fields because they're more difficult to block and because most scientists have concluded that electric fields don't pose health threats.

Why are you calling them electric and magnetic fields instead of electromagnetic fields? Is there a difference?

These terms are often used interchangeably and both electric and magnetic fields and electromagnetic fields are usually abbreviated as EMF. However, technically there is a difference. The frequency fields produced by the generation, transmission and use of electricity – typical of most household and office appliances and power lines – are low and electric and magnetic fields exist separately. At higher frequencies, such as with radio or TV signals or X-rays, the fields are interrelated, and the term 'electromagnetic' more accurately describes these fields.

What are some of the things in my home and at work that produce EMF?

Anything that generates, distributes or uses electricity creates electric and magnetic fields. Below is a list of some appliances and machines commonly found in homes or offices and the magnetic fields they emit.

Typical 60 Hz magnetic field levels from some common home appliances

	Magnetic field 6 inches from appliance (mG)	Magnetic field 2 feet away (mG)
Electric shaver	100	-
Vacuum cleaner	300	10
Electric oven	9	-
Dishwasher	20	4
Microwave oven	200	10
Hair dryer	300	-
Computers	14	2
Fluorescent lights	40	2
Faxogram machines	6	-
Copy machines	90	7
Garbage disposals	80	2

Source: National Institute of Environmental Health Services / National Institutes of Health: EMF Associated with the Use of Electric Power

How can I find out what EMF levels I'm exposed to at home and at work?

You can find out your daily exposure to magnetic fields by wearing a personal exposure meter or by keeping one close to you. This is the most accurate way to measure your true exposure to magnetic fields during the course of your normal activities. Other meters, called gaussmeters, can be put in a location – like your kitchen or home office – to measure typical EMF levels in that spot. This type of measurement isn't an accurate measure of personal exposure, however, because it doesn't take into account your distance from the source of the fields or the amount of time you might spend in that place.

Contact your local electric service provider. Most utilities offer a free measurement service to customers for their homes or businesses.

What are 'typical' residential exposures to magnetic fields?

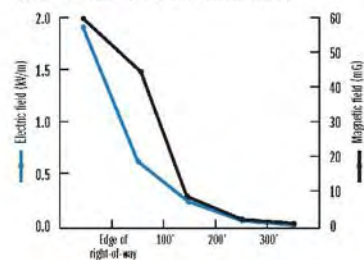
Exposure levels vary from individual to individual and from home to home, but a study by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) puts the background levels of magnetic fields in the typical U.S. home at between 0.5 mG and 4 mG with an average of 0.9 mG. Levels rise the closer you get to the source of the field. Most people are exposed to greater magnetic fields at work than in their homes.

[See the table of magnetic field emissions given off by household and office appliances under **What are some of the things in my home and at work that produce EMF?**]

What EMF levels are found near transmission lines?

All transmission lines produce EMF. The fields are the strongest directly under the lines and drop dramatically the farther away you move. Contact your local utility to find out EMF information about a particular transmission line near you.

Typical EMF levels for a 230-kV transmission line



Source: Western Area Power Administration, *Electric and Magnetic Fields: The Facts*

Do underground lines reduce EMF emissions?

Because magnetic fields are hard to block, burying power lines won't keep the fields from passing through the ground. Additionally, underground lines can produce higher levels of magnetic fields directly above them at ground level because these lines are located closer to you than overhead lines, although the strength of the magnetic field from underground lines falls away more quickly than from overhead lines. Underground lines are significantly more expensive to install and more difficult to repair, and since current information provides no conclusive connection between EMF exposure and health effects, burying lines isn't a reasonable alternative.

Are there state or federal standards for EMF exposure?

There are no federal standards limiting residential or occupational EMF exposure. The EMF emissions of appliances vary from

Typical 60 Hz electric and magnetic field levels from overhead power lines

Line voltage	Centerline	Approx. edge of right-of-way	100 feet	200 feet	300 feet
115 kV					
Electric field kV/m	1.0	0.5	0.07	0.01	0.003
Magnetic field mG	30	6.5	1.7	0.4	0.2
230 kV					
Electric field kV/m	2.0	1.5	0.3	0.05	0.01
Magnetic field mG	57.5	19.5	7.1	1.8	0.8
500kV					
Electric field kV/m	7.0	3.0	1.0	0.3	0.1
Magnetic field mG	86.7	29.4	12.6	3.2	1.4

Electric fields from power lines are relatively stable because voltage does not change. Magnetic fields fluctuate greatly as current changes in response to changing loads. The magnetic fields above are calculated for 321 power lines for 1990 mean loads.

Source: National Institute of Environmental Health Services / National Institutes of Health: *EMF Associated with the Use of Electric Power*

manufacturer to manufacturer and model to model. The designs of many newer model appliances, in general, often produce lower fields than older models. There is no federal certification program on EMF emissions so beware of advertisements on appliances making claims of federal government certification of low or no EMF emissions.

Do EMF emissions affect my health?

This issue has been studied for more than 30 years by government and scientific institutions all over the world. The balance of scientific evidence indicates that exposure to EMF does not cause disease. (See Sources and useful links section for more information on studies about EMF and health.)

In 2002 the Minnesota Department of Health released "A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options." In regard to EMF emissions and health effects, the report states:

"The Minnesota Department of Health concludes that the current body of evidence is insufficient to establish a cause and effect relationship between EMF and adverse health affects." (page 36)

*The entire 2002 report is available at <http://www.cpx2020.com/documents.html>.

Does EMF interfere with pacemakers or other medical devices?

EMF can interfere with a pacemaker's ability to sense normal electrical activity in the heart. Most often, the electric circuitry in a pacemaker might detect the interference of an external field and direct the pacemaker to fire in a regular, life-preserving mode. This isn't considered hazardous and is actually a life-preserving default feature. There have been cases with dual-chamber pacemakers triggering inappropriate pacing before the life-preserving mode takes over.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) issued guidelines for EMF exposure for workers with pacemakers or implantable defibrillators. Maximum safe exposure for workers with these medical devices at 60 Hz (the frequency of most transmission lines) is 1 G (1,000 mG) for magnetic fields and 1 kV/m for electric fields.

Nonelectronic metallic implants (artificial limbs, screws, pins, etc.) can be affected by high magnetic fields like those produced by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) devices, but are generally unaffected by the lower magnetic fields produced by most sources.

How can I reduce my exposure to EMF?

Your exposure to EMF is determined by the strength of the magnetic fields given off by things around you, your distance from the source of the field and how much time you spend in the field.

Creating distance between yourself and the sources of EMF is the easiest way to reduce exposure. Standing back – even an arm's length away – from appliances that are in use is a simple first step. Remember: EMF reduces dramatically with distance. This is more feasible with some appliances than with others, but the following are some simple recommendations that will help you reduce your EMF exposure at home:

- Move motor-driven electric clocks or other electrical devices away from your bed.
- Stand away from an operating microwave or other appliances that use a lot of electricity.
- Sit a few feet away from the TV and at least arm's length away from the computer screen.
- Limit the time you're exposed to a magnetic field by turning appliances, like computer monitors, off when you're not using them.

Sources and useful links

The following are links to more information and studies on EMF:

- *EMF: Electric and Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, Questions and Answers*, June 2002, prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS), National Institute of Health, www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/booklet/emf2002.pdf. This booklet also includes an extensive list of references on a variety of EMF topics.
- "A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options," prepared by the Minnesota Interagency Working Group on EMF Issues. www.cpx2020.com/documents.html
- *Electric and Magnetic Fields: Facts*, Western Area Power Administration, www.wapa.gov/newsroom/pdf/EMFbook.pdf.
- "Electromagnetic fields: Typical exposure levels at home and in the environment," World Health Organization Fact Sheet, www.who.int/peh-emf/about/WhatsEMF/en/index.html. More general information on EMF can be found at www.who.int/emf.
- NIEHS/Department of Energy EMFRAPID program toll-free public information number to answer EMF-related questions: 800-363-2383.

Contacts

SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse (345-kV)

Project Development Manager: Xcel Energy

Pam Rasmussen - Routing Lead

Xcel Energy
P.O. Box 9437
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437
800-238-7968
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Chuck Thompson

Dairyland Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 9437
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437
608-787-1432
lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello (345-kV)

Project Development Manager: Xcel Energy

Darrin Laehr - Routing Lead

P.O. Box 9451
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9451
866-876-2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

Jim Musso - Manager, Siting and Land Rights

P.O. Box 9451
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9451
866-876-2869
fargoinfo@capx2020.com

Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities (345-kV)

Project Development Manager: Great River Energy

Craig Poorker - Routing Lead

P.O. Box 238
Elk River, MN 55330-0238
888-473-2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

Randy Fordice -

Communications Coordinator

P.O. Box 238
Elk River, MN 55330-0238
888-473-2279
brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

Bemidji-Grand Rapids (230-kV)

Project Development Manager: Otter Tail Power Company

Bob Lindholm - Routing Lead

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Cindy Kuismi - Communications Specialist

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8-30-2007

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

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Great River Energy
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Minnesota Power Cooperative
Missouri River Energy Services
Otter Tail Power Company
Rochester Public Utilities
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Waconia Public Power Inc.
Xcel Energy*

Understanding Easements and Rights-of-Way

When people talk about building new transmission lines, they often refer to an 'easement' or a 'right-of-way' (ROW). Although the terms often are used interchangeably, they are distinct concepts.

What is an easement?

An easement is a permanent right authorizing a person or party to use the land or property of another for a particular purpose. In this case, a utility acquires certain rights to build and maintain a transmission line. Landowners are paid a fair price for the easement and can continue to use the land for most purposes, although some restrictions are included in the agreement. The easement instrument is the legal document that must be signed by the landowner before the utility can proceed.

What is a right-of-way?

A right-of-way is the actual land area acquired for a specific purpose, such as a transmission line or roadway.

What is the difference between an easement and a right-of-way?

Simply put, an easement is a land right and a right-of-way is the physical land area upon which the facilities (transmission line, roadway, buildings, etc.) are located.

How long does an easement last?

Easements are perpetual and are not subject to termination or expiration. Once an easement is signed, it becomes part of the property record. The utility, the landowner who signed the easement and all future owners of the property are bound by the terms of the easement agreement. The utility can, at some point, choose to release the easement rights if it removes the transmission line and abandons the right-of-way.

How are landowners paid for an easement?

Landowners typically are given a one-time payment based on fair market value for easement rights to their land. Landowners can elect to spread the payment out over time. For instance, landowners can choose to receive installments with interest paid annually on the remaining balance. Traditionally, the easement payment is based on a percentage of the appraised land value. Also, of course, the majority of land still is usable, particularly in agricultural settings where farmers can continue to use the land for raising crops or as pasture.

Landowners also are eligible for reasonable compensation for property damage that may occur when the transmission line is constructed and in the future during repair and maintenance, as described in the easement document.

Who pays property taxes for the right-of-way on which the transmission line is constructed?

The landowner continues to pay property taxes on the right-of-way, although some states, including Minnesota, may provide landowners a property tax credit in proportion to the length of the transmission line that crosses their property.

What easement rights will be needed for the construction of a power line?

The CapX 2020 projects will require easements that allow for surveying, construction, operation and maintenance of a transmission line across a defined right-of-way located on the landowner's property. These easements will include the right to clear, trim and remove vegetation and trees from within the right-of-way, as well as tall and dangerously leaning trees adjacent to the right-of-way that may threaten the line if they fall.

What activities are allowed within the easement area?

Land within the right-of-way may be used for any purpose that does not interfere with the construction, operation or maintenance of the transmission line. In agricultural areas, the land may be used for crop production and pasture. In areas where the land will be developed, streets, lawn extensions, underground utilities, curbs and gutters, etc., may cross the right-of-way with prior written permission from the utility.

Why are there restrictions on the land?

Providing electrical energy is an essential public service, and some restrictions are necessary within the right-of-way to maintain reliability. Utilities have determined that the best way to prevent outages is to restrict the placement of structures within the right-of-way. If a building or structure in the right-of-way caught fire, it could burn into the power line and take the line out of service for an extended time. Additionally, buildings or other structures in the right-of-way can hamper maintenance crews from accessing the line if an outage occurs.

What are the main building and plant restrictions in the easement?

Conditions will vary, but the primary building and planting restrictions within the right-of-way are in place to ensure that a utility has the necessary clearance for operation and maintenance, and to comply with the National Electrical Safety Code. Restrictions within the right-of-way strip prohibit constructing buildings and structures, storing flammable materials and planting tall-growing trees.

Why doesn't the utility just buy the land instead of negotiating an easement?

Utilities' main interest is in simply acquiring the rights to a piece of land in order to build and maintain a transmission line. Owning the land is not required to do this.

Landowners, for the most part, prefer to retain ownership of the property so they can maintain better control over its use within the easement restrictions. Often, retaining ownership allows the landowner continued use of the property for things such as agricultural operations, yard extensions or open space, allowing the property to continue to contribute positively and productively to the owner and the public. Most adjacent uses pose no threat to the line and do not create a public hazard.

Generally, how large is the area covered by an easement or a right-of-way?

The voltage and the type of transmission structure being built determine the size of the right-of-way. For 345-kV lines, the typical right-of-way is up to 150 feet wide.

What happens when the landowner and utility cannot agree on the easement or payment?

If an agreement cannot be reached, a utility may pursue a state-governed process called condemnation, under which a judge and a panel of impartial individuals decide whether the easement is needed and its value. The condemnation process varies from state to state. In general, states establish strict procedures for determining the amount a landowner should be paid by a utility for acquiring a right for construction and maintenance of a transmission line. A government's right to acquire – or authorize the acquisition of – private property for public use, with just compensation being given to the owner, is called eminent domain.

In some states when a transmission line crosses a rural property, a landowner, under certain conditions, may request that the utility purchase the entire property.

** This fact sheet is not a legal document. It is meant to provide general information about easements and rights-of-way. Individual state statutes differ and each utility has its own process.*

11-06-2007

INVITATION TO PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



CAPX2020 HAMPTON-ROCHESTER-LA CROSSE 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

June 16 6 - 8 p.m. Plainview Elgin-Millville High School Cafeteria 500 West Broadway Plainview, MN 55964	June 18 6 - 8 p.m. City of St. Charles Community Meeting Room 830 Whitewater Avenue St. Charles, MN 55972	June 24 6 - 8 p.m. Centerville/Town of Trempealeau Community Center W24854 State Road 54/93 Galesville, WI 54630
June 17 6 - 8 p.m. Wanamingo Community Center 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN 55983	June 23 6 - 8 p.m. La Crescent American Legion 509 North Chestnut La Crescent, MN 55947	June 25 6 - 8 p.m. Cochrane-Fountain City High School S2770 State Road 35 Fountain City, WI 54629

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS), Dairyland Power Cooperative and other CapX2020 utilities invite you to attend a public scoping meeting to discuss the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission system improvement proposal.

Serving as the lead federal agency, RUS is responsible for completing any requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Dairyland Power Cooperative is requesting RUS provide financing for its portion of the proposed project. The public scoping meetings provide an opportunity for you to discuss project details with agency and company representatives and for your comments to be incorporated into the planning process and development of an EIS.

RUS will use input provided by government agencies, private organizations and the public in the preparation of the Draft EIS, which will be available for review and comments for 45 days. A Final EIS that considers all comments received will subsequently be prepared.

PROPOSAL

The CapX2020 utilities are proposing to construct a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line and associated facilities between Hampton and Rochester, Minnesota, and the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. The proposal includes the proposed 345 kV transmission line from a substation near Hampton to a proposed substation in north Rochester and to a new or existing substation near La Crosse. The proposal also includes construction of a new 161-kV transmission line and associated facilities in the Rochester area. (Detailed project map on back.)

The proposed facilities are needed to improve regional reliability, enhance local load serving needs and provide generation outlet support. CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 electric transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to meet the increasing demand for power.

Xcel Energy is the lead utility for the proposal. Dairyland Power Corporation has requested financial assistance from RUS for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposal. Other anticipated owners of the proposed facilities include WPPI Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and Rochester Public Utilities. Before the proposal can be built, the CapX2020 utilities must obtain approval from state and federal agencies. Proposal approval also involves NEPA processes and the NEPA implementation guidance of RUS.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY & REQUESTS

Two documents have been prepared for the proposal and are available for review prior to the agency and public scoping meetings in June 2009. The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) explains the proposal's need, discusses the alternative methods that have been considered to meet that need, and which alternative is considered the best for fulfilling the need. The Macro Corridor Study (MCS) defines the proposal study area and shows the proposal's end points. Within the proposal study area, macro-corridors have been developed based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use and permitting constraints. Both documents are available at the libraries detailed in the attached list. If you are interested in receiving copies of either of these documents, please contact Stephanie.strength@usda.gov or (202) 720-0468.

For more information, please contact:

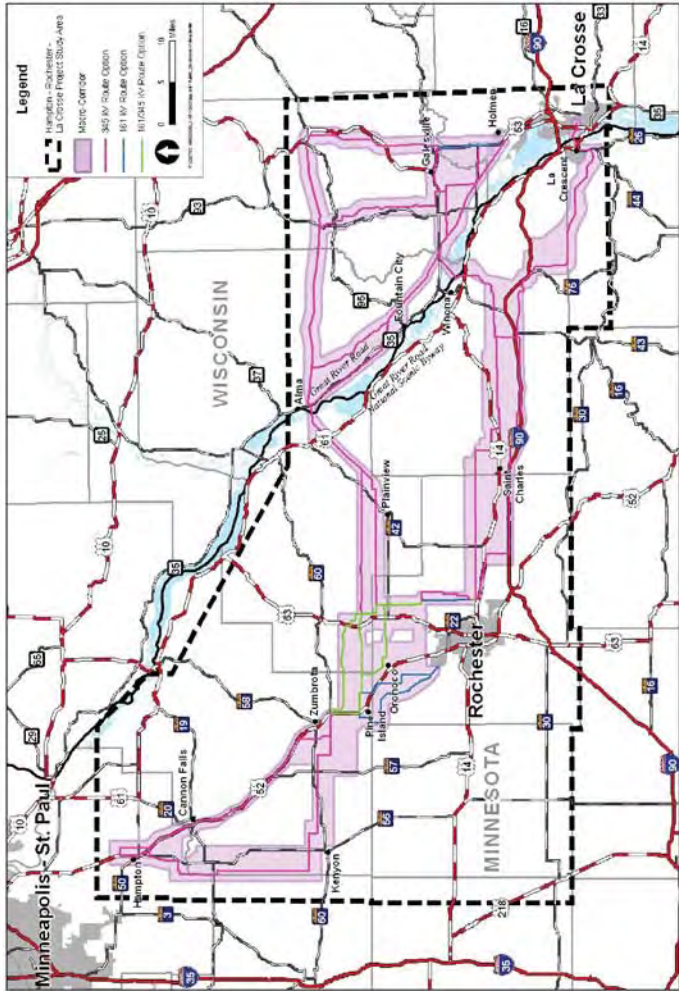
Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist
United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571
Phone: (202) 720-0468
Email: stephanie.strength@usda.gov

Or, contact Tom Hillstrom or Chuck Thompson at tcrossa1nfo@capx2020.com or 1-800-238-7968 or visit www.capx2020.com for additional project information and detailed project maps.



Delivering electricity you can rely on.

Detailed project map on back.



Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:13 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capX2020 powerline
Attachments: 08-1474 FINAL EIS SCOPE (Text).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us [mailto:Scott.Ek@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:08 PM
To: buzzoff2250@aol.com; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: capX2020 powerline

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your letter.

The Minnesota Office of Energy Security is beginning to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS for the project in which you are referring to. An EIS is a document that addresses and analyzes human and environmental issues associated with certain types of construction projects, with this transmission line project being one of them. I have attached the text of the scoping decision for this particular EIS that lists the topics we will be studying in reference to the transmission project. There is also more information about the state review process online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html> and <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

We will take a look at the items you are concerned about such as electric and magnetic fields, stray voltage, air quality, proximity to homes/businesses, land use compatibility such as agriculture, property values, and transportation/airports just to name a few. The review process is still in the very early stages. Once the EIS is completed and issued around October 2009, you will be able to see what potential impacts were found to be associated with a particular route segment. In general, if there are many impacts to be found with a route segment we would likely look for a comparable route with less impacts.

In October/November 2009 there will be an opportunity to attend public meetings and submit comments on what is contained in the EIS and about the project. That would be the time to submit your comments should you have concerns after reading the EIS. We will then address all the comments in what is called a final EIS and then all the information is delivered to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a determination on the route and route permit around January 2010.

So I will do my best to make sure that we take a hard and inclusive look at all the issues with regards to every route alternative and ensure the information provides a clear record for the Public Utilities Commission when making a final route permit decision.

I would suggest that you ask your parents to email me their mailing information so that I may add your name to our mailing list. This will ensure that you receive any notices or information that we send out about the project as the process moves along.

Again, thank you for the letter and I appreciate your input. Please feel free to contact me at any time to ask questions or find out where we are at in the review process.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EK

Office of Energy Security | Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
Office: 651.296.8813 | Fax: 651.297.7891
scott.ek@state.mn.us
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us
www.energy.mn.gov

From: buzzoff2250@aol.com [mailto:buzzoff2250@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 1:30 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us; stephanie.strength@usda.gov
Subject: capX2020 powerline

I-258-001
I-258-004
I-258-002
I-258-003

There are many reasons I don't want the huge dangerous power line polls. My first reason is because the radio active waves coming off of these polls can be very dangerous, they can cause many health and environmental issues. I don't want my children when I am older to have cansor or some mental,or physical issues also don't want the polls because it will pollute the air, my family moved out here for many reasons, one of the reasons is to get away from the polluted air. I noticed that the are a lot of farms around us the polls can affect those animals causing the farmers to not be able to sell there protectts, causing them not to make there income, putting the on well fair,all ending up to the state to pay more money. I also don't like this idea because my family bought this land for money,collage,and fucher plans, if you pot that on our land or near our land we are getting cut out of our money, then all we can use for our land is growing corn which is again cutting our money, because no ones going to want to build or buy land by that huge, bad, polluting, power poll. If your going to put those polls any where go put them by the high way where no one lives by, please .Thanks for reading this.

This letter was rotten by Katie,

This letter is from the kids of my

Family,

Age:21

Age:18

Age:15

Age:14

Age:12

Age:12

Josh

Zach

Danny

Lizzy

Cory

Katie

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. [See yours in just 2 easy steps!](#)

I-258-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-258-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-258-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-258-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to air quality will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



**In the Matter of the Route Permit
Application for a 345 kV Transmission
Line from Brookings County, South
Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474**

The above matter has come before the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) for a decision on the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared on the Great River Energy and Xcel Energy (applicants) route permit application before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a proposed transmission line between Brookings County, South Dakota, and Hampton, Minnesota, under the full permitting process (Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicants propose to construct and operate a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 237 miles long, beginning at the state's western border near Hendricks, Minnesota, and ending south of the Twin Cities metro area near Hampton, Minnesota. The applicants have proposed two possible routes for the transmission line, a preferred route and an alternate route. These routes would cross portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur, Scott, Rice, and Dakota. The project would also include the construction of four new substations and the expansion of four existing substations. New substations include the Hazel Creek substation near Granite Falls, the Helena substation near New Prague, the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, and the Hampton substation near Hampton (Figures 1 to 5).

The applicants are requesting a 1,000 foot wide route width for the majority of the proposed project. The maximum route width of 1.25 miles is requested for the areas where new substations are proposed and a number of other locations along the route to facilitate system interconnection and address river crossing areas and/or environmental and land use concerns.

The applicants propose using single-structure steel poles which would require a 150-foot right-of-way. A 100-foot right-of-way would be required for the route segment connecting to the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, Minnesota. There may also be some limited situations along the route where specialty structures (H-frames or triple circuit structures) may be required. A right-of-way up to 180 feet in width would be required in these instances.

Proposed construction of the transmission line would begin in 2011 with completion by 2013.

PROJECT PURPOSE

As indicated by the applicants in the route permit application, the project has been designed to improve the reliability of the bulk electric system serving Minnesota and portions of neighboring states and would also serve to meet infrastructure additions that have been deemed needed to meet the forecasted growth in demand of several thousand megawatts over the course of the next decade.

The applicants also indicate the project would enhance customer service capabilities in western Minnesota and the southern suburbs of the Twin Cities. Moreover, the project would provide renewable resource generation outlet capability of approximately 700 megawatts from the Buffalo Ridge area in southwest Minnesota. Detailed information regarding the purpose and need for this transmission project is provided in the May 22, 2009, Order issued by the Commission granting Certificates of Need for the CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115 (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showDocketsSearch&showEdocket=true>).

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The applicants filed a route permit application on December 29, 2008, under the full permitting process of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E). The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 29, 2009. Under the full permitting process the Commission has one year from the date the application was accepted as complete to make a decision on the route permit.

SCOPING PROCESS

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340 (full permitting process). Scoping is the first step in the permitting process after application acceptance. The scoping process has two primary purposes, to ensure that the public has a chance to participate in determining what routes and issues to study in the EIS, and to help focus the EIS on the most important issues surrounding the route permit decision.

OES staff collected and reviewed comments on the scope of the EIS by convening two advisory task forces, holding public scoping meetings throughout the proposed project area, and accepting written comments from March 30, 2009, through April 30, 2009. This scope identifies potential human/environmental issues and project route or substation site alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. The scope also presents a tentative schedule of the environmental review process.

Advisory Task Forces

Two geographically-based advisory task forces (ATFs) were established by the OES, the Lake Marion to Hampton ATF and the Minnesota River Crossings to New Prague ATF. The ATFs were each charged with: (1) identifying local site or route specific impacts and issues of local concern, and (2) identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in their respective area of concern that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project. The task forces each met three times between March and April 2009. The recommendations of the ATFs have been considered during the preparation of this scope and can be found in their respective reports. The ATF reports are available at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

Public Scoping Meetings

Twelve public information meetings were conducted by the OES between March 30 to April 9, 2009, at nine different locations that included the cities of Marshall, Hendricks, Granite Falls, Redwood Falls, Gaylord, Henderson, New Prague, Lakeville, and Cannon Falls. Approximately 1,065 people attended the twelve public meetings, according to the meeting sign-in sheets. The scoping meetings provided the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and the route permitting process, review the route permit application, and ask questions and submit comments. A court reporter was present at each of the public meetings and transcribed questions asked and comments made by the public as well as responses from the OES and the applicants.

Public Comments

A public comment period beginning the day of the first public scoping meeting and ending on April 30, 2009, provided the public an additional opportunity to submit comments and alternative routes to be considered for the scope of the EIS. A total of 999 comments were received by the close of the comment period which included 801 written or emailed comments and 198 oral comments from the public scoping meetings. There was also approximately 827 form letter/postcards from the Watt Munisotaram Temple indicating opposition to the line near their Temple.

All of the written and oral comments submitted at the scoping meetings along with comments received by mail and email were reviewed and entered into a database. Each comment was evaluated for issues or concerns that should be considered for detailed evaluation in the EIS and were classified based on the major topics of the comments. Table 1 below summarizes the major issues raised in these comments, as well as the relative frequency the issue was raised.

Table 1. Major Issues Raised During Public Scoping Period

Issue	Number of Times Issue Mentioned	Percentage of Major Issues
Health/EMF	428	43%
Property Value/Compensation	369	37%
Specific Route Selection (Suggested Alternatives)	297	30%
Proximity to Homes	294	29%
Other*	228	23%
General Route Selection (Support or Non-Support of Proposed Routes)	174	17%
Rare or Unique Species	138	14%
Aesthetics	133	13%
Stray Voltage	83	8%
Trees/Wind Breaks	45	5%
TV/Radio/GPS	41	4%
Noise	37	4%

*Other included issues related to: data in route permit application, general opposition to the project, project need, and easement negotiation process, among others.

The public suggested over 297 route alternatives to the applicants' proposed routes through comment. Of the 297 route alternative suggestions 197 of them were comments expressing opposition or preference for the applicants' preferred route, alternative route, or no project at all. This left 100 remaining route alternatives that were divided into those that fell within the applicants' requested route width and those that fell outside the requested route width. After further refinement and removal of missed duplicates, 26 alternatives fell within the requested route width and were categorized as alignment alternatives (an "alignment alternative" in this case means a suggested change in the applicants' proposed transmission centerline, such as a shift from one side of a roadway to the other, but where the line would still be located within the original route width) and 74 alternatives fell outside the requested route width and were categorized as route alternatives. Alternative routes recommended by the ATFs were also included in this review.

The task force meeting reports and scoping meeting comment reports, as well as each individual comment (letter or email) are available on the project website maintained by the Commission at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

Having reviewed the matter, consulted with OES Energy Facility Permitting staff, and in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5300, I hereby make the following Scoping Decision.

The applicants' route permit application describes their route analysis and contains the information required by Minnesota Rule 7894.5220, subp. 2, as determined by the Commission. The EIS will summarize the process the applicants' used to identify, evaluate, and select the routes. The EIS will also verify and supplement information provided in the route permit application and will incorporate the information by reference as appropriate.

The EIS on the proposed Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project will address and provide information on the following matters:

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Project Description
- B. Purpose of the Transmission Line
- C. Project Location
- D. Route Description
- E. Route Width
- F. Rights-of-Way
- G. Project Cost

II. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- A. Certificate of Need
- B. Route Permit
- C. Environmental Review Process

III. ENGINEERING AND OPERATION DESIGN

- A. Transmission Line Conductors
- B. Transmission Line Structures
- C. Substations

IV. CONSTRUCTION

- A. Transmission Line and Structures
- B. Substations
- C. Property/Right-of-Way Acquisition
- D. Cleanup and Restoration
- E. Damage Compensation
- F. Maintenance
- G. Underground Options

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

The EIS will include a discussion of the human and environmental resources potentially impacted by the project and its alternatives. Potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposed project and each alternative considered will be described. Based on the impacts identified, the EIS will describe mitigative measures that could reasonably be implemented to reduce or eliminate the identified impacts.

- A. Environmental Setting
- B. Socioeconomic Setting
- C. Human Settlement
 - 1. Noise
 - 2. Aesthetics
 - 3. Proximity to Structures
 - a. Homes and Farmsteads (including farming related structures such as silos, grain bins, etc.)
 - b. Businesses
 - c. Schools/Daycares
 - d. Hospitals
 - e. Cemeteries
 - 4. Displacement
 - 5. Tree Groves/Windbreaks
 - 6. Existing Utilities (pipelines, propane tanks, septic systems)
 - 7. Domestic Water Well Installation/Maintenance
- D. Public Health and Safety
 - 1. Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - 2. Implantable Medical Devices
 - 3. Stray Voltage
 - 4. Explosives/Fireworks
- E. Recreation
 - 1. Parks (city, county, state, and federal)
 - 2. Golf Courses
 - 3. Trails
- F. Transportation and Public Services
 - 1. Emergency Services
 - 2. Airports
 - 3. Highways and Roads (including scenic highways/byways and rest stops)

- G. Interference
 - 1. Radio and Television (digital and satellite)
 - 2. Internet
 - 3. Cellular Phone
 - 4. GPS-Based Agriculture Navigation Systems
- H. Archaeological and Historic Resources
- I. Zoning and Compatibility/Federal, State and Local Government Planning
- J. Land-Based Economies
 - 1. Agriculture
 - a. Prime Farmland
 - b. Organic Farms
 - c. Livestock
 - d. Aerial Crop Spraying/Dusting
 - e. Bee Keeping/Bee Colonies
 - 2. Forestry
 - 3. Mining
- K. Property Values
 - 1. Residential
 - 2. Industrial
 - 3. Agriculture
- L. Air Quality (As it pertains specifically to this transmission line project only.)
- M. Natural Resources
 - 1. Surface Water
 - a. Lakes
 - b. Surface Flows
 - 2. Groundwater
 - 3. Wetlands
 - 4. Floodplains
 - 5. State Wildlife Management Areas/Scientific Natural Areas
 - 6. National Wildlife Refuge/Waterfowl Production Areas
 - 7. Forests
- N. Flora
- O. Fauna
- P. Rare and Unique Natural Resources/Critical Habitat

VI. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS

The EIS will identify and evaluate alternative routes and route segments to the proposed project. Nine of the 21 ATF identified routes and 38 of the 71 alternative routes suggest through public comment will be evaluated in the EIS and are presented below and illustrated in Figures 6 to 16.

Brown County

P-BRN-001 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to 330th Avenue. Head north along 330th approximately 0.25 miles and go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-002 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 325th Avenue and proceed north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001.

P-BRN-003 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 320th Avenue and proceed north following along 320th where it forks and proceed north cross-country 0.5 miles north then 0.25 miles west to 420th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-004 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330th Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1 mile and turn east cross-country to 325th Avenue. Follow 325th Avenue north where it connects with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001 and P-BRN-002.

P-BRN-005 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330 Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1.25 miles then go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001, P-BRN-002, and P-BRN-004.

Dakota County

P-DAK-002 (Kaufenberg) – Follow Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Hamburg Avenue and follow it north to Lakeville Boulevard. Proceed east on Lakeville Boulevard then south on Denmark Avenue to 225th Street West where it would head southeast cross-country 0.5 miles and then north-northwest 0.3 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-004 (Rother) – Approximately 0.5 miles west of U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard) the route would head north cross-country approximately 0.25 miles then turn east for 0.5 miles to Coates Boulevard. This alternative was suggested to avoid bisecting agricultural land and instead follow property/section lines.

P-DAK-005 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue. Proceed north along Blaine Avenue approximately 0.2 miles and head east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to Coates Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

P-DAK-006 (Multiple) - Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Flagstaff Avenue. The route would continue east cross-country approximately 1 mile then turn south 1.5 miles, briefly running along Essex Avenue eventually turning east for 1.2 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-007 (Mertens) - From the alternative route at Interstate 35 and 57th Street West head east cross-country approximately 3 miles to 307th Street West. Continue along 307th Street to Eveleth Avenue and east cross-country approximately 1 mile and northeast following along an existing rail line and 69 kV transmission line for approximately 7 miles to 240th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative utilizes an existing 69 kV right-of-way and railroad, may impact fewer homes, and may be a more direct and shorter route.

P-DAK-009 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 2]) - From preferred route follow Pillsbury Avenue north to 215th Street West. Head east along 215th Street to Cedar Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then southeast 1.8 miles and again east approximately 1 mile to 220th Street West. Proceed down 220th Street to Denmark Avenue and head south along Denmark veering southeast cross-country at 225th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-006 which also seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-010 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [Buddhist Temple]) Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard). This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-005 and also seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

A-DAK-002 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “right-angle” and NW Alt 1C]) - From Northfield Boulevard east along County Highway (CH) 86 (280th Street East) then north on Fischer Avenue to U.S. Highway 52. Route continues north cross-country terminating just north of Northfield Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “diagonal”]) Travel east from alternate route at Hampton Boulevard/240th Street East to U.S. Highway 52. Head north on U.S. Highway 52 to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard) continuing northeast along CH 47 approximately 0.75 miles and terminating. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-004 (Gerber) From just north of Lewiston Boulevard head northeast cross-country 240th Street East. Head north from 240th Street East cross-country to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton.

A-DAK-005 (Kaufenberg) – From Interstate 35 head east along 280th Street E/W connecting with alternative route at CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative may utilize more existing roads and reduce approximately 6 miles of cross-country route bisecting agricultural land.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-002 (Binczik) - From 320th Street proceed north along 241st to Street 302nd Street and turn east following 302nd to CH 32 and connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and would follow along existing roads.

A-LES-001 (Schmidt) Connect with alternative route approximately 0.5 miles north of 310th Street and proceed east cross-country to Le Sueur Avenue. Follow Le Sueur Avenue south to 70th Street West connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may reduce the impacts to homes within 300 feet of the transmission centerline from 6 homes to 1 home.

A-LES-002 (Hoy) – Follow 210th Street north from the intersection of 300th Street and 210th Street. At approximately 0.75 miles turn east cross-country for approximately 0.75 miles and turn southeast connecting with alternative at 300th Street. The alternative seeks to avoid residence/daycare on 300th Street.

B-LES-001 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 2]) - From preferred route head north along 265th Avenue, west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue to West 280th Street. Proceed east on 280th to German Road and head north on German Road for approximately 1 mile then continuing cross-country 1.3 miles reconnecting with German Road and ultimately the alternative route. This alternative appears to utilize more existing right-way and seeks to avoid existing residences, and an airfield.

B-LES-002 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 5]) From the alternative route on CH 28 near Township Highway 30 head northeast following along existing 345 kV transmission line to West 270th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce transmission line proliferation by utilizing an existing 345 kV transmission line right-of-way.

B-LES-005 (Meyer) From the preferred route follow U.S. Highway 169 northeast from just south of Dobby Lane to German Road connecting with the alternative route. This alternative seeks to utilize U.S. Highway 169 as a route connecting the preferred to the alternative reducing some of the need for new right-of-way and impacts to homes.

B-LES-006 (Multiple) - From the preferred route on 320th Street head north on 265th Avenue for 1 mile to CH 28. Head west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue, east on West 280th Street, and north on German Road ultimately connecting to the alternate route. A variation of B-LES-001, B-LES-003, and B-LES-004.

B-LES-007 (Davis) - Follow preferred route from river crossing to CH 32 and head north to County Road (CR) 157. Proceed east on CR 157 and north on CR 121 connecting with alternate route. Proposed by the Scott County Board. This alternative may avoid conflicts with the preferred route along CH 2 as identified in the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, such as future public right-of-way expansion.

B-LES-008 (ATF Henderson [NE Alt 4]) From the preferred at 221st Avenue head east along CH 28 to 141st Avenue connecting with the alternative route. This alternative follows a county road/established right-of-way and may avoid impacts to dairy farms, day cares, and wetlands, and may also reduce the amount of route that goes cross-country.

B-LES-009 (Anonymous) – From preferred route follow CH 32 (Hickory Boulevard) north to approximately 0.5 miles north of West 280th Street and continue north cross-country to West 260th Street. Turn east continuing cross-country for approximately 4 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes and avoid a pyrotechnics plant.

B-LES-011 (Anonymous) – Approximately 0.25 miles north of 302nd Street head east cross-country from CH 32 for approximately 1 mile connecting with the alternative route at 300th Street. Follow 300th Street to 181st Avenue and turn north following 181st north connecting with the preferred at West 260th Street. This alternative may follow more existing roads than the segment it is meant to replace.

Lincoln County

P-LNC-001 (Sterzinger) - From CR 134 go north on CH 8. Then east cross-country to 340th Street continue east cross-country to Lyon Lincoln Road. This alternative appears to follow more existing roads and would impact a similar number of homes when compared to the segment it is meant to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-001 (Grandview Township) - From 330th proceed north along CR 8. At 340th Street head east cross-country for approximately 1 mile to 340th Street following 340th to Lyon Lincoln Road and continue east cross-country connecting to the preferred route at 340th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes.

A-LYN-001 (Prins) From alternative route proceed south on CH 9 to 240th Street. Head east on 240th Street to 310th Avenue and head north on 310th connecting with the alternative route. This alternative avoids bisecting agriculture property and appears to follow an existing road.

A-LYN-002 (Maeyert) – Head north on 170th Avenue from the intersection of 260th Street and 170th. Continue on 170th Avenue to CH 19. Proceed east on CH 19 for approximately 3.5 miles turning south cross-country for approximately 1.5 miles then east for approximately 1.25 miles and east-southeast approximately 0.75 miles crossing CH 23, finally turning south and connecting with the alternative route. This alternative appears to follow section lines where the alternative does not and provides an alternative Redwood River crossing and avoids a golf course and residential area. This alternative segment was originally looked at by the applicants.

A-LYN-003 (City of Lynd) – Same as Alternative A-LYN-002 except after crossing CH 23 the route would continue in an east-southeast direction to 320th Avenue and follow 320th south connecting with the alternative route. The alternative may avoid new future residential developments north of the city of Lind, and encroachment of Savannah Oaks Golf Course. The alternate is also outside Lind city limits and may avoid disturbing a heavily wooded area near the Redwood River.

B-LYN-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route follow State Highway 23 north. This alternative may minimize impacts to agriculture land, potentially impact fewer homes, and would follow existing State Highway 23 to Granite Falls.

Redwood County

P-RDW-001 (Zwaschka) – From 290th Street at Crown Avenue head south cross-country to State Highway 19. Proceed east along State Highway 19 connecting with the preferred route at Dayton Avenue. This alternative seeks to avoid residences.

A-RDW-001 (Prins) – Route would turn east from CH 7 approximately ¼ mile north of 350th Street and head cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles and turn north connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural property owned by one entity by moving to a shared property line.

Renville County

P-RVL-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route at 420th Street follow 640th Avenue east (road changes to 300th Street) continue east to 571st Avenue connecting with the preferred route. This alternative was initially evaluated by the applicants and may reduce the length of the route by approximately 4 miles impacting a similar amount of homes as the segment it is meant to replace.

P-RVL-003 (Hoffbeck) – From 420th Street follow State Highway 19 east to 460th Street where the route would head north cross-country to 660th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. The alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and appears to follow along existing roads and railroad.

Rice County

A-RIC-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton - ATE [NE Alt 2]) - From alternative route at 141st Avenue continue cross-country approximately 1.5 miles to Leaf Trail. Follow Leaf Trail southeast to 60th Street West. Take 60th east to CH 19 connecting to the alternative route. This alternative may reduce impacts to homes and avoid future growth of the city of Lonsdale.

A-RIC-003 (Sirek) - From 57th Street West continue north along Elmore Avenue to 50th Street West. At 50th Street turn east cross-country to Interstate 35 connecting with the alternative route. This alternative is intended to avoid homes along 57th Street West.

Scott County

P-SCT-001 (Zweber) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Avenue follow East 250th Street east to Texas Avenue. Follow Texas Avenue north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and follow existing roads in its entirety.

P-SCT-002 (Multiple) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce potential impacts to homes on Aberdeen Avenue and West 260th Street.

P-SCT-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton - ATE [NW Alt 3]) - From the preferred route at 245th Street East and Pillsbury Avenue head east along 245th Avenue to Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may impact fewer homes, appears to follow existing roads, reduce cross-country routing, and may be shorter and more direct than the segment it is meant to replace.

P-SCT-007 (Johnson) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Ave and East 260th Street head east along 260th (CH 2) through Elko New Market to Interstate 35. This alternative would utilize an existing county highway and may be a shorter and more direct route.

Sibley County

P-SIB-001 (Kahle) - From the preferred route at CH 13 head east cross-country 3 miles to CH 9. Head north on CH 9 to 310th Street and go east to 391st Avenue and continue east 0.5 miles, south 0.25 miles, then east 1 mile to 375th Lane and head south to 316th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is similar to applicants route segment, and appears to potentially impact fewer homes.

P-SIB-002 (Multiple) - From the preferred route at 324th Street head south cross-country 0.75 miles to U.S. Highway 169. Go east on U.S. Highway 169 across the Minnesota River and rejoin the preferred just east of the river. This alternative seeks to utilize existing Minnesota River crossing (U.S. Highway 169).

P-SIB-003 (Hildebrandt) - From the preferred route head south along State Highway 22 turning east on 320th Street and following 320th to CH 13 connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and appears to follow existing roads.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-001 (Multiple) From the preferred route at 520th Street, take the alternative route north along State Highway 23. This route alternative appears to utilize State Highway 23 to connect the applicants' preferred route to their alternative route.

VII. REJECTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Twelve of the alternative routes suggested by the ATFs (NW Alternative 1A, NW Alternative 1B, NW Alternative 3, SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, SW Alternative 2, SW Alternative 5, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90, as delineated in the ATF reports) and 33 of the alternative routes suggested through public comment will be described in the FIS, but will not be considered for further study or evaluation in the FIS. The route segments were rejected as they either did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115), had more impacts relative to the criteria used by the Commission in route permit determinations as defined in Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subd. 7., or were incomplete in their description and/or depiction.

The following seven rejected routes are not described in the list below and were rejected because they specifically did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115): SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90.

Brown County

P-BRN-006 (Prah) From the preferred route head south from Terrace Avenue to 260th Street and go west along 260th to 320th Avenue proceed north following along 320th and terminates. This was an incomplete route alternative.

Dakota County

P-DAK-001 (Multiple) - Connect with preferred route at Pillsbury Avenue and 245th Street East and head east along 245th for approximately 0.3 miles before turning southeast and cross-country one-tenth mile then east 0.5 miles and northeast approximately 0.75 miles then turning east-northeast along the east side of Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route at 240th Street West. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-DAK-003 (Braun) – From north of 240th Street at preferred route head east cross-country to Audrey Street and terminate. This alternative heads cross country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion and would impact a large wetland complex. This was an incomplete route alternative.

P-DAK-008 (Braun) – Approximately 0.9 miles north of 240th Street West, head east cross-country and along 307th Street West from the preferred route for approximately 1.8 miles to Biscayne Avenue West and follow Biscayne north to 230th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties and would also run through a fairly large wooded area. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-DAK-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATE [NW Alt 1A]) – From Interstate 35 head east cross-country to CR 90 (307th Street). Continue east on 307th Street to an existing 69 kV line and follow line northeast connecting with alternate route near Danbury Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-DAK-001 (Mertens) From 220th Street East approximately 0.6 miles east of Collier Court head south cross-country approximately 5.5 miles then east 3.5 miles to Fischer Avenue, follow Fischer north to U.S. Highway 52. From U.S. Highway 52 head north cross-country approximately 4 miles to termination. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-001 (ATE Henderson [SW Alt 5]) From preferred route east of 320th Street follow State Highway 28 northeast to CR 155 and take CR 155 southeast to 320th Street connecting with the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-LES-010 (Malecha) – From preferred route, continue east along CH 28 (320th Street) to CH 31 and turn south continuing cross-country to State Highway 99. Proceed east on State Highway 99 to CR 137 and follow CR 137 north to CH 28, connecting with the alternative route. This alternative adds considerable length to project, impacts more homes, and impacts more wetlands than the segment that it is attempting to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-002 (Markell) – From 340th Street follow 190th Avenue north turning east and following 350th Street to 220th Avenue. Continue east cross-country approximately 1.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street and continuing to 265th Street. The route continues east cross-country for another 0.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street finally connecting to the preferred route. This alternative would negatively impact windbreaks/tree groves, would impact just as many homes, and would span a large wetland complex. This alternative has more negative impacts than the route segment it is intended to replace.

P-LYN-003 (Engels) – Just northwest of 340th Street head southeast along State Highway 68 turning south at 190th Avenue following 190th to 310th Street. Follow 310th Street east with a couple of 0.5 miles sections of cross-country to 280th Avenue connecting to the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines and bisecting properties, includes more cross-country routing, impacts windbreaks/tree groves, and more impacts to homes. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-LYN-004 (Markell) – From preferred route at 340th Street head north on 180th Avenue and east along 350th Street terminating at CH 23. This alternative would run through a large wetland complex and is incomplete in its description and depiction.

P-LYN-005 (Markell) - From approximately 0.2 miles west of State Highway 68 proceed south cross-country approximately 0.9 miles to 170th Avenue and south to 320th Street. Proceed east along 320th Street crossing State Highway 68 and heading 0.5 miles through the north portion of the city of Ghent to 280th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-LYN-002.

P-LYN-006 (Grandview Township) - From 330th Street follow Lyon Lincoln County Road south following an existing 69 kV line. At approximately 1.5 miles proceed east approximately 5 miles cross-country to 160th Avenue and head south to 300th Street and head east on 300th finally connecting with the preferred route at 280th Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Nicollet County

P-NCL-001 (Multiple) – From preferred route continue east from 340th Street heading cross-country through Minnesota River Valley for approximately 4.25 miles connecting again at 340th Street and following the road east approximately 1.5 miles with numerous cross-country segments including crossing over Clear Lake finally meeting up with 571st Avenue and heading north connecting with preferred route. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties and would cross over Clear Lake (a public water). The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Renville County

P-RVL-002 (Fors) - From 420th Street follow 630th Avenue east to 430th Street and continue east cross-country 2 miles connecting with 630th again and head east (1 mile cross-country between 465th Street and CH 4). At 520th Street turn north and follow to 300th Street and head east to 651st Avenue. Follow 651st south approximately 1 mile and head east cross-country for 1.75 miles to 310th Street, following 310th east to 611th Avenue where route again heads cross-country 4 miles connecting to the preferred route. This alternative adds more length of cross-country routing that would bisect single-owner agricultural land. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Rice County

A-RIC-004 (Jones) - Connects to alternate route at Interstate 35 just south of 45th Street West and heads north cross-country approximately 3 miles to 270th East Street where it terminates. A large majority of this alternative route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace. The alternative was also incomplete in its description and depiction.

A-RIC-005 (Malz) From 141st Avenue head northeast cross-country to CH 6 (45th Street West). Follow CH 6 to the point where the road veers south (Kannebec Avenue) and continue east cross-country approximately 3 miles to CR 96 (Halstad Avenue) and follow Halstad south connecting to the alternative route. A large majority of the alternate route runs cross-country and bi-sects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Scott County

P-SCT-004 (ATF – Henderson [NW All 3]) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head northeast cross-country approximately 1.1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-SCT-005 (Nytes) At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to Delmar Avenue. Head north along Delmar connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A slight variation of P-SCT-004.

P-SCT-006 (Nytes) - At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to West 270th Street. Follow 270th east to Naylor Avenue and go northeast cross country approximately 0.25 miles then head north approximately 0.9 miles to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-SCT-004 and P-SCT-005.

P-SCT-008 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [SW Alt 2]) - From CH 2 (East 260th Street) go north on Langford Avenue approximately 4 miles then go east on CH 8 (220th Street East) for approximately 10 miles. Continue east on CH 70 to Interstate 35 and continue south along Interstate 35 connecting with the preferred and alternative route. This alternative would impact many more homes/properties, add considerable length to route, cross or come very near many Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public waters. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-SCT-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1B]) - Follow existing 115 kV transmission line north from 57th Street West connecting with the proposed/alternative route just north of 245th Street East. This alternative route would have the lake Marion substation moved south. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

B-SCT-001 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.3 miles north of West 263rd Avenue on Fabor Avenue from the alternate route head east cross-country 3 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-002 (West) - From the alternate route at 290th Avenue to State Highway 23 then north along Highway 23 to 200th Avenue. This was an incomplete route alternative.

VIII. ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

The EIS will evaluate a total of 26 alignment alternatives suggested in comments. These are alternatives that fell within the applicants' requested route widths and generally entail site specific concerns such as building on one side of the road or the other, avoiding tree groves, and avoiding recreational areas or environmentally sensitive areas.

IX. REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The EIS will include a list of permits that will be required for the project.

X. ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The following issues will not be considered or evaluated in the EIS:

1. Any route or substation alternatives not specifically identified in this scoping decision
2. Questions of need, including size, type, and timing; questions of alternative system configurations; or questions of voltage.
3. The no-build option regarding the high voltage transmission line.
4. The impacts of specific energy sources, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities.
5. Policy issues surrounding whether utilities or local government should be liable for the cost to relocate utility poles when roadways are widened.
6. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission rights of way easements, as that is outside the jurisdiction of Public Utilities Commission.

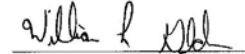
XI. SCHEDULE

Following is the anticipated schedule:

October 2009 – Draft EIS available.
October and November 2009 – Draft EIS public meetings.
January 2010 – Final EIS available.

Signed this 30 day of June, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Collins, Carly; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project
Attachments: RUS NEPA Process Fact Sheet.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:39 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: CapX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,
I am a bit confused about the project and the area that is noted in your email.

I-259-001 On my ignorance, but is Webster Township, Rice County, MN part of the Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse line, or is it another segment? The scope of the project has my head spinning, and I want to be sure that the comments that I have raised, as well as the comments of my neighbors and friends, are attached to the appropriate route. (Although, likely, the concerns are "route wide".)

I-259-002 Also, I am confused about the deadline and whether it applies to the segment that we live in.

Thank you for taking the time to email, your effort is truly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Anastasia Balfany

On Jul 28, 2009, at 8:08 AM, Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC wrote:

> Your comments on the CapX 2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse 345-kV
> Transmission Line Proposal have been received.
> All comments will be analyzed and summarized in a public scoping
> report, which will be posted on the following web address in
> approximately 60 days:
>
> <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Dairyland%20Power%20Cooperative,%20Inc>
> .
>
> The scoping comment period is now closed. Please see the attached
> timeline for future public comment opportunities in the
> Environmental Impact Statement process.
> If you have further comments or questions please send them to:
>
> Stephanie A. Strength
> Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
> 1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
> Washington, DC 20250-1571
> stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
>
>

I-259-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project in Webster Township with which you have raised concerns.

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-259-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-259-001.

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 3:05 PM
> To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
> Subject: CapX2020 Project
>
> Dear Ms. Strength,
> I am strongly opposed to the CapX2020 project, and have attached a
> letter documenting some of my concerns, and specifically the use of
> 50th Street as an alternative route for the project.
> I want to be sure to note that I feel that both 50th Street and 57th
> Street in Webster, MN (Rice County) are unsuitable for identical
> reasons, with 50th Street slightly more so, due to the even closer
> proximity to the Sky Harbor Airpark.
> Again, thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call
> or email with any questions or comments.
> Sincerely,
> Anastasia Balfany
> 3720 50th Street West
> Webster, MN 55088
> 952-652-2786
>



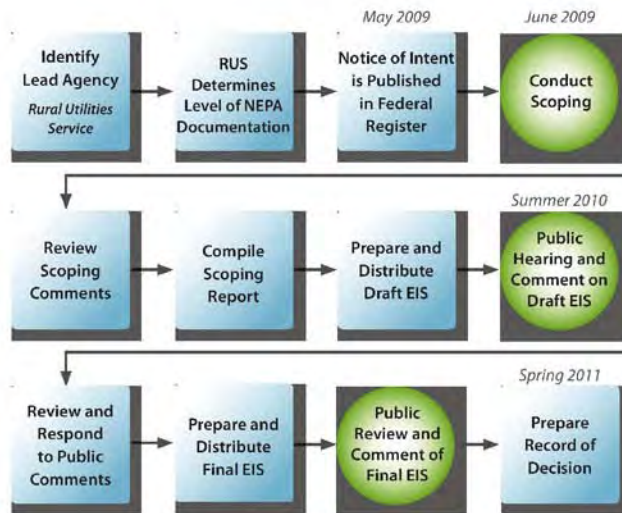
FEDERAL REVIEW PROCESS

Dairyland Power Cooperative has requested financial assistance from Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a federal agency that administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Programs, for its anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS and other federal agencies involved in the NEPA review will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each federal agency will independently develop its own decision document. The EIS preparation process is detailed below.

The NEPA process evaluates the project's potential affects on environmental resources, such as:

- land use
- threatened and endangered species
- wetlands
- cultural and historic properties
- socioeconomics
- scenic areas



www.usda.gov/rus

The table below shows permit, regulatory compliance or other coordination required by federal agencies.

Agency	Permit, regulatory compliance, or other coordination
RUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study • NEPA Compliance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 10 Permit of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) for crossing the Mississippi River
USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide permit or individual permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977
U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use authorization if right-of-way required on National Wildlife Refuge or Wetland Management District lands (Standard Form 299) and Special Use Permit if crossing National Wildlife Refuge • Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 50 C.F.R. 22 consultation) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668, 50 C.F.R. 22) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 701–712)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 7460–1, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace
National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation: Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968 (if proposal affects federally designated areas)

Public scoping

The RUS NEPA process provides several opportunities for public review and comment (identified in green on the NEPA process graphic). The CapX2020 utilities had several rounds of public information meetings prior to the NEPA scoping meetings; public comments received at those meetings were considered in corridor development and route option identification. Public comments received at scoping meetings will be recorded as part of the project record.

The NEPA scoping process serves multiple goals for the proposed project, including:

- Soliciting public comments
- Discovering alternatives to a proposed action (preferred route)
- Identifying significant impacts
- Eliminating insignificant issues
- Communicating information
- Consulting with agencies and organizations

Track EIS development, download comment forms, and access all public documentation at the RUS Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Please contact **Stephanie Strength** for more information:
 USDA, Rural Utilities Service
 1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
 Washington, DC 20250-1571



Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Colliris, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: CapX Environmental Criteria.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:32 PM
To: decocker_5@hotmail.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Denice,

Thank you for your e-mail. When we are considering routing, we absolutely consider impact to private landowners. State routing criteria generally promotes the view of limiting impacts to sensitivities (for examples of sensitivities, please see the attached) and promoting the concept of corridor sharing. Once the potential route corridors are determined, the sensitivities along those various options are identified and route segments are compared against each other to determine which segments provide linear connectivity while impacting the fewest sensitivities.

Given the uncertainty of which route would be chosen, and where specifically the line would be placed along any given route, it's hard for me to discuss impact to your trees. We would certainly meet with you prior to placing any poles to discuss with you your specific concerns.

As for TV reception, there is very little risk that the line would have any interference with your TV signals. The only way the line could interfere is if a pole were placed very close to the receiver and physically blocked the signal. We're committed to careful design in general and avoiding any interference on any communication or television reception in particular.

Your comments are being forwarded to Stephanie Strength for inclusion in the USDA Rural Utility Service's federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments for the EIS are due July 25. Should you think of anything else, you may also e-mail Stephanie directly. Thank you for your input.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North
Xcel Energy
CapX2020
800-238-7968

Denice Cocker (507) 843-5281 decocker_5@hotmail.com
59684 415th Ave
Mazeppa MN 55956

Concerns: The proposed power lines have caused us a great deal of stress and sleepless nights. The newspaper said that all affected homeowners were notified. That is not the case for us. Although we had read about the proposed lines, none of the routes were actually affecting us personally. It was only the last week in May that our neighbor informed us that a route would be changed. We went to the meeting in Plainview on June 16th and

there discovered the route went right across our front yard. We still have not been officially notified except for general letters informing us of informational meetings. Earlier in May we discovered a pink ribbon tied to a tree up in our woods. We were upset that someone had trespassed on our land with out permission. We now assume it had to do with the power lines.

I-260-001 | *Do you take into consideration that the proposed power lines are in someone's front yard? Our house is built into the hillside with windows only on the south and west sides. Our three bedrooms and living room all face south overlooking our front yard.

I-260-003 | *We heat our house and greenhouse exclusively with wood heat. We are dependent on the trees in our woods for our future needs for heat. It would be a hardship if trees are cleared for power lines.

I-260-002 | *A few years back we bought a dish so that we could finally get TV reception. Because we are basically surrounded by hills, the only direction we can point the dish is south. Will these power lines interrupt our ability to pull in TV stations? 7/23/2009 12:06:00 PM

I-260-001

Your letter/comment card has been comment noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. As Ms. Schultz stated in her letter the impact to landowners and land use is taken into consideration in the routing process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-260-002

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-260-003

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to vegetation resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additional The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



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Environmental Siting Criteria

Opportunities

For transmission lines, advantageous siting "opportunities" are characterized by corridors with the potential for sharing or running alongside existing facilities, infrastructure, and landscape features.

Advantageous substation "opportunities" are sites that allow a substation to be located on or adjacent to a property with existing electric facilities or compatible structures.

Sensitivities

"Sensitivities" are those environmental siting criteria, including point locations, areas, or features, which are taken into account with regard to routing, construction, or additional licensing/permitting procedures.

Opportunities
Existing ROWs (electric transmission lines, railroads, pipelines, highways/roads)
Identified utility corridors
Section lines/property lines
Sensitivities
Population centers
Existing/planned residential areas
Memorial parks
National register historic sites
Designated or registered national historic districts
Native American tribal land
National landmarks
National parks/monuments
National recreation areas
State parks and recreation areas
Scenic areas/scenic travel routes
Wild and scenic rivers
Special management areas (areas of environmental concern [ACECs], natural conservation area [NCAs])
National and state wilderness areas
State natural areas/scientific areas
Nature conservancy preserves
National wildlife refuges
State wildlife refuges, wildlife areas, game management areas
Threatened and endangered species critical habitat areas
Unique habitats (habitat conservation plans)
Waterfowl nesting or rearing areas
Floodways/floodplains
Open water expanses greater than 1,000 feet
Wetlands considered areas of special natural resource interest
Airport obstruction-free zones/flight approach paths
VORTAC tower sites
Military reservations/installations
Other federal and state land (not otherwise protected)
Mines
Geologically unstable or highly erosive areas
Agriculture types (row crops, irrigated crops, vineyards, orchards)
Mechanical wheeled or line irrigation systems
Schools/daycare centers

*Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative • Great River Energy
 Minnesota Power • Minnesota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
 Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy*

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:12 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Cary
Subject: FW: Powerline on 50th Ave
Attachments: 08-1474 FINAL EIS SCOPE (Text).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us [mailto:Scott.Ek@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 9:38 AM
To: jodydoyle@integra.net; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Powerline on 50th Ave

Ms. Doyle,

There has been no decision made on the route for the proposed Brookings - Hampton 345 kV transmission line. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Decision Document was recently issued on June 30, 2009. The scoping document is one step in the environmental review process for transmission line projects. The scope outlines the issues, concerns, and alternatives suggested by the advisory task forces and in comments made by the public and government units during the scoping process conducted in March and April of this year. The Office of Energy Security (OES) will now begin preparing the EIS for this proposed project using the Scoping Decision Document as a guide or "blueprint" for the issues and alternatives to be addressed and analyzed. I have attached a copy of the Scoping Decision Document for your convenience. The figures are not attached as the file size is quite large for email, but can be viewed at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

The draft EIS is anticipated to be available in October 2009. After the draft EIS has been issued the OES will conduct public meetings in select areas along the route that will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the information in the draft EIS. There will also be a public comment period tied to these meetings that will enable the public to send written or email comments. The comments will then be addressed by the OES and incorporated into the final EIS. The draft EIS and the final EIS make up the complete EIS and will be forwarded to the Public Utilities Commission to assist them in making a decision on a final route for the proposed transmission line sometime in January 2010. So as you can see there is still quite a bit of work and fact gathering to be done before a decision on a route permit can be made. Many factors go into making a transmission line route decision.

If have not already done so, I suggest you add your contact information to the project mailing list managed by OES at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>. This will ensure you receive any future notices regarding the proposed project.

Scoping Document - <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/19860/08-1474%20FINAL%20EIS%20SCOPE%20063009.pdf>

General project information - <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns you may have or just to find out where we are at with regards to the schedule.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EK

Office of Energy Security | Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

1

I-261-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Office: 651.296.8813 | Fax: 651.297.7891
scott.ek@state.mn.us
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us
www.energy.mn.gov

From: Jody [mailto:jodydoyle@integra.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:48 PM
To: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Powerline on 50th Ave

I am writing about concerns of a possible powerline on 50th Ave in Webster. This powerline would be in the flight path of the Sky Harbor Airpark.

The Sky Harbor Airpark has been in existence for 35 plus years. It is also the busiest airpark in the state of MN. There are 50 homes and 72 registered airplanes on the airpark. A powerline in the flight path is a huge safety and liability issue. If harm or death occurred because the powerline was in the way of approaching aircraft it would open the Rice county and power company up for major lawsuits.

Jody Doyle Pilot
3299 45th St W.
Webster, MN 55088

952-652-2042



**In the Matter of the Route Permit
Application for a 345 kV Transmission
Line from Brookings County, South
Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474**

The above matter has come before the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) for a decision on the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared on the Great River Energy and Xcel Energy (applicants) route permit application before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a proposed transmission line between Brookings County, South Dakota, and Hampton, Minnesota, under the full permitting process (Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicants propose to construct and operate a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 237 miles long, beginning at the state's western border near Hendricks, Minnesota, and ending south of the Twin Cities metro area near Hampton, Minnesota. The applicants have proposed two possible routes for the transmission line, a preferred route and an alternate route. These routes would cross portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur, Scott, Rice, and Dakota. The project would also include the construction of four new substations and the expansion of four existing substations. New substations include the Hazel Creek substation near Granite Falls, the Helena substation near New Prague, the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, and the Hampton substation near Hampton (Figures 1 to 5).

The applicants are requesting a 1,000 foot wide route width for the majority of the proposed project. The maximum route width of 1.25 miles is requested for the areas where new substations are proposed and a number of other locations along the route to facilitate system interconnection and address river crossing areas and/or environmental and land use concerns.

The applicants propose using single-structure steel poles which would require a 150-foot right-of-way. A 100-foot right-of-way would be required for the route segment connecting to the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, Minnesota. There may also be some limited situations along the route where specialty structures (H-frames or triple circuit structures) may be required. A right-of-way up to 180 feet in width would be required in these instances.

Proposed construction of the transmission line would begin in 2011 with completion by 2013.

PROJECT PURPOSE

As indicated by the applicants in the route permit application, the project has been designed to improve the reliability of the bulk electric system serving Minnesota and portions of neighboring states and would also serve to meet infrastructure additions that have been deemed needed to meet the forecasted growth in demand of several thousand megawatts over the course of the next decade.

The applicants also indicate the project would enhance customer service capabilities in western Minnesota and the southern suburbs of the Twin Cities. Moreover, the project would provide renewable resource generation outlet capability of approximately 700 megawatts from the Buffalo Ridge area in southwest Minnesota. Detailed information regarding the purpose and need for this transmission project is provided in the May 22, 2009, Order issued by the Commission granting Certificates of Need for the CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115 (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showDocketsSearch&showEdocket=true>).

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The applicants filed a route permit application on December 29, 2008, under the full permitting process of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E). The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 29, 2009. Under the full permitting process the Commission has one year from the date the application was accepted as complete to make a decision on the route permit.

SCOPING PROCESS

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340 (full permitting process). Scoping is the first step in the permitting process after application acceptance. The scoping process has two primary purposes, to ensure that the public has a chance to participate in determining what routes and issues to study in the EIS, and to help focus the EIS on the most important issues surrounding the route permit decision.

OES staff collected and reviewed comments on the scope of the EIS by convening two advisory task forces, holding public scoping meetings throughout the proposed project area, and accepting written comments from March 30, 2009, through April 30, 2009. This scope identifies potential human/environmental issues and project route or substation site alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. The scope also presents a tentative schedule of the environmental review process.

Advisory Task Forces

Two geographically-based advisory task forces (ATFs) were established by the OES, the Lake Marion to Hampton ATF and the Minnesota River Crossings to New Prague ATF. The ATFs were each charged with: (1) identifying local site or route specific impacts and issues of local concern, and (2) identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in their respective area of concern that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project. The task forces each met three times between March and April 2009. The recommendations of the ATFs have been considered during the preparation of this scope and can be found in their respective reports. The ATF reports are available at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

Public Scoping Meetings

Twelve public information meetings were conducted by the OES between March 30 to April 9, 2009, at nine different locations that included the cities of Marshall, Hendricks, Granite Falls, Redwood Falls, Gaylord, Henderson, New Prague, Lakeville, and Cannon Falls. Approximately 1,065 people attended the twelve public meetings, according to the meeting sign-in sheets. The scoping meetings provided the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and the route permitting process, review the route permit application, and ask questions and submit comments. A court reporter was present at each of the public meetings and transcribed questions asked and comments made by the public as well as responses from the OES and the applicants.

Public Comments

A public comment period beginning the day of the first public scoping meeting and ending on April 30, 2009, provided the public an additional opportunity to submit comments and alternative routes to be considered for the scope of the EIS. A total of 999 comments were received by the close of the comment period which included 801 written or emailed comments and 198 oral comments from the public scoping meetings. There was also approximately 827 form letter/postcards from the Watt Munisotaram Temple indicating opposition to the line near their Temple.

All of the written and oral comments submitted at the scoping meetings along with comments received by mail and email were reviewed and entered into a database. Each comment was evaluated for issues or concerns that should be considered for detailed evaluation in the EIS and were classified based on the major topics of the comments. Table 1 below summarizes the major issues raised in these comments, as well as the relative frequency the issue was raised.

Table 1. Major Issues Raised During Public Scoping Period

Issue	Number of Times Issue Mentioned	Percentage of Major Issues
Health/EMF	428	43%
Property Value/Compensation	369	37%
Specific Route Selection (Suggested Alternatives)	297	30%
Proximity to Homes	294	29%
Other*	228	23%
General Route Selection (Support or Non-Support of Proposed Routes)	174	17%
Rare or Unique Species	138	14%
Aesthetics	133	13%
Stray Voltage	83	8%
Trees/Wind Breaks	45	5%
TV/Radio/GPS	41	4%
Noise	37	4%

*Other included issues related to: data in route permit application, general opposition to the project, project need, and easement negotiation process, among others.

The public suggested over 297 route alternatives to the applicants' proposed routes through comment. Of the 297 route alternative suggestions 197 of them were comments expressing opposition or preference for the applicants' preferred route, alternative route, or no project at all. This left 100 remaining route alternatives that were divided into those that fell within the applicants' requested route width and those that fell outside the requested route width. After further refinement and removal of missed duplicates, 26 alternatives fell within the requested route width and were categorized as alignment alternatives (an "alignment alternative" in this case means a suggested change in the applicants' proposed transmission centerline, such as a shift from one side of a roadway to the other, but where the line would still be located within the original route width) and 74 alternatives fell outside the requested route width and were categorized as route alternatives. Alternative routes recommended by the ATFs were also included in this review.

The task force meeting reports and scoping meeting comment reports, as well as each individual comment (letter or email) are available on the project website maintained by the Commission at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

Having reviewed the matter, consulted with OES Energy Facility Permitting staff, and in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5300, I hereby make the following Scoping Decision.

The applicants' route permit application describes their route analysis and contains the information required by Minnesota Rule 7894.5220, subp. 2, as determined by the Commission. The EIS will summarize the process the applicants' used to identify, evaluate, and select the routes. The EIS will also verify and supplement information provided in the route permit application and will incorporate the information by reference as appropriate.

The EIS on the proposed Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project will address and provide information on the following matters:

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Project Description
- B. Purpose of the Transmission Line
- C. Project Location
- D. Route Description
- E. Route Width
- F. Rights-of-Way
- G. Project Cost

II. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- A. Certificate of Need
- B. Route Permit
- C. Environmental Review Process

III. ENGINEERING AND OPERATION DESIGN

- A. Transmission Line Conductors
- B. Transmission Line Structures
- C. Substations

IV. CONSTRUCTION

- A. Transmission Line and Structures
- B. Substations
- C. Property/Right-of-Way Acquisition
- D. Cleanup and Restoration
- E. Damage Compensation
- F. Maintenance
- G. Underground Options

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

The EIS will include a discussion of the human and environmental resources potentially impacted by the project and its alternatives. Potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposed project and each alternative considered will be described. Based on the impacts identified, the EIS will describe mitigative measures that could reasonably be implemented to reduce or eliminate the identified impacts.

- A. Environmental Setting
- B. Socioeconomic Setting
- C. Human Settlement
 - 1. Noise
 - 2. Aesthetics
 - 3. Proximity to Structures
 - a. Homes and Farmsteads (including farming related structures such as silos, grain bins, etc.)
 - b. Businesses
 - c. Schools/Daycares
 - d. Hospitals
 - e. Cemeteries
 - 4. Displacement
 - 5. Tree Groves/Windbreaks
 - 6. Existing Utilities (pipelines, propane tanks, septic systems)
 - 7. Domestic Water Well Installation/Maintenance
- D. Public Health and Safety
 - 1. Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - 2. Implantable Medical Devices
 - 3. Stray Voltage
 - 4. Explosives/Fireworks
- E. Recreation
 - 1. Parks (city, county, state, and federal)
 - 2. Golf Courses
 - 3. Trails
- F. Transportation and Public Services
 - 1. Emergency Services
 - 2. Airports
 - 3. Highways and Roads (including scenic highways/byways and rest stops)

- G. Interference
 - 1. Radio and Television (digital and satellite)
 - 2. Internet
 - 3. Cellular Phone
 - 4. GPS-Based Agriculture Navigation Systems
- H. Archaeological and Historic Resources
- I. Zoning and Compatibility/Federal, State and Local Government Planning
- J. Land-Based Economies
 - 1. Agriculture
 - a. Prime Farmland
 - b. Organic Farms
 - c. Livestock
 - d. Aerial Crop Spraying/Dusting
 - e. Bee Keeping/Bee Colonies
 - 2. Forestry
 - 3. Mining
- K. Property Values
 - 1. Residential
 - 2. Industrial
 - 3. Agriculture
- L. Air Quality (As it pertains specifically to this transmission line project only.)
- M. Natural Resources
 - 1. Surface Water
 - a. Lakes
 - b. Surface Flows
 - 2. Groundwater
 - 3. Wetlands
 - 4. Floodplains
 - 5. State Wildlife Management Areas/Scientific Natural Areas
 - 6. National Wildlife Refuge/Waterfowl Production Areas
 - 7. Forests
- N. Flora
- O. Fauna
- P. Rare and Unique Natural Resources/Critical Habitat

VI. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS

The EIS will identify and evaluate alternative routes and route segments to the proposed project. Nine of the 21 ATF identified routes and 38 of the 71 alternative routes suggest through public comment will be evaluated in the EIS and are presented below and illustrated in Figures 6 to 16.

Brown County

P-BRN-001 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to 330th Avenue. Head north along 330th approximately 0.25 miles and go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-002 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 325th Avenue and proceed north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001.

P-BRN-003 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 320th Avenue and proceed north following along 320th to where it forks and proceed north cross-country 0.5 miles north then 0.25 miles west to 420th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-004 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330th Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1 mile and turn east cross-country to 325th Avenue. Follow 325th Avenue north where it connects with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001 and P-BRN-002.

P-BRN-005 (Prahl) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330 Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1.25 miles then go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001, P-BRN-002, and P-BRN-004.

Dakota County

P-DAK-002 (Kaufenberg) – Follow Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Hamburg Avenue and follow it north to Lakeville Boulevard. Proceed east on Lakeville Boulevard then south on Denmark Avenue to 225th Street West where it would head southeast cross-country 0.5 miles and then north-northwest 0.3 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-004 (Rother) – Approximately 0.5 miles west of U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard) the route would head north cross-country approximately 0.25 miles then turn east for 0.5 miles to Coates Boulevard. This alternative was suggested to avoid bisecting agricultural land and instead follow property/section lines.

P-DAK-005 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue. Proceed north along Blaine Avenue approximately 0.2 miles and head east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to Coates Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

P-DAK-006 (Multiple) - Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Flagstaff Avenue. The route would continue east cross-country approximately 1 mile then turn south 1.5 miles, briefly running along Essex Avenue eventually turning east for 1.2 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-007 (Mertens) - From the alternative route at Interstate 35 and 57th Street West head east cross-country approximately 3 miles to 307th Street West. Continue along 307th Street to Eveleth Avenue and east cross-country approximately 1 mile and northeast following along an existing rail line and 69 kV transmission line for approximately 7 miles to 240th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative utilizes an existing 69 kV right-of-way and railroad, may impact fewer homes, and may be a more direct and shorter route.

P-DAK-009 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 2]) - From preferred route follow Pillsbury Avenue north to 215th Street West. Head east along 215th Street to Cedar Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then southeast 1.8 miles and again east approximately 1 mile to 220th Street West. Proceed down 220th Street to Denmark Avenue and head south along Denmark veering southeast cross-country at 225th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-006 which also seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-010 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [Buddhist Temple]) Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard). This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-005 and also seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

A-DAK-002 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “right-angle” and NW Alt 1C]) - From Northfield Boulevard east along County Highway (CH) 86 (280th Street East) then north on Fischer Avenue to U.S. Highway 52. Route continues north cross-country terminating just north of Northfield Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “diagonal”]) Travel east from alternate route at Hampton Boulevard/240th Street East to U.S. Highway 52. Head north on U.S. Highway 52 to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard) continuing northeast along CH 47 approximately 0.75 miles and terminating. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-004 (Gerber) From just north of Lewiston Boulevard head northeast cross-country 240th Street East. Head north from 240th Street East cross-country to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton.

A-DAK-005 (Kaufenberg) – From Interstate 35 head east along 280th Street E/W connecting with alternative route at CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative may utilize more existing roads and reduce approximately 6 miles of cross-country route bisecting agricultural land.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-002 (Binczik) - From 320th Street proceed north along 241st to Street 302nd Street and turn east following 302nd to CH 32 and connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and would follow along existing roads.

A-LES-001 (Schmidt) Connect with alternative route approximately 0.5 miles north of 310th Street and proceed east cross-country to Le Sueur Avenue. Follow Le Sueur Avenue south to 70th Street West connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may reduce the impacts to homes within 300 feet of the transmission centerline from 6 homes to 1 home.

A-LES-002 (Hoy) – Follow 210th Street north from the intersection of 300th Street and 210th Street. At approximately 0.75 miles turn east cross-country for approximately 0.75 miles and turn southeast connecting with alternative at 300th Street. The alternative seeks to avoid residence/daycare on 300th Street.

B-LES-001 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 2]) - From preferred route head north along 265th Avenue, west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue to West 280th Street. Proceed east on 280th to German Road and head north on German Road for approximately 1 mile then continuing cross-country 1.3 miles reconnecting with German Road and ultimately the alternative route. This alternative appears to utilize more existing right-way and seeks to avoid existing residences, and an airfield.

B-LES-002 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 5]) – From the alternative route on CH 28 near Township Highway 30 head northeast following along existing 345 kV transmission line to West 270th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce transmission line proliferation by utilizing an existing 345 kV transmission line right-of-way.

B-LES-005 (Meyer) From the preferred route follow U.S. Highway 169 northeast from just south of Dobby Lane to German Road connecting with the alternative route. This alternative seeks to utilize U.S. Highway 169 as a route connecting the preferred to the alternative reducing some of the need for new right-of-way and impacts to homes.

B-LES-006 (Multiple) - From the preferred route on 320th Street head north on 265th Avenue for 1 mile to CH 28. Head west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue, east on West 280th Street, and north on German Road ultimately connecting to the alternate route. A variation of B-LES-001, B-LES-003, and B-LES-004.

B-LES-007 (Davis) - Follow preferred route from river crossing to CH 32 and head north to County Road (CR) 157. Proceed east on CR 157 and north on CR 121 connecting with alternate route. Proposed by the Scott County Board. This alternative may avoid conflicts with the preferred route along CH 2 as identified in the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, such as future public right-of-way expansion.

B-LES-008 (ATF Henderson [NE Alt 4]) From the preferred at 221st Avenue head east along CH 28 to 141st Avenue connecting with the alternative route. This alternative follows a county road/established right-of-way and may avoid impacts to dairy farms, day cares, and wetlands, and may also reduce the amount of route that goes cross-country.

B-LES-009 (Anonymous) – From preferred route follow CH 32 (Hickory Boulevard) north to approximately 0.5 miles north of West 280th Street and continue north cross-country to West 260th Street. Turn east continuing cross-country for approximately 4 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes and avoid a pyrotechnics plant.

B-LES-011 (Anonymous) – Approximately 0.25 miles north of 302nd Street head east cross-country from CH 32 for approximately 1 mile connecting with the alternative route at 300th Street. Follow 300th Street to 181st Avenue and turn north following 181st north connecting with the preferred at West 260th Street. This alternative may follow more existing roads than the segment it is meant to replace.

Lincoln County

P-LNC-001 (Sterzinger) - From CR 134 go north on CH 8. Then east cross-country to 340th Street continue east cross-country to Lyon Lincoln Road. This alternative appears to follow more existing roads and would impact a similar number of homes when compared to the segment it is meant to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-001 (Grandview Township) - From 330th proceed north along CR 8. At 340th Street head east cross-country for approximately 1 mile to 340th Street following 340th to Lyon Lincoln Road and continue east cross-country connecting to the preferred route at 340th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes.

A-LYN-001 (Prins) From alternative route proceed south on CH 9 to 240th Street. Head east on 240th Street to 310th Avenue and head north on 310th connecting with the alternative route. This alternative avoids bisecting agriculture property and appears to follow an existing road.

A-LYN-002 (Maeyert) – Head north on 170th Avenue from the intersection of 260th Street and 170th. Continue on 170th Avenue to CH 19. Proceed east on CH 19 for approximately 3.5 miles turning south cross-country for approximately 1.5 miles then east for approximately 1.25 miles and east-southeast approximately 0.75 miles crossing CH 23, finally turning south and connecting with the alternative route. This alternative appears to follow section lines where the alternative does not and provides an alternative Redwood River crossing and avoids a golf course and residential area. This alternative segment was originally looked at by the applicants.

A-LYN-003 (City of Lynd) – Same as Alternative A-LYN-002 except after crossing CH 23 the route would continue in an east-southeast direction to 320th Avenue and follow 320th south connecting with the alternative route. The alternative may avoid new future residential developments north of the city of Lind, and encroachment of Savannah Oaks Golf Course. The alternate is also outside Lind city limits and may avoid disturbing a heavily wooded area near the Redwood River.

B-LYN-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route follow State Highway 23 north. This alternative may minimize impacts to agriculture land, potentially impact fewer homes, and would follow existing State Highway 23 to Granite Falls.

Redwood County

P-RDW-001 (Zwaschka) – From 290th Street at Crown Avenue head south cross-country to State Highway 19. Proceed east along State Highway 19 connecting with the preferred route at Dayton Avenue. This alternative seeks to avoid residences.

A-RDW-001 (Prins) – Route would turn east from CH 7 approximately ¼ mile north of 350th Street and head cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles and turn north connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural property owned by one entity by moving to a shared property line.

Renville County

P-RVL-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route at 420th Street follow 640th Avenue east (road changes to 300th Street) continue east to 571st Avenue connecting with the preferred route. This alternative was initially evaluated by the applicants and may reduce the length of the route by approximately 4 miles impacting a similar amount of homes as the segment it is meant to replace.

P-RVL-003 (Hoffbeck) – From 420th Street follow State Highway 19 east to 460th Street where the route would head north cross-country to 660th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. The alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and appears to follow along existing roads and railroad.

Rice County

A-RIC-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton - ATE [NE Alt 2]) - From alternative route at 141st Avenue continue cross-country approximately 1.5 miles to Leaf Trail. Follow Leaf Trail southeast to 60th Street West. Take 60th east to CH 19 connecting to the alternative route. This alternative may reduce impacts to homes and avoid future growth of the city of Lonsdale.

A-RIC-003 (Sirek) - From 57th Street West continue north along Elmore Avenue to 50th Street West. At 50th Street turn east cross-country to Interstate 35 connecting with the alternative route. This alternative is intended to avoid homes along 57th Street West.

Scott County

P-SCT-001 (Zweber) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Avenue follow East 250th Street east to Texas Avenue. Follow Texas Avenue north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and follow existing roads in its entirety.

P-SCT-002 (Multiple) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce potential impacts to homes on Aberdeen Avenue and West 260th Street.

P-SCT-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton - ATE [NW Alt 3]) - From the preferred route at 245th Street East and Pillsbury Avenue head east along 245th Avenue to Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may impact fewer homes, appears to follow existing roads, reduce cross-country routing, and may be shorter and more direct than the segment it is meant to replace.

P-SCT-007 (Johnson) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Ave and East 260th Street head east along 260th (CH 2) through Elko New Market to Interstate 35. This alternative would utilize an existing county highway and may be a shorter and more direct route.

Sibley County

P-SIB-001 (Kahle) - From the preferred route at CH 13 head east cross-country 3 miles to CH 9. Head north on CH 9 to 310th Street and go east to 391st Avenue and continue east 0.5 miles, south 0.25 miles, then east 1 mile to 375th Lane and head south to 316th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is similar to applicants route segment, and appears to potentially impact fewer homes.

P-SIB-002 (Multiple) - From the preferred route at 324th Street head south cross-country 0.75 miles to U.S. Highway 169. Go east on U.S. Highway 169 across the Minnesota River and rejoin the preferred just east of the river. This alternative seeks to utilize existing Minnesota River crossing (U.S. Highway 169).

P-SIB-003 (Hildebrandt) - From the preferred route head south along State Highway 22 turning east on 320th Street and following 320th to CH 13 connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and appears to follow existing roads.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-001 (Multiple) From the preferred route at 520th Street, take the alternative route north along State Highway 23. This route alternative appears to utilize State Highway 23 to connect the applicants' preferred route to their alternative route.

VII. REJECTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Twelve of the alternative routes suggested by the ATF's (NW Alternative 1A, NW Alternative 1B, NW Alternative 3, SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, SW Alternative 2, SW Alternative 5, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90, as delineated in the ATF reports) and 33 of the alternative routes suggested through public comment will be described in the FIS, but will not be considered for further study or evaluation in the FIS. The route segments were rejected as they either did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115), had more impacts relative to the criteria used by the Commission in route permit determinations as defined in Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subd. 7., or were incomplete in their description and/or depiction.

The following seven rejected routes are not described in the list below and were rejected because they specifically did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115): SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90.

Brown County

P-BRN-006 (Prah) From the preferred route head south from Terrace Avenue to 260th Street and go west along 260th to 320th Avenue proceed north following along 320th and terminates. This was an incomplete route alternative.

Dakota County

P-DAK-001 (Multiple) Connect with preferred route at Pillsbury Avenue and 245th Street East and head east along 245th for approximately 0.3 miles before turning southeast and cross-country one-tenth mile then east 0.5 miles and northeast approximately 0.75 miles then turning east-northeast along the east side of Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route at 240th Street West. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-DAK-003 (Braun) – From north of 240th Street at preferred route head east cross-country to Audrey Street and terminate. This alternative heads cross country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion and would impact a large wetland complex. This was an incomplete route alternative.

P-DAK-008 (Braun) – Approximately 0.9 miles north of 240th Street West, head east cross-country and along 307th Street West from the preferred route for approximately 1.8 miles to Biscayne Avenue West and follow Biscayne north to 230th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties and would also run through a fairly large wooded area. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-DAK-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATE [NW Alt 1A]) – From Interstate 35 head east cross-country to CR 90 (307th Street). Continue east on 307th Street to an existing 69 kV line and follow line northeast connecting with alternate route near Danbury Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-DAK-001 (Mertens) From 220th Street East approximately 0.6 miles east of Collier Court head south cross-country approximately 5.5 miles then east 3.5 miles to Fischer Avenue, follow Fischer north to U.S. Highway 52. From U.S. Highway 52 head north cross-country approximately 4 miles to termination. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-001 (ATE Henderson [SW Alt 5]) From preferred route east of 320th Street follow State Highway 28 northeast to CR 155 and take CR 155 southeast to 320th Street connecting with the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-LES-010 (Malecha) – From preferred route, continue east along CH 28 (320th Street) to CH 31 and turn south continuing cross-country to State Highway 99. Proceed east on State Highway 99 to CR 137 and follow CR 137 north to CH 28, connecting with the alternative route. This alternative adds considerable length to project, impacts more homes, and impacts more wetlands than the segment that it is attempting to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-002 (Markell) – From 340th Street follow 190th Avenue north turning east and following 350th Street to 220th Avenue. Continue east cross-country approximately 1.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street and continuing to 265th Street. The route continues east cross-country for another 0.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street finally connecting to the preferred route. This alternative would negatively impact windbreaks/tree groves, would impact just as many homes, and would span a large wetland complex. This alternative has more negative impacts than the route segment it is intended to replace.

P-LYN-003 (Engels) – Just northwest of 340th Street head southeast along State Highway 68 turning south at 190th Avenue following 190th to 310th Street. Follow 310th Street east with a couple of 0.5 miles sections of cross-country to 280th Avenue connecting to the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines and bisecting properties, includes more cross-country routing, impacts windbreaks/tree groves, and more impacts to homes. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-LYN-004 (Markell) – From preferred route at 340th Street head north on 180th Avenue and east along 350th Street terminating at CH 23. This alternative would run through a large wetland complex and is incomplete in its description and depiction.

P-LYN-005 (Markell) - From approximately 0.2 miles west of State Highway 68 proceed south cross-country approximately 0.9 miles to 170th Avenue and south to 320th Street. Proceed east along 320th Street crossing State Highway 68 and heading 0.5 miles through the north portion of the city of Ghent to 280th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-LYN-002.

P-LYN-006 (Grandview Township) - From 330th Street follow Lyon Lincoln County Road south following an existing 69 kV line. At approximately 1.5 miles proceed east approximately 5 miles cross-country to 160th Avenue and head south to 300th Street and head east on 300th finally connecting with the preferred route at 280th Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Nicollet County

P-NCL-001 (Multiple) – From preferred route continue east from 340th Street heading cross-country through Minnesota River Valley for approximately 4.25 miles connecting again at 340th Street and following the road east approximately 1.5 miles with numerous cross-country segments including crossing over Clear Lake finally meeting up with 571st Avenue and heading north connecting with preferred route. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties and would cross over Clear Lake (a public water). The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Renville County

P-RVL-002 (Fors) - From 420th Street follow 630th Avenue east to 430th Street and continue east cross-country 2 miles connecting with 630th again and head east (1 mile cross-country between 465th Street and CH 4). At 520th Street turn north and follow to 300th Street and head east to 651st Avenue. Follow 651st south approximately 1 mile and head east cross-country for 1.75 miles to 310th Street, following 310th east to 611th Avenue where route again heads cross-country 4 miles connecting to the preferred route. This alternative adds more length of cross-country routing that would bisect single-owner agricultural land. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Rice County

A-RIC-004 (Jones) - Connects to alternate route at Interstate 35 just south of 45th Street West and heads north cross-country approximately 3 miles to 270th East Street where it terminates. A large majority of this alternative route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace. The alternative was also incomplete in its description and depiction.

A-RIC-005 (Malz) From 141st Avenue head northeast cross-country to CH 6 (45th Street West). Follow CH 6 to the point where the road veers south (Kannebec Avenue) and continue east cross-country approximately 3 miles to CR 96 (Halstad Avenue) and follow Halstad south connecting to the alternative route. A large majority of the alternate route runs cross-country and bi-sects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Scott County

P-SCT-004 (ATF – Henderson [NW Alt 3]) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head northeast cross-country approximately 1.1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-SCT-005 (Nytes) At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to Delmar Avenue. Head north along Delmar connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A slight variation of P-SCT-004.

P-SCT-006 (Nytes) - At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to West 270th Street. Follow 270th east to Naylor Avenue and go northeast cross country approximately 0.25 miles then head north approximately 0.9 miles to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-SCT-004 and P-SCT-005.

P-SCT-008 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [SW Alt 2]) - From CH 2 (East 260th Street) go north on Langford Avenue approximately 4 miles then go east on CH 8 (220th Street East) for approximately 10 miles. Continue east on CH 70 to Interstate 35 and continue south along Interstate 35 connecting with the preferred and alternative route. This alternative would impact many more homes/properties, add considerable length to route, cross or come very near many Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public waters. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-SCT-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1B]) - Follow existing 115 kV transmission line north from 57th Street West connecting with the proposed/alternative route just north of 245th Street East. This alternative route would have the lake Marion substation moved south. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

B-SCT-001 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.3 miles north of West 263rd Avenue on Fabor Avenue from the alternate route head east cross-country 3 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-002 (West) - From the alternate route at 290th Avenue to State Highway 23 then north along Highway 23 to 200th Avenue. This was an incomplete route alternative.

VIII. ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

The EIS will evaluate a total of 26 alignment alternatives suggested in comments. These are alternatives that fell within the applicants' requested route widths and generally entail site specific concerns such as building on one side of the road or the other, avoiding tree groves, and avoiding recreational areas or environmentally sensitive areas.

IX. REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The EIS will include a list of permits that will be required for the project.

X. ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The following issues will not be considered or evaluated in the EIS:

1. Any route or substation alternatives not specifically identified in this scoping decision
2. Questions of need, including size, type, and timing; questions of alternative system configurations; or questions of voltage.
3. The no-build option regarding the high voltage transmission line.
4. The impacts of specific energy sources, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities.
5. Policy issues surrounding whether utilities or local government should be liable for the cost to relocate utility poles when roadways are widened.
6. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission rights of way easements, as that is outside the jurisdiction of Public Utilities Commission.

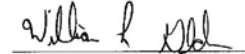
XI. SCHEDULE

Following is the anticipated schedule:

October 2009 – Draft EIS available.
October and November 2009 – Draft EIS public meetings.
January 2010 – Final EIS available.

Signed this 30 day of June, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Lntgrandpa@aol.com [mailto:Lntgrandpa@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 8:27 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020

Stephanie,

I keep getting mail on the project and have been missing the meetings lately.

I think, I met you at Red Wing, Mn and expressed my "fine with me". About a year or so ago.

My property is on west side of County rd. 6 Blvd. 40463 is the mail box # or fire #. Located between Goodhue and Zumbrota bordering the old RRR bed to the North.

You at that time would send me a map of that area. My area is not in flood plain.

I-262-001

It appears this area is not being considered, as I hoped it would. Please respond if possible as I want to be a part of this project as I would in positive mode. My email address: Lntgrandpa@aol.com

Louis Torkelson
826 44th ave. NW
Rochester, Mn

507-273-9038

Download the [AOI Classifieds Toolbar](#) for local deals at your fingertips.

I-262-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

July 24, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808
Wabasha County/Zumbro Twnshp
T.109N.-R.14W

Dear Ms. Strength,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We had the pleasure of meeting you on June 16, 2009, in Plainview, Minnesota, at the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting. We provided you with a packet of information and our concerns regarding the route proposal at that time affecting our land and area. The route has changed yet again since then, but still directly impacts our parcel.

I-263-001 | We will be referring to the CAPX route number B95. I have enclosed the maps that show this route and our property.

This route lines along our northern border, which will impact our farmed white pine, red pine and black walnut. They grow up to that border. There is no established corridor here. We would lose that timber and its value, and all future plantings.

I-263-002 | We have marked the spot where we are planning our residence. This was shared with the CapX routing team. This route would negate our ability to build there. It would devastate the aesthetics and depreciate substantially our property value.

I-263-003 | Please note that the line marked T-282 a PRIVATE drive. The Zumbro Township surrendered responsibility for this road in 2005. We have done all maintenance.

I-263-004 | Our parcel of land is part of the Richard Dorer Memorial State Hardwood Forest, and has an active DNR forestry management plan. It was started in the 1970s, and was updated in 2002. In addition to our tree farm, there is a blend of native soft and hardwoods throughout the property. It is habitat for deer, pheasant in the fields and cedars, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and fox, to name a few. Implementation and reintroduction of native prairie and woodland plant species is underway. We have a small pond which

I-263-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

I-263-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line, as well as potential impacts to the aesthetic quality and land use of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

assists native amphibian/reptile populations, and includes our attempt to restore the wood duck population in our area.

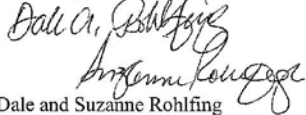
I-263-005 |
I-263-006 |

Fragmentation of forested land and wildlife habitat is evident with this proposed route. We ask that you utilize existing roads/established corridors south of this route. Also, the southern I-90 to LaCrosse option would deter disruption of the McCarthy Lake Management/Weaver Dunes areas along and near the Alma route.

We strongly urge you to support the efforts and expenditures made to promote healthy forest and wildlife, and recreation on and near our property. We are doing what our state and country asks of us. We ask that you promote the importance of what conservation means, for the sake of future generations.

Thank you, as always, for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours respectfully and truly,



Dale and Suzanne Rohlhing
Tree farmers/ land stewards

Enclosures

I-263-005

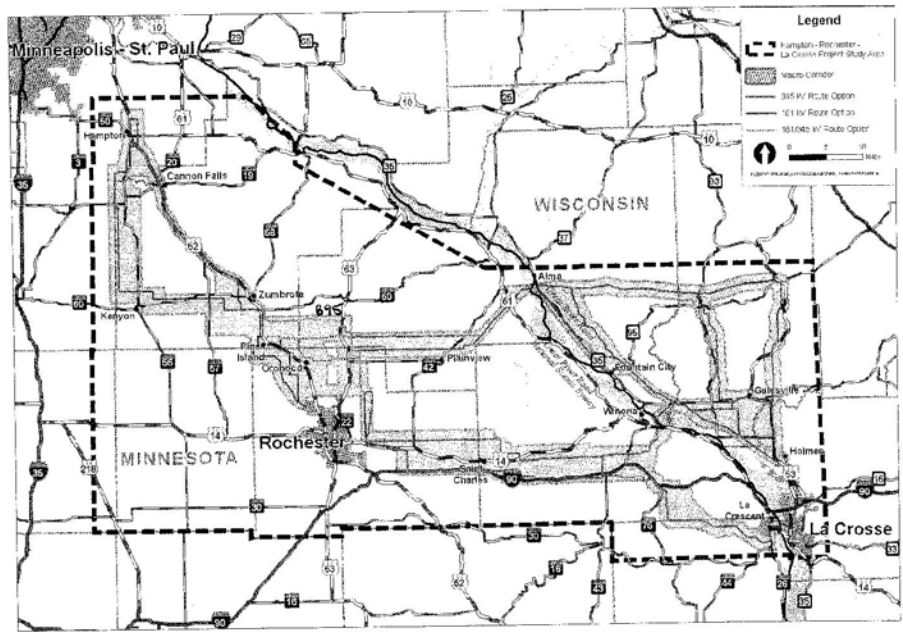
Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process as well as potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-263-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



ROHLFING



June 16, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808

Dear Ms. Strength,

Thank you for coming to Plainview, MN for the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting.

We own and operate a tree farm in Minnesota, Wabasha County, Zumbro Township: T.109N.-R.14W. The northern most route proposal touches our property.

This route disregards Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, of the route permit criteria, by fragmenting property and natural/critical habitat. It transects a state designated canoe route, another tree farm, and is the closest to a registered bald eagles nest of all the northern routes crossing the Zumbro River.

This route would devastate the aesthetics, and alter the river bottoms and the riparian ecosystem of this region within the Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

We ask that you please reinforce the use of existing corridors, road, rail and energy lines, when choosing the final route, pursuant to the above mentioned MN Statute.

Enclosed is a letter sent to Tom Hillstrom of Xcel Energy in April of 2009 with specific impacts of the route, area map, and photos.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Droh124057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

February 27, 2009

RE: CAPX added route 2/23/09
Rohlfing 50 acres
T.109N.-R.14W.

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

Thank you for coming to Zumbro Falls last evening during the storm warning... We hope you got home safely after the long meeting.

We were shocked, actually, to see the proposed CAPX route change yet again, now diagonally across our 50 acre Tree Farm. We were unaware of this change until the meeting. This change will directly impact our parcel by plowing through the center of our property with the 150 foot swath. This would devastate our Tree Farm which consists of black walnut, white and red pine. Part of the route is directly over our proposed home site. It is closer to a registered Eagles nest and directly crosses an area of dense eagle activity. It interferes with our land stewardship plan with the Lake City Forestry Office.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, we ask that you follow the Route Permit Criteria, utilizing existing rail, road, energy and property lines. This most recent route proposal will negatively impact our property from economical, ecological, residential, aesthetic and agricultural standpoints.

This route change is difficult to understand, considering the letter and photos we sent to Mr. Hillstrom January 2. We would be happy to provide you with that information. As per your encouragement, we have made a call to Mr. Hillstrom this morning. Our neighborhood group will be meeting shortly to discuss alternate routes, and communication with you.

Again, we thank you for your presentation and look forward to further dialog with regard to this project. Please note that we are forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Hillstrom, and Matthew Langan of the DNR, who received our previous mailing.

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing

Drohl24057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

April 2, 2009

Mr. Thomas Hillstrom
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting
Mr. Grant Stevenson
Senior Project Manager
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall (MP 8A)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mazeppa/Zumbro-Hyde
Citizens/Landowners
c/o Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dear Mr. Hillstrom and Mr. Stevenson,

We are citizens and land owners of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, Wabasha County. We are responding to the most recent route change proposals for the CAPX2020 transmission line. These routes were displayed at the community meeting in Zumbro Falls at the Zumbro Community Church on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Mr. Grant Stevenson attended and spoke to the group at that meeting.

We would like to express our concerns and address them for you with respect to the Public Utilities Commission Minnesota Administrative Rules, 7849.5910 "Factors Considered".

Factor A. "effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services" The new proposals appear to have no less effect on settlement. There would be, however, increased effects on recreation for the following reasons: 1- this stretch of the Zumbro River is a designated Minnesota state canoe route, with one of the two most popular routes being from the Zumbro dam to Zumbro Falls, according to the DNR. 2-this stretch of the Zumbro River is used for other water recreation, camping, fishing, sport and hunting by individuals and patrons of local camps/businesses. Aesthetics will clearly be impacted by the 150-foot transmission towers, the transmission lines, and the 150-foot clear cut needed for their maintenance. Many of the area's recreational activities will be adversely affected.

Factor C. "effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining" Major economic impacts include the following: 1- Steeplechase Ski Area. This four-season resort relies heavily on the present landscape and aesthetics for visitor use of the ski hills themselves and the 5-mile trail network used for hiking, biking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. Of special consideration are the specifics of downhill ski terrain specifications, leaving only the north half of the property for expansion potential. This business contributes to the local economy through employment, operating expenditures, and contribution to the activity of other local businesses. 2- Two working Tree Farms, sections 15 and 16. The white pine, red pine,

and black walnut planted on these two properties represent years of invested labor and expense that cannot be compensated. The actual monetary value of these cannot be realized until tree maturity and harvest. The clear cut for the transmission lines and the required maintenance would also prevent further plantings and potential return on the farms. These farms also utilize local businesses for tree and equipment maintenance. 3- The value of any property within sight of the transmission lines will be significantly reduced, as much of the value of rural property in the area derives from the remote setting.

Factor D. “effects on archaeological and historic resources” Between Wabasha County 70 and south to South Troy, there are historical points of interest. 1- The historic wagon trail north of County 7 and west of Hwy 63. 2-Troy/ South Troy. This includes the old Dale cemetery, the old South Troy town site near the existing cemetery and schoolhouse, the South Troy Church, and the grave of Frederick Ingalls, the infant son of Caroline and Charles Ingalls and brother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Historical Society has agreed to enter this site onto their Historical Society List. There is consideration for a historical marker, according to Mr. Allen Whipple, local historian.

Factor E. “effects on natural environment, including effects on air and water quality, resources and flora and fauna” Environmental effects and conservation concerns of the transmission line and its 150-foot clear cut are numerous. Following are a few examples: 1- This land is part of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. Only a small portion is state owned. It was intended to help preserve the river and the land around it. 2- The recently proposed routes would eradicate a significant acreage of forest land, which is also extremely susceptible to erosion. This has multiple implications: a- decreased natural habitat for native wildlife species which impacts food sources, nesting and protective options which then results in reproductive compromise and increase predation susceptibility. b- Increased erosion which contributes to alteration of native flora allowing invasive species, ie. buckthorn, and potential for alteration of shading and temperature fluctuations in the river. c- decreased sources of CO2 absorption and potential sources of carbon credits 3- This part of the Zumbro River has a designated “catch and release” regulation for smallmouth bass. This fishery depends on high water quality, which will be damaged by disturbing the surrounding forests. 4- The river crossing on the most northern route proposal is in close proximity to a registered eagles nest. There is dense eagle activity north of Wabasha County 7 and the green bridge.

Factors H. “use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines and agricultural field boundaries” & **J.** “ use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-ways” Parts of the most recent route have transected property and do not appear to incorporate the need to parallel or utilize existing rights-of-way, survey lines, and existing transportation and transmissions lines. The primary beneficiaries of the transmission lines are the cities of Rochester and LaCrosse, both of which are serviced by existing transportation rights-of-way, ie: US Highway 52 and Interstate 90. These corridors are the logical routes for the transmission lines.

Factor L. “costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route” Several of the proposed routes have many corners and angles that add to the cost of construction, and these same routes require significant timber removal expenses. Routes following highways will have fewer corners and timbered areas. Utilizing the angle of US Highway 52 to Oronoco and Interstate 90, rather than using the northern routes, will reduce the length of the lines. These routes will also be constructed primarily on farmland, which does not need to be cleared initially or in the future. The timbered areas on the northern routes would need regular clearing or spraying, both of which carry monetary and ecological costs.

We sincerely hope you consider the above mentioned factors, and choose alternately a more appropriate route which has less impact on an area that has minimal existing damage. We also suggest that you consider route proposals closer to Route 52 and Interstate 90, and the cities that this project will benefit: Rochester and LaCrosse.

We thank you for these considerations, and look forward to future contact.

Respectfully submitted,

The Citizens of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, and other interested parties.

Enclosures

Cc:

Bob Cupit, PUC MN
Matt Langan, MN DNR

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview MD June 16 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

*Please refer to
all enclosed letter
information
thank you.*

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:36 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: mlbarthel@comcast.net [mailto:mlbarthel@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 11:26 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Until 2 years ago I was not aware of the beauty southern Minnesota offered. My daughter went to school at Winona State College from 2002 through 2007, and we always enjoyed the drive from the Twin Cities, seeing the bluffs that you could experience from HWY 61. But it was not until a good friend of mine bought land in the Houston, MN area that I saw the deep, lush beauty that the Root River area had to offer.

Our friends bought land in Sather Valley a few years ago. We spent the weekend there, just two weeks ago, and had a chance to be part of nature. We could see how they had fallen in love with all the beauty nature has to offer from the hills, spring fed streams, agriculture and some of the most active wildlife I have seen. There was everything from trout filled streams, deer, coyote, wild turkey, birds that came in every shape, size and color and even the mooing of the cows from across the fields. We sat by the fire after dark and listen to mother nature talking (coyotes were calling from hill to hill) and watched the stars flutter in the night. (And all without a visit from the infamous state bird, the mesquite).

During the day we had a chance to see the beauty of the area with a tube ride down the Root River. After spending the weekend we could see why they decided to move down south to live in Sather Valley.

That was just two weeks ago. Today I heard for the first time about the proposed CAPX2020 that could literally go right over the farm house my friends currently live in. I never professed to be a Rhode Scholar, and have no clue on just how much damage a project like this would have on humans and animal life; but, I have been near these large power lines and have heard the noise they generate and know they do not belong in any scenic corridors that the state of Minnesota has to offer. As citizens, and/or leaders, in our community it should be our responsibility to preserve the beauty of the area for years to come. We already have an Interstate road systems designed to move vehicles efficiently across the nation. If it is necessary to transfer power across the country, why would we not use the same paths to efficiently transfer power from point A to point B?

Please reconsider any notion to interfere with the natural habitat of the area. I am sure if you are honest with yourself, you know the impact is severe to many families, farmers, nature lovers as well as the health of humans and wildlife. There has got to be better alternatives!

Sincerely,

Larry Barthel
Maple Grove, MN

I-264-001
I-264-002

I-264-003

I-264-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-264-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise and to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-264-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020
Attachments: August 1.doc; Capx2020.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:07 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Fw: Capx2020

I-265-001

Stephanie,
I feel I need to send this to you. I have been to all 3 meetings but this last one was very difficult to make ---we arrived at 8:00 the meeting was from 5:00pm-8:00pm. This is our milking time on our farm and may of our neighbors. They were already packed up and leaving. Yes 3 were willing to stay and talk but everything was packed up. If this power line is going through our land do you think they could at least accommodate to our work hours? This line looks to be on our front lawn, my kids will be mowing lawn around it!

Please read my attachments and file them.
Thank you
Carrie Kerfeld

I-265-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

August 1,2009

To the Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to state how disappointed I am to hear that you are considering putting your high power lines on our property and in our beautiful landscapes here in central Minnesota. We are in Section . We live between Melrose and Freeport.

Do you realize that we have many vacationers in this part? We have Big Birch Lake right here that people come down to visit on their vacations. We have bald eagles, we'll see as many as 5 at one time, there are 2 that fly above our house every morn and evening, we have frogs that sing to us nightly, the tree look wonderful on our hills especially in the fall. We love our wildlife and we abide by the ways of keeping them here and safe. By our house, and down the road we have up to @ 30 deer and countless turkeys eating at times in the evening and early mornings for years. We love watching these animals, there are people who drive by here just to see them. They cat right up to the edge of the field, close to County Road 17. We enjoy this tremendously, we are the farmers of central Minnesota. We care for our land. We care for our farm animals, they are our lively hood. We have cows in our pasture, right on the south side of Co. Rd. 17. Beach Valley Rd. comes to a T at this pasture. There are trees, hills, valleys & a waterway, and cows that feed off the land, with our farm in the back ground. This is a road that people go down to their homes or to their cabins. They comment on how they enjoy this picture perfect look. They stop to take pictures of our land!

We need you to understand the affects it will have on us individuals. We need your help to keep these lines off our property so we have pure nature out here. We need you to keep these lines on I94, where it will just blend in with all the other utilities, road signs, industries and noises. Please stay on our side, we are a few people who need you to understand our position.

You already have the state cut in half with the interstate, the state owns this and has the right to use it for a straight line from Monticello to Fargo. MNdot does not own the freeway. Wobegan bikers do not buy a license to keep up the trail, we have talked to bikers that use the trail and they use a different stretch more often because it's more scenic. So to keep the power line away from the interstate because of the Wobegon Trail is not a reasonable excuse. Snowmobilers use the trail to get to each town faster, if they want beauty they take another route. You can ask any biker or snowmobiler. There are fewer homes to go around next to the interstate. Please check this out.

To fight this is like having another part time job. This is probably a reason why you are not hearing from a lot of farmers. We are busy all year around, up to 16 hours per day. We want to be home with our families, we are working from before sunrise to after sunset. We don't have the time to be with you watching each step and fighting each person who wants to put these lines on our private property. Most feel that no matter what they say or do won't make a difference, feeling that you already made your choice of routes. We have put a tremendous amount of time and money into our land and buildings. We have future generations coming to live and work here. They would feel cheated to know that you did not think of them. If we lose this battle, we would appreciate an on going compensation for us now and for our grandkids. We need to know you appreciate what we are doing for you. We want this stretch of line on I94.

Thank You, Carrie Kerfeld and family

To whom it may concern:

July 25, 2008

I am writing about the project on the high power line "CapX 2020". I have went to your two recent meeting held in the Melrose area. I hope that you will look at this project closer to see if you can eliminate going over farm land. We are scared of the consequences, the noise, the threats it entitles, the beauty it may kill around it, if it be the birds, animals or people. We enjoy pure nature, the beauty of the skies, land and sounds. It looks like it will be affecting us dramatically - Cutting the trees down, ruining homes, lakes and pastures (shelter for our cows and other animals). We chose to live on a farm in the country to hear and see the land and to take care of it for future generations.

If you choose to go through farm land, do you think our land will be worth as much with these power lines? We need to consider the future generations on this land, such as a loan on the land with rental payments, free electricity or get paid a certain % for each post on their land per month now and generations to come. We need to have a contract, we need it in writing for every acre it affects, post or no post. Year after year, we need to know we are appreciated in having this on our land.

I would like you to challenge this group to go to schools on this route and have a question/answer time. Also challenge this group to go to the extension office to get a list of farmers who are willing to give tours of their farms. More young families are health conscience, doing preventive health. Companies like this need to help support healthy ways of living.

If it comes by our place we will have personal contact with it 24 hours a day. I am a stay at home Mom of 5 children, school age and younger. We're here all the time. Our future generation will be here and possibly die here - which is true for many farmers.

I would like to give you a taste of what it would be like for CapX 2020 going through our land and possible farmstead. Depending on what time of year it will be put up, it will affects us differently. If it is being put up in the Spring, they will use X amount of acres for their equipment. We won't be able to seed that part of the land that year - we will have lost that amount of grain for our cows. Then you take the summer, we'll have spend hours upon hours buying seed, working the fields 2 times, sowing the seed, picking rocks, fertilizer, spraying up to 2-3 times for weeds and bugs. The poles get put up and all this time, acres of crop will be lost, money and effort gets thrown to the wayside. Winter would of course be the best, but a farmer has to wonder what kind of top soil will be left for us to farm on. We farm miles of land along Co. Rd. 17 so we will be dealing with a many power line post. Another thing what if the cows have new issues that come up, we have to hire people to figure out the problem that we never had before. Per acre farmers use less electricity then a city of houses so why dump this on us.

Please reconsider, find another way so it doesn't drag across the state and onto precious farm land. Stay on the I-94 route, town people can move easier then a farmer and most will only be around the high power line for a third or half the time.

Thank You,
Sincerely,



Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:13 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020

Hi
I just sent you an e-mail but I never wrote what section I am inplease help remove us from this power line.
Tile H-8 #5 & #8

Thanks,
Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

fyi

From: Lexa, Caroline A [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:00 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Lexa, Caroline A
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:56 PM
To: 'stephanie.strength@usda.gov'
Subject: EIS Scoping Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

Please ensure that the larger picture is addressed and a pragmatic approach is taken when reviewing the scope of the CAPX2020 project. I am a homeowner living near the proposed Brookings CAPX2020 line. The following are my families concerns:

- * If there is an alternative plan that is less costly to rate payers, such as using local power and conservation, please look at this option seriously. Sometimes a simpler and less costly approach just makes sense.
- * With the recession, people around me seem much more consciences about the money they spend on energy consumption. People are cutting back and being careful about their energy use. Please use recent forecasts that take into account the changing attitudes towards energy consumption!
- * Please include the Brookings line with the scope, this is one large project. It's all connected.
- * Please consider not only the visual impact but also the property value impact and the potential increased risk for cancer when reviewing the cost/benefits of this project.
- * Please consider alternatives, such as local power generation and a no build option for the entire project.
- * Please review the extent to which CAPX2020 will facilitate more coal generation and the environmental increasing coal generation.

1

I-266-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I am a parent of two very young children living on a farm that has been in our family for over 100 years. I don't want to have to choose between exposing myself to electromagnetic fields and leaving the farm we all love so much. But even if my particular family isn't considered, I'm just not sure this project makes sense. Is this really the best option? The least expensive? The most efficient? What if there's a better idea that would accomplish the power needs without disrupting so many lives? Couldn't we produce wind power here? It's awfully windy at our house on the farm. Please consider the big picture, the entire project. Is this really the best way?

Best Wishes,

Caroline, Mike, Inga (age 3) and Vlad (age 2) Lexa

Webster, MN

This e-mail, including attachments, may include confidential and/or proprietary information, and may be used only by the person or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient or his or her authorized agent, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by replying to this message and delete this e-mail immediately.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Chris Nagel [mailto:nage0049@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 8:13 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Powerlines proposal

Hi Gentlemen,

Please consider my thoughts below.

Thanks.
Chris Nagel

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Nagel <nage0049@gmail.com>
Date: June 30, 2009 2:10:31 AM GMT+02:00
To: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
Subject: Powerlines proposal

Hello Ms. Strength,

I-267-001

I am concerned by the 345 kV power lines, which are planned to be installed or expanded along the stretch of Mississippi between Alma and LaCrosse, WI. The concerns I have are aesthetic and concern safety. It is important to me that the project not contribute to the loss of the wilderness area along these backwaters. Is there a way to bury the lines, or otherwise minimize their impact? Is there a way to not locate them in the very visible Mississippi channel?

In terms of safety, I encourage the use of highest industry standards of safety. I will be content paying for this additional service.

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email:

I-267-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line and to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-267-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-267-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

nage0049@gmail.com

430 Dacota,
Winona, MN

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email: nage0049@gmail.com
Phone: (0049) 211 9653 671

Delivering electricity you can rely on

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? *Centerville w/ and another alternative organizations*

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

*The fact that citizens do have
Some good ALTERNATIVE Ideas
Listen to EM with the idea
of USING them instead of
just listening & falling on ears
that shut out the POSSIBILITY
Ya know maybe just maybe there
are some ideas other than just
yours*

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345KV Transmission Project

Please LISTEN

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-268-004

This area was zoned Exclusive Ag - for a reason - to keep it as it is! A lot of time & effort went = = = into creating these zoning laws and that should & does exclude a Substation. What good & what impetus will this show to approve if your big powerful corporation comes along & says sorry we want it - we get it - Doesn't anything have the legal status to be (WICG's state⁵⁴) honored its what is - stands? ON Hwy 54 - ~~proposed~~ proposed substation south of us. In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-268-005

This is agriculture and our home! I'm a nurse and work VERY HARD every day to maintain a healthy body. We have worked hard to maintain clean air, and a quality of life style by ~~maintaining~~ keeping the area to a country like setting. We have worked as a neighborhood to keeping housing ~~at a minimum~~ ~~we wanted~~ & urban sprawl to a minimum so we can keep that quality AND be ABLE to Afford to ~~stay~~ stay on the family farm financially. This project DOES NOT PROMOTE a quality healthy lifestyle regardless of your inconclusive studies. It's not natural for the human body to be exposed to EMF's.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-268-001

Yes in explanation
 But no in putting, acting, thinking and thought
 to other very sound and worthwhile Alternate ideas
 or plans. If you want to know why there often
 seems to be a low number of concerned citizens
 at some of the meetings or comments its because

I-268-002

people feel like no matter what they say or
 do the outcome is STILL going to be the
 same. Come on please LISTEN to some of
 these ideas that JUST MAY WORK. Push some
 of the STATUS QUO - always done like this
 & TRY something out of the box. Remember
 the wheel - good invention but as time goes
 on there have been alot of new technology. For

I-268-003

example why cant this line run along the
 freeway system? No one has
 a good answer to that. If it
 still seems like a viable
 solution. ~~Good~~ Just because
 a citizen thought it - well it
 considered?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Deb Congdon

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address:

City:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-268-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-268-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages

and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-268-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-269-001

Our land may be used for wind-producing electricity. I don't want electric line's in the way.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wesley Dubbels

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 5831 51ST, NE.

City: Rochester State: Mn - 55906 Zip Code:

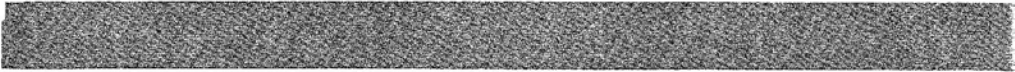
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-282-2991

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-269-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments will be solicited after its publication.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? none

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-269-002

What do they do ~~not~~ when the crops are growing and the line needs repair?

I-269-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7/21/09

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CapX2020

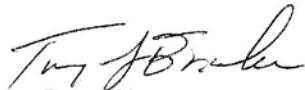
Dear Stephanie Strength,

I-270-001 | We wish to state our strong opposition to the proposed CapX2020 transmission lines proposed on 50th Street West in Webster, Minnesota. This line will run near our property. During these times of economical stress and loss of jobs, our families have needed to move in together to share expenses and are still trying to save our home from forecloser. The instalation of this line would not only devalue our property but make us not want to live near it. Our family has enough health issues with out adding more. With the devaluation of our property after the addition of the line we feel we will not be able to sell it. We feel like we have been trapped by the proposal of this line. We are also frustrated that with the new proposed alternate route for this line, we were informed by concerned neighbors and not by the agents putting this line through. We ask that you reconsider this matter during these times of economical stress, and realize the land devaluation is a huge issue for those involved.

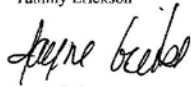
Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, we ask that you find an alternate route that will have less impact on our property at 4925 Elmore Ave. Webster, MN.

Sincerely,


Benjamin Erickson


Tammy Erickson


Timothy Geibe


Jayne Geibe

I-270-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-271-001

It would be nice if you could follow property lines, instead of breaking up parcels.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Sensitive areas include dairies that are very close to the proposed lines

I-271-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crosse, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-272-007 | No. The actual "need" for this project has never been proven, especially when recent usage data (2005-09) is not being considered by Excel. The fact is, usage in these years has declined!

I-272-008 | Transporting power such a long distance is not an efficient way to provide service.

I-272-009 | Many of the proposed routes are not efficient - they do not take the shortest, quickest, logical route.

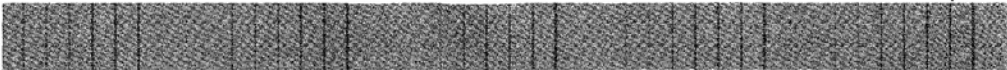
Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Doug Kleese
Representing (Optional): Holden Township Kenyon MN
Mailing Address: 4667 Co. 30 Blvd
City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-649-1783

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-272-003

My wife and I have young kids in our family who play and work in the proposed area. There are many well documented safety issues to living, working and playing near these transmission lines.

I-272-004

Being concerned about electrical shock when getting off farm equipment on a daily basis concerns me.

I-272-005

Destroying the viewshed of ^{our} township greatly concerns me!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-272-006

In our area we have a wonderful natural wildlife habitat along production agriculture. These two have co-existed beautifully. The swath that these transmission lines would create would hugely disrupt both of these.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Multiple grassroots meetings held in our local community

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-272-001 Is there really a need for increased electrical power supply in our country?

I-272-002 When agriculture has not created the need, why does agriculture have to "pay the price" by the disruption + destroying of farmland ~~have to~~ to transport it?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-272-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-272-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will also be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-272-008

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-009

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

No, purpose/need

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ROGER LACHER, H & V LACHER TRUST

Representing (Optional): WISCOY HEADWATERS

Mailing Address: 30960 HEADWATERS DRIVE

City: RUSHFORD State: MN 55971 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: FORESTRY

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-273-001

Depending on routing could impact native prairie propagation, rare calcareous fen, organic livestock crop & produce leased land. WILSON TWP. SEC. 34, WISCOY TWP. SEC. 3, 4, 9, 10

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

all are important. I grow up in a farmhouse bedroom within 50 yards (closest residence in miles) from Dairyland - local East-West line @ Wilson/Wiscoy twp. border - the corridor affects everything.

I-273-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands, and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? WINONA, MN FORUM 6/29/09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ① Project Purpose and Need
- ② Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- ⑤ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ④ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ③ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ⑥ Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

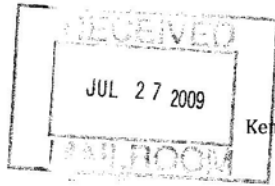
What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

①, ⑤, ② in much greater detail. The "Driftless Bioregion" has no need for "imported power", especially with easily attained 25% conservation efforts. The Kilowatts are destined for the big footprints (carbon) out East.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-273-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.



Mary Lazaretti
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition for the proposed high-voltage transmission lines being routed through Holden Township. After my youngest child moved out a few years ago, my husband and I couldn't wait to leave city life behind and retire to the peaceful and serene countryside of southern Minnesota where he had grown up. After nearly 15 years of searching, we came across the property for sale. We immediately knew that this was the place where we would want to live. The 200+ acres of quiet, pristine woodland combined with the character of the late 19th century farmhouse created the perfect environment to lay down our roots for this new era of our lives, an era that we both envisioned being our happiest. The property has a valley that harbors a stream and a wide variety of wildlife that comforts both of us, particularly in this age of environmental decline. Knowing that we are doing something to help with preservation and to save the world that we leave to our children is very important to us.

When we first moved down to the area, we began our work restoring the 1890's farmhouse, paying meticulous attention to keeping the historic character of the building. The farmhouse is almost complete and we are planning to move into the home later this year. Needless to say when we heard CapX 2020 was planning to run high-voltage transmission lines directly over the top of our home, our hearts and spirits were crushed. The anguish that we feel stems not only from the undoing of the past 2½ years spent restoring the farmhouse, it runs far deeper than that. Moving to the countryside, finding this quiet, unspoiled sanctuary and transforming it into a home has truly been the realization of our lifelong dreams. So to say that the proposed transmission lines undo several years of hard work is a vast understatement. It undoes the fulfillment of years of aspirations. Unfortunately, at our age we don't have another 15 years in us to spend looking for another dream spot and refurbishing it.

When there is already an existing corridor available along Highway 52 for a utility such as this, we cannot understand why CapX2020 has chosen a route that adds nearly 17 miles to the proposed route, encumbers small farms for those farmers already struggling to maintain their way of life, and razes sensitive forest and wetland areas in a part of the state where these natural resources would be best preserved.

Sincerely,
Mary Lazaretti

I-274-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-274-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Multiple horizontal lines provided for handwritten responses to the question above.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: MARK LENWAY

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 23

City: KENYON State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5608

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement *OUR OWN*
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*ONE OF THE CORRIDORES (HOLDEN TOWNSHIP
50th AVE (44755) GOES RIGHT OVER
OUR HOUSE*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? CANNON FALLS & LECRESSENT

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

Project Purpose and Need

Visual / Aesthetic resources

Proximity to residences

Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

Historic and cultural sites

Radio or television interference

Noise

Health and safety

Other: PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Mark Lenway
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern: *STEPHANIE A. STRENGTH*

It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-275-001

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO₂ SO₂ NO_x and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

I-275-002

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-275-003

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.

I-275-004

- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.

I-275-005

- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

I-275-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-275-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-006

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.
- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

I-275-007

Sincerely,
Mark Lenway

I-275-006

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

July 23, 2009

Department of Commerce
Scott Ek
MN Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101- 2198

Att: Cap X 2020 transmission line

Dear Mr. Ek,

I-277-001 | QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020

CAP X 2020 Would carry coal generated electricity, hundreds of miles with a 20% compounded loss to an area that is producing electricity from wind projects and proposing new wind projects to be built.

Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous and solid waste products.

Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy which generates the majority of its electricity from coal (which spews global warming gases into the atmosphere) could easily be a big loser if a strong climate-change bill passes in Washington. A strong climate-change law could dramatically decrease the value of hundreds of millions of dollars of Minnesota Power's and Xcel Energy's investment in coal-burning infrastructure.

Minnesota Power now reports that money invested in wind power produces cheaper electricity than money invested in coal power and money invested in energy-efficient buildings is more than paid for by energy savings.



I-277-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:

I-277-002 Why do we need additional transmission lines?
EXEL'S has had a shrinking demand for electricity from the year 2006
DAIRYLAND POWER'S representative stated "there is already too much electricity being produced by the new wind projects in Southern Minnesota and they need to move it to other locations. We can't use it all."
—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and La Crosse, Wis. **WHY THE NEW LINE?**

I-277-003 **GEOLOGIC IMPACT:** Holden Township —a proposed line route -- is a fragile area with a large underground limestone cavern.
A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling Township and Richland Township Minnesota in 1986. — A witness post sign can be found on 210th Street East, Wheeling Township verifying the study — The study was to determine how big the cavern was, if it contained natural gas, and if the limestone was solid or fractured. The study - project was abandon when the large cavern was found to have large limestone faults. During the governmental study family water wells were destroyed when the limestone faults shifted. Heavy equipment and earth pounding was used during the study. Mineral Rights were purchased from some land owners.

I-277-004 **VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES:** we have a rolling country farming community and the large poles would ruin the view, disrupting and destroying our rural landscape. A swath 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state will remove woodland habitat and farmland from our State's precious natural resources.
I-277-005

I-277-006 **PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES:** No people should have a line build on their homestead, for their health and safety. Electric and Magnetic fields still have unknown effects on all living creatures.

I-277-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-001.

I-277-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-004.

I-277-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

LAND USE AGRICULTURE: I have worked for thirty years to build my farmland. I have installed tile, build terraces, with the goal to stop erosion and run off. Farmland is not a renewable resource we need to protect every field, every acre. Holden township and Goodhue County are both dedicated to keep our family farms and our agricultural base. We do not want the transmission lines, as those proposed by the Cap X 2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.

I-277-007 | those proposed by the Cap X 2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.
I-277-008 | Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area and drive down property values, and cause problems for farmers.

I-277-009 | **WATER RESOURCES:** Most of the family water wells are shallow and will be disturbed with the digging of large holes and limestone fracturing,

I-277-010 | **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: RAPTORES:** Hawks nest in my woods on my farm, in Holden township. They thrill everyone who hears their call or sees them fly. They are majestic and should not be disturbed.

I-277-011 | **TELEVISION INTERFERENCE:** The large poles will interrupt the poor television we now receive Also there will be interference with GPS systems..

I-277-012 | **NOISE:** We enjoy the quite in the country. We can hear the birds, insects, and the trees rustle. We do not want to hear the mum of electricity lines.

PROPOSED WIND PROJECTS: Three companies are proposing wind projects for the Holden, Kenyon and Wheeling Township areas.

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



Norma Monroe
2162 HWY 246 BLVD
Kenyon MN 55946
Phone 507-789-5497

I-277-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-008

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line as well as potential impacts to agricultural and visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil as well as water resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-011

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-277-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-278-002

I have seen statistics proving energy consumption is on a decline so hard to question the need for this proposed line. Why must we have this proposed line running through our area when we receive no direct benefit, not even close. As I understand, it wouldn't be utilized in our state. I dislike the idea of looking out my windows and seeing this scenic landscape marred by tall towers and wires.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Hazel Musgjerd
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 43645 County 14 Blvd
City: Kenyon State: Mn. Zip Code: 55946
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-6300

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*My property lies 1/2 mile north of
projected link. My view as of now is
unobstructed and want to keep it that way.
Good agricultural land will be
taken out of production and it's time we
keep in mind
GOD'S NOT MAKING ANY MORE
LAND*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

*Many of the farms in this area are
owned and operated by descendants of
original homesteaders, proud of their
heritage and do not want conditions to
change. Change is not always good.*

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Neighborhood gathering

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-278-001

Presence of electromagnetic fields
in vicinity of lines

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-278-001

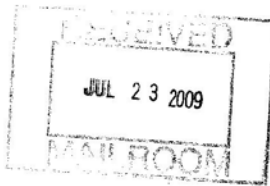
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-278-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Gary Peters
Annette Peters
2779 450th Street
Kenyon, MN 55946



July 3, 2009

RE: CapX 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to you because we are concerned about the proposed CapX 2020 project that may be coming through Minnesota. Our property is in the area for the Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse 345 KV Transmission Project. Our home is located in Section 28 of Holden Township in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Our property is residential and sits on approximately 3.50 acres. We live in a rural agricultural community. Our home is surrounded by farm fields a small woods that is home to deer, wild turkeys and a wide variety of other wildlife.

The various power companies involved in this project have been providing data showing the increased demand for power through 2004 and thus the need for this project. However, the data for the years after 2004 show that there is an actual decrease in usage. Our hope is that all alternatives to this massive project have been studied and fairly evaluated. This project will stretch from the Dakotas through Minnesota and Wisconsin. The transmission lines are said to lose 30% of the power they are carrying. They propose to use coal. We seem to be making strides in conservation and in using renewable resources to produce energy. Is a project of this magnitude really the best solution?

I-279-001 |

As we stated before, ours is an agricultural community and our township and county are dedicated to keeping our family farms and our agricultural base. The acres of land that will be taken for right of ways if this project is approved is astounding. There are also small woods and stands of trees that will suffer if these huge lines are allowed to come through our state. Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area, drive down property values, cause potential health threats, and cause various problems that farms will need to "work around" for years to come. Becoming a corridor for transmission lines (for which we see no direct benefit) is not something we or anyone else I know wants. I was told that height of the poles for these lines will be approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty!

The proposed route though our township appears to be very close to many homes. We know that these power lines can be harmful to both people and

I-279-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

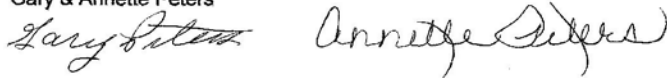
wildlife but still do not know the full effect of long term exposure. We know it interferes with various electrical and GPS systems, etc. We were informed at one meeting we attended that farmers may need to ground their machinery when working around these lines. We also understand that it can interfere with radio and television transmission.

I have read many of the comments submitted by others regarding this project and I have heard many others speak at previous meetings. The reasons for not wanting these lines in our area are the same reasons others do not want them in their areas; including the effect on our property values. We don't want the view from our homes to be massive transmission lines. There is no compensation for those living near the lines and no amount of money would suffice for the loss we would incur in so many ways.

We hope that another solution can be found so none of us will have to have these huge transmission lines near our homes. However, we know that the power companies involved as well state and local governments will prosper from this project and fear that it will be approved. If this project is approved we hope that the least invasive route would be used. We appreciate attempts to stay away from homes when possible, but these lines will still be very close to many homes. Also, is taking this valuable rural land really the best answer? If the project goes forward we feel that the most logical route is not through Holden Township and Highway 56 or Highway 60. The other route goes along Highway 52. Homes in this area would be further from the line. It would also seem to be a shorter and thus less expensive route to use. This route is also more industrial and commercial than the route along Highways 56 and 60.

Sincerely,

Gary & Annette Peters



I-279-002 |

I-279-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

[Lined area for handwritten response]

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DICK REYNOLDS

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 2124 ORCHARD RUN

City: LA CRESCENT State: MN. Zip Code: 55947

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-280-001

TRANSMISSION LINE WOULD DEVALUE
THE PROPERTY VALUE

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

WE DON'T WANT THE LINE
~~PLACED~~ IN THE LACRESCENT AREA

I-280-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? LACRESSENT, MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Yes

I-281-001 Was anyone from this area on Commission?

I-281-002 Why not follow 52-90 from Rochester to La Crosse rather than destroy the beauty of our area?

I-281-003 Why are Eastern States opposed? Can we not generate locally?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: S. Rochl

Representing (Optional): home owner

Mailing Address: 2373 Meadow Lane

City: Winona State: MN Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional): 2-5185

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

I-281-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-281-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-281-004 |
I-281-005 |

Aesthetics Property Value
near 17 + 16 - Valley View
Estate

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-281-006 |

road - Winona will not use
electricity going from Rochester to La Crosse
health concerns for several neighbors
and children

I-281-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-281-005

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-281-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-282-001

Why don't you bury the line?

Why are the engineers against bury line?

Even if it is costly over the time it will be more friendly. The Publics the ones going to live with it not you. We might as well pay for it being buried and out of sight now.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: TIM STRONG

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: N9289 Hwy 53

City: Holmen State: WI Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____ 54636

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-282-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-282-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-282-002

When I want to sell a few lots later on we won't be able to build under power lines right? Just a dead zone strip of hardly any vegetation, forever!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Looking at a line out my front of home instead of trees. And listening to the hum. Its not why I moved and bought property 20 yrs ago other wise I'd stay closer to town + people.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 6-24-09 Centerville, WI.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-282-003

Burying the line to keep it
out of sight

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-282-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-283-001

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 6s521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-283-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

- I-283-002 | My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.
- I-283-003 | The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.
- I-283-004 | Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.
- There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems
- In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?**
- I-283-005 | The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.
- I-283-006 | The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-283-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-283-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-006

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-283-007 | Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

I-283-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

No

I-284-001 Statistics were given, but not really relevant and specific to our area as far as purpose, cost, path, long range effects, farmers losses, need in this area, need in areas all along the line route, other options, smaller less obtrusive energy sources in more distance adjacent places.

It sounded like they had a plan, didn't care who or what it hurt, they were going to do it, & make their profit from it. Statistics can prove anything you want them to, lots of words can be used and not really say anything important.

People, nature, prime farm land, towns, should all be considered not just some company's greed and thoughtless whims.

I-284-002 Routes by existing power lines should be looked into - or some place other than prime farm land & beautiful landscapes - --- if they insist on line Transmissions.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jan Trost

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 3149 Co 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-284-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-284-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I am on a farm in Holden Township - see my address. It is a shame to consider transmission lines going near my family farm and that of my neighbors. It is a waste of natural resources and a penalty imposed on small farms that have a difficult time making a living dealing with the delicate balance of cost of seed, chemicals, fuel, and time; mixed with weather; and the health and production of animals, and market values. To have other obstacles like sick or infertile animals, poisons, contamination, or land taken away is a burden that would end the farm.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-284-003 | I am concerned about my own health and that of my family and grandchildren. There has not been enough research into the long range effects of the magnetic fields and emissions. Destructive effects have been noted on pacemakers, implants and more. Life and health are too precious to put into jeopardy.

I-284-004 | Electrical appliances + TV will experience interference. Emissions will affect the life of machinery and vehicles. (Consider another burden for farmers.)

I-284-005 | The natural beauty and clean environment with trees, waterways, wetland, wetlands, pastures of fields, streams, wildlife, nice natural skylines with beautiful sunrise and sunset scenes are here. Wouldn't it be a shame to destroy this unnecessarily?! - just on some company's greed and thoughtless whim!

I-284-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-284-004

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-284-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Informational Mtg. - Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

If this project goes through with all the expense and damaging effect - how soon would technology find a better way? What a waste!

3149 Co. 30 Blvd.
Kenyon, MN 55946
Tel. 507-789-6826
July 20, 2009

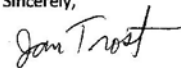
Scott Ek, Dept. of Commerce
MN Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place E., Suite # 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Attention Scott Ek,

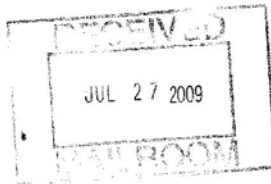
I am writing to you to let you know that I do not want the CapX 2020 transmission lines running across Holden Township in Minnesota.

- I-285-001** | We do not need extra energy here or nearby, there is a decline in energy use in this area including Holden Township due to new technology. We do not need energy carried a long way and losing a large percentage of that just by sending it that distance – that is poor use of energy money. There are new, better and more efficient ways to produce energy (including nuclear) and probably new discoveries in the making. This would be foolish if this is supposed to be a line that travels all the way to the east coast, for so much energy would be lost along the way and so much land and natural resources would be wasted. There could be less obtrusive sources closer to the users with less expensive transport; and I don't want to be part of this frivolous waste when there are other options and answers.
- I-285-002** | It is a shame to even think of having transmission lines here in prime farming land. That is a waste of natural resources and a penalty imposed on small farmers in this area that have a difficult time anyway to make a living in farming. There is a delicate balance with cost of seed, chemicals, fuel, and time; mixed with weather and growing conditions; and the health and production of animals; and market values. To have another obstacle such as land taken away or sick animals or infertile animals, or animals that miscarry or contaminated animals and crops because of transmission leaks is a burden these farmers do not need. It would mean their demise.
- I-285-003** | I am concerned about my own health and that of my family and grandchildren. There has not been enough research into the long range effects of the magnetic fields and emissions. Devastating effects have been noted on pace makers and implants, and more. Life and health are too precious to put into jeopardy.
- I-285-004** | Electrical appliances and TV will experience interference. Emissions will affect the life of machinery and vehicles (and create another burden for farmers).
- There is a natural beauty in this county and it is the envy of other areas and it is a desirable place where many would say they would like to live. There are trees, waterways, vital wetlands, patchwork of cropped fields, streams, wildlife, nice natural skylines with beautiful sunrise and sunset scenes. Wouldn't it be a shame to destroy this unnecessarily!!!! - just on some company's greed and thoughtless whim!
- I-285-005** | If for some reason the lines have to go through, pick an existing corridor like highway 52.

Sincerely,



Jan Trost
A land & animal farmer, nature & health
lover, and common sense citizen



I-285-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-285-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-004

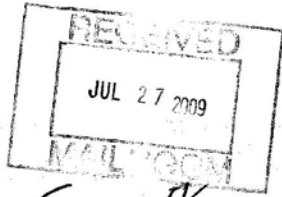
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-285-004.

I-285-006

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment



Mark Lenway
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern: *SCOTT A*
It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-285-009

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO₂ SO₂ NO_x and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

I-285-010

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-285-011

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.

I-285-012

- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.

I-285-013

- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-285-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural and water resources, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, and aesthetics will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-008

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-009

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-285-010

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-014

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

I-285-015

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.

I-285-016

- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

Sincerely,
Mark Lenway

PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO OUR STATE

I-285-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-013

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to recreation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-014

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-015

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process. If an agreement cannot be reached between a utility and the landowner, a utility may pursue a state-governed process called

condemnation, under which a judge and a panel of impartial individuals decide whether the easement is needed and its value. The condemnation process varies from state to state. In general, states establish strict procedures for determining the amount a landowner should be paid by a utility for acquiring a right for construction and maintenance of a transmission line. A government's right to acquire – or authorize the acquisition of private property for public use, with just compensation being given to the owner, is called eminent domain. In some states when a transmission line crosses a rural property, a landowner, under certain conditions, may request that the utility purchase the entire property.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-285-016

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I attended an informational meeting for the certificate of need. I had the impression that the decision was already made, & the meeting was just one more hoop that the power companies had to jump through. We were fed information, how accurate, is any one's guess. When something is strong armed through, statistics can say whatever you want them to.

I-286-001

It was never really said how far this power was intended to be shipped, Minnesota really doesn't need this power, that was glossed over.

I-286-002

My real question, why are we expanding a very antiquated system, when nuclear would be the perfect way to go? Coal is dirty, nuclear is clean, & the plant could be built where power is needed, not hundreds of miles away.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 Co. 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-286-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-286-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

My property is a 160 acre farm, there is nothing special, except it is my home in one of the most beautiful areas in MN.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Hidden Twp is a very picturesque area, rolling hills, savanna prairie, smaller farms, streams. I feel this antiquated system is not only an eye sore, but more importantly, what is the long term health effects of those that live in area, there is also the concern of the effect the EMF has on the animals. We do try to make money on livestock.

I-286-003

I-286-004

I-286-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-286-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 29~~ ^{July 2}, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Informational Mtg - Cannon Falls, MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-286-005

With all the "green", why are we expanding coal?
We work all our lives, take care of our property & the community,
with the intention of selling (maybe), what does that do to
property values?
It's just a bad idea

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-286-005

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts, including potential impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-287-001 *No. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed that the assessment of need didn't include the past 3 years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefiting Minnesotans - it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans need to get the truth and whole story behind these lines.*
- I-287-002
- I-287-003
- I-287-004
- I-287-005

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-287-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-287-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-287-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-005

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-287-006

I-287-007

I-287-008

I-287-009

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting, another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-287-010

I-287-011

I-287-012

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Large areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable everyday. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-287-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-007

Your comment card has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Family member attended Mtg- Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- Visual / Aesthetic resources - Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) - These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors) many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference, and GPS on farm equipment
- Noise
- Health and safety, EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- Other: Property values

I-287-013

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy needs, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution and destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

I-287-014

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I-287-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-013

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-014

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

NO! This Project is really being expedited at a very rapid pace for some unknown reason to the public. Why are we not investigating other methods to produce this

I-288-001 *power, we supposedly need. I know we have experts in the field of producing electricity and know if these transmission lines are the only option we have. Why are we not listening and exploring these other ideas.*

I-288-002 *We seem to get all our information about the need for this project. (From the people who are selling it.) Do you believe they would say we don't need the lines. This is their income & what they sell. Like a Dairy Farmer telling you to drink less milk. We need to listen to other ideas & please tell us how to reach you. Then do what is best!*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Weibel

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 48

City: LACROSSE State: WI Zip Code: 54601

Daytime Phone (Optional): (715) 459-9166

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-288-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-288-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

FARM 272 T2142 T104 R4 Sect 17 LACROSSE TOWN

Our house built in 1994, was built away from existing roadways, power lines & etc. to be isolated on a ridge facing LaCrosse, LaCrosse for the million dollar view. People who choose to build next to roadways w/power lines already there, expect in ~~the~~ this proposed line will cut across the view we built ~~for~~ for. Doesn't make good sense for access & maintenance of these proposed lines. There are existing fields along roadways which would make much more sense to build next to.

I-288-003

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

would still have them on my land, but not right next to me, why ~~et~~ not look at Pfeiffer Valley and get the pipes below the sky line.

The existing proposed path cuts North to South across that ridge which will be highly visible to all the people living in LaCrosse, only to cross the highway & travel back North past the whole town of LaCrosse again, then to head to LaCrosse. Far from a straight path these power lines will go about 2/3 around the town.

I-288-004

wouldn't it make more sense to ~~put~~ ^{not} these lines through a less populated area. Wouldn't some farmer up North with better land have a better location for the lines?

I-288-005

I-288-003

Your comment has been noted. Access and terrain issues will be assessed at a route level and with individual landowners. Alternatives to the project as well as potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-288-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-288-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? All of them

I still never get any mailings - Although I keep signing up.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

Why???

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-289-001

I have not attended any ~~of~~ meetings regarding the proposed power lines, but have become involved with local people in researching this project and the need for it to cut across farmland. I would like to know more as to the reasoning why this route was chosen and not the Hwy 52 corridor. It makes more sense to run it down the corridor versus crossing land and disrupting vegetation, wild life and waterways.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Elise Wroblestad

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4254 450th St.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-289-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-289-002 | Our farm has been in our family for many generations, located amongst a protected waterway, forests and prime farm land. Constructing high energy power lines would significantly mar the landscape and drive down property value of land and residential homes.

Our farm is located in Goodhue County, Holden Township, Southeast Minnesota.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-289-003 | Our farm has been in my family for 5 generations. It was homesteaded in 1855 and has been farmed since that time until my parents moved off of it 14 years ago. At the present time, my family has been living on the farm enjoying the beauty and aesthetics of the surrounding area. The farm is currently owned and operated by my mother and continues to be used for agricultural purposes. The power lines would forge right through prime agricultural land, destroy natural

habitats and be an eyesore for those living in the area.

I-289-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-289-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources, wildlife, and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? N/A

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-289-004 Using agricultural land to place high power lines; particularly in an area that has committed itself to preserving its heritage.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-289-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? July LaCrosse

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-291-001 | The Need is not Adequately Identified.
I-291-002 | The Future ^{Need} is not based on current consumption & Project costs.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DENNIS YEITEV
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 170 Briarwood Ln
City: La Crescent State: MN Zip Code: 55947
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-895-2834

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-291-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-291-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-291-001.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: *Forest Management*

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? July 09 La Crosse

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-291-003

This will significantly affect the wild life and natural beauty of our area -

I searched for 10 years to find our rural home. We have abundant wild life + beauty that I paid dearly for. No Gov Payment can compensate us for that loss. -

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I-291-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-292-001

We do understand the need to meet growing demands for power. We just ask that consider the B46 route vs the B119.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Emil & Mary Zahasky

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4001 19th Ave. N.W.

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55901

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-292-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-292-002

The routing option B119 cuts directly across our family farm that we have owned for 50 years. This will complicate on-going efforts to farm this land. This is prime farm land. The addition of a power line corridor across it will reduce its re-sale value as well. Please don't run this line across our farm. We urge you to consider route B46 instead.

I-292-003

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-292-004

This is prime farm land and a beautiful setting.

I-292-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-292-003

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-292-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? *None. We recently became aware that one of the routes would cut across ~~our~~ farm.*
Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-292-005 | *• Another key issue that should be considered is avoiding running lines across farm land whenever possible.*

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-292-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? FARMINGTON Twp. & Zumbro Twp.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

With the added number of
wind farms and alternate
sources of energy - I do not
believe we need these High
Voltage transmission lines
Crossing over country side
Now or ever.! LSH

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I-293-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-293-001



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: tree farm

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

tree farm

Minnesota

Wabasha County

Zumbro Twp.

T109 R014 S15

Farm # 1298

tract # 690

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-293-002 | This area is very sensitive

I-293-003 | in respect to land use

I-293-004 | wildlife - plant and trees

I-293-004 | as well as erosion of soil

I-293-005 | The installation of this power line

I-293-006 | not only raises havoc with the

I-293-006 | ecological aesthetics of this land

I-293-006 | it is disruptive and destructive

I-293-006 | to the natural beauty of this land.

LSTH

I-293-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

The needs for this project was explained very well. However, what was not explained was the fact that the city of Rochester needs this power source. So why do we have to supply the route - Hwy #52 travels between the twin cities and Rochester why do you think you need to divert the transmission line through our property around Rochester???

I-293-007

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Laverne S. Hofschulte

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 11948 Co Rd 11 NE

City: Elgin State: MN 55932 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-876-2588

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-293-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-294-001

IF energy consumption is decreasing, why is this needed?

I-294-002

IF they need more electricity out East then they should produce it out there rather than running lines across our farmland. Holden township is a strong and proud Ag Community and I would like to see it stay that way for future generations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-294-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-294-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-294-001.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Section 19, Holden Township in Goodhue County

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-294-003

I don't think running power lines down the middle of township sections in agricultural communities is a good idea. Why not run them along Hwy 52 where there is already power lines running.

I think in Holden township we have a good balance of wildlife and agriculture and running power lines through our area I feel would upset this balance.

I-294-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-294-004 | I ~~would~~ would like more information on possible
 - I-294-005 | health hazards, how much will this interfere
 - I-294-006 | w/ electronic devices, will there be more
 - I-294-007 | static electricity and stray voltage issues.
- I also feel the power companies aren't trying to ^{help} get the information in regards to this project out to the general public. we only received one flyer in regards to this and it didn't have a lot of information in it. Only recently did we become aware of the fact it could be going through the section we live in.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Lisa Karl

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 238 430th St

City: Norsbrand State: MN Zip Code: 55053

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-294-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-294-005

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-294-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-294-007

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-295-001 | *if energy consumption is decreasing*
why is this needed?

I-295-002 | *I think if they need more electricity out*
East they should produce it their
rather than lines running across our
farm land.
Holden township is a strong and proud
agriculture community and I would like
to see it stay that way for future generations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-295-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-295-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-295-001.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Section 19 Holden Township

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I think in Holden township we have a good balance of wildlife and agriculture and I feel this would upset this balance

I don't think running power lines down the middle of the sections is a good idea. there are already power lines running down Hwy 52 I think that's where they should be run. if there is a need for the power lines. - although I feel this is not needed.

I-295-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-295-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-295-004

I feel the power companies are trying to slip these lines in without letting the general public know about it.

I-295-006

I-295-005

are there any health hazards?
are we going to have stray voltage problems?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Tim Karl
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 238 430th St.
City: Alexstrand State: MN Zip Code: 55053
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-295-004

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-295-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-295-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? UNABLE TO ATTEND - DISABLED

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Impact to Raising Crops

BURDEN TO AGRICULTURAL USES
EVEN THOUGH A.G. DIDN'T CREATE NEED
FOR THIS LINE!

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-296-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

I-296-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-296-001

I-296-002

I-296-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

NORTH OF MENYON, MN ON STATE HWY 56
AT COUNTY ROAD 30 INTERSECTION. -
DIFFICULTY IT WOULD CREATE FOR
FARMING OPERATION.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Agriculture - this is only use my
PROPERTY HAS AND POWER LINE WOULD
BE A HINDERANCE

I-296-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Lined area for handwritten response to the question above.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: LARRY ROTHER

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 3305 - 200TH ST. WEST

City: FARMINGTON State: MN. 55024 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 651-460-6500

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I am very much in favor of using the I-90 corridor for this transmission line. The route going just south of Mazeppa crosses many wild life sanctuaries where I have personally spent much time watching eagles & hawks soar, foxes play, badgers attack, and deer browse. It has been a sanctuary for me as well as the animals.

I-297-001

I-297-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Series of horizontal lines for handwritten response.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Colleen Stacey

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 39986 590th Street

City: Zumbro Falls State: MN, 55991 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 284-8819

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:38 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

FYI

From: wlystrom@ups.com [mailto:wlystrom@ups.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 4:24 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Stephanie,
Thanks,
Wayne

Wayne Lystrom
UPS - IE
Lakes Package Planner
Mpls 612-617-2807

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 1:03 PM
To: Lystrom Wayne (APP1WLL)
Subject: RE: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Wayne,
Thank you for contacting me with your questions. The comment period is closed, however we are still preparing the Scoping Report and comments received in the next couple of weeks will still be considered.

Once your comments have been processed, you will receive confirmation and see the summary of your comments to ensure it is correct.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

From: wlystrom@ups.com [mailto:wlystrom@ups.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 9:50 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Stephanie,
We meet in Wanamingo, MN at the community building. My wife and I had the property at 46728 135th Ave. One of the two proposed line were running along our back property line. My wife wrote on the maps but I didn't I was concerned who would see it. I asked for a large map be sent to me and THANKS you for that. I received that and wanted to document two additional things why I think the proposed line should go straight east until it meets up with the other proposed line and then continue south. We have Bees on the back side of our property and a small hay shed on the back of our property.

I-298-001

If I didn't explain my requested change well enough please call me at 952-994-2466.

Thanks
Wayne Lystrom
Cell 952-994-2466
Home 952-431-9913

I-298-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:35 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 routes

FYI

From: Suther, Thomas W. (Tom) [mailto:Suther.Thomas@mayo.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 4:41 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 routes

Ms Strength,

I-299-001 | I just found out that during the public reviews the CAPx folks changed the route of the power line and put it on my land. The public comment time has been closed and they did not bother to contact me for comment.

This action is not really good business or fair.

I-299-002 | I propose that these folks use the existing corridors where land has already been taken from people and then you do not have to ruin what others have built and worked on for years.

I-299-003 | I am very concerned that these folks have done it this way to eliminate any comment. I ask that you stop this and require the current corridors to be used.

Tom Suther

Opinions are my own.

Tom Suther | Department of Information technology | Planning and Technology Services Division | Phone: 507-266-7865 | Admin Asst: phone 284-1422 | Suther.Thomas@mayo.edu

Mayo Clinic | 200 First Street S.W. | Rochester, MN 55905 | www.mayoclinic.org

I-299-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-299-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-299-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the

RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Legalelectric, Inc.

Carol Overland Attorney at Law, MN #254617
Energy Consultant—Transmission, Power Plants, Nuclear Waste
overland@legalelectric.org

P. O. Box 176
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
612.227.8638

P.O. Box 69
Port Penn, Delaware 19731
302.834.3466



June 16, 2009

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571,
Washington, DC 20250-1571

also via email: stephanie.strength@usda.gov

RE: RUS EIS Scoping – CapX 2020 – Phase I

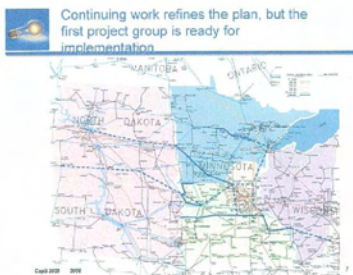
Dear Ms. Strength:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIS for CapX 2020.

The RUS EIS must address impacts of entire CapX 2020 Phase I -- It's all connected

CapX 2020 Phase I is the largest transmission project in the history of the State of Minnesota, over 600 miles long and a cost approaching \$2 billion. It is false compartmentalization to claim that only the Hampton-LaCrosse portion of the Capx 2020 Phase I proposal is at issue for the RUS environmental review – the entire project as proposed is subject to review as a phased and connected action, a part of a whole.

CapX 2020 was developed as a whole
CapX 2020 was studied and developed as a whole¹. This map, Attachment A, is from a CapX 2020 power point presentation to MAPP NM-SPG planning group on June 14, 2006. The blue solid lines are "Phase I," applied for in the Certificate of Need proceeding before the MN PUC, order granting Certificate of Need May 22, 2009. The blue dotted lines are future lines, some of which were announced April 3, 2009. Attachment B is the April 3, 2009, press release regarding those lines.



¹ See CapX 2020 Certificate of Need Application, Appendix A-1, available online at: [CapX2020 Technical Update: Identifying Minnesota's Electric Transmission Infrastructure Needs \(October 2005\)](#)

B-001-001

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

B-001-001

CapX 2020 was presented as a whole

The CapX 2020 Vision Plan was repeatedly presented by the applicants as a large interconnected web of transmission, not just the Hampton to LaCrosse piece (Hampton, however was not the substation location addressed, it was Prairie Island, until this was changed slightly before the project was applied for in the summer of 2007).

Table 4. Summary of Vision Plan

Facility Name				
From	To	Volt (kV)	Miles	Cost (\$M)
Alexandria, MN	Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	345	80	60
Alexandria, MN	Maple River (Fargo, ND)	345	126	94.5
Antelope Valley (Bemidji, ND)	Jamestown, ND	345	185	138.75
Arrowhead (Duluth, MN)	Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	345	120	90
Arrowhead (Duluth, MN)	Forbes (Northwest Duluth, MN)	345	60	45
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	345	59	44.25
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	Granite Falls, MN	345	110	82.5
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	St. Bonifacius, MN	345	62	45.5
Blue Lake (Southwest Twin Cities, MN)	Ellendale, ND	345	200	150
Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	Prairie Island (Red Wing, MN)	345	82	61.5
Columbia, WI	North LaCrosse, WI	345	80	60
Ellendale, ND	Hettinger, ND	345	231	173.25
Rochester, MN	North LaCrosse, WI	345	60	45
Jamestown, ND	Maple River (Fargo, ND)	345	107	80.25
Prairie Island (Red Wing, MN)	Rochester, MN	345	58	43.5
TOTAL			1620	\$1,215 (\$M)

Exhibit 17, Portion of the 2005 Biennial Report Filed by Transmission Utilities, p. 36; Ex. 1, Application, App. A-1, Technical Update October 2005; see also Exhibit 12, CapX 2020 Update, June 14, 2006; Rogelstad, Vol. 2A, p. 69-74; Rogelstad, Direct Testimony p. 17; Rogelstad, Tr. Vol 2A, p. 39 et seq.

Attachment C is a copy of this chart, an integral part of the record in the CapX 2020 Certificate of Need proceeding before the PUC. The Hampton to LaCrosse line is listed in the CapX 2020 Vision Plan repeatedly as the Prairie Island to Rochester to NorthLaCrosse line above, listed in the 2005 Biennial Report filed by Transmission Utilities (p. 36); the CapX 2020 Certificate of Need Application, App. A-1, Technical Update October 2005, and the CapX powerpoint update, June 14, 2006. Over and over and over, the Hampton-LaCrosse line is presented as just one part of an inextricably linked inseparable network of transmission lines.

CapX 2020 Phase I was applied for as a whole

The Certificate of Need application was for the Phase I pieces from Fargo to Benton County, from Brookings to Hampton, and Hampton to LaCrosse. Phase I of CapX 2020 from the CapX 2020 website:

1. Can you tell me more about CapX2020?

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. Planning studies show that customer demand for electricity will increase 4,000 to 6,000 megawatts (MW) by 2020. The new transmission lines will be built in phases designed to meet this increasing demand as well as to support renewable energy expansion.

- *Bemidji-Grand Rapids, 68 miles, 230-kV*
- *Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello, 250 miles, 345-kV*
- *Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse, 150 miles, 345-kV*
- *Brookings County-Hampton, 200 miles, 345-kV*

The CapX2020 utilities - investor-owned, electric cooperatives and municipals - include those that serve the majority of customers in Minnesota and the surrounding region.

CapX 2020 website.

B-001-002

The RUS EIS must address impacts for the full CapX 2020 project, including all the lines proposed in Phase I:

- *Bemidji-Grand Rapids, 68 miles, 230-kV*
- *Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello, 250 miles, 345-kV*
- *Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse, 150 miles, 345-kV*
- *Brookings County-Hampton, 200 miles, 345-kV*

Background

First, in considering the scope of the RUS EIS, what SHOULD and MUST be included, I offer as background the Minnesota Department of Commerce Scope for their "Environmental Report," to show both the limited review and highlight what was expressly excluded from consideration of the state's review of CapX 2020. Attachment D, Scope of ER – Minnesota Department of Commerce². I ask that Attachment D be incorporated by reference into the RUS EIS. 40 CFR 1502.21.

The most important omission by the state was its refusal to acknowledge the anticipated RUS environmental review, stating in the scope:

² MN Dept. of Commerce ER Scoping Document, available online: <http://nocapx2020.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/environmentalreport-scope.pdf>

B-001-002

Your comment has been noted.

While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need and is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

It is not possible to associate this environmental review with any federal review at this time. Minnesota Rule 4410.3900 anticipates coordinating state and federal review where possible. However, the association is not possible in this case due to timing and relevance. First, completion of this ER is required for the contested case hearing prior to when any application initiating potential federal review would be filed.

B-001-008

We all know very well that the RUS EIS was pending. It is the duty of applicants to work with RES in anticipation of environmental review and to apply NEPA early in the process. 7 CFR 1794.11. The applicant instead did its best to distance the Certificate of Need environmental review from federal review. The state bought into this framing, and specifically disavowed any knowledge of necessary RUS environmental review despite numerous comments regarding RUS review in the scoping process:

Additionally, no application for a permit or funds from the Rural Utility Service is anticipated by any of the applicants. No action requiring a federal EIS is anticipated. If that situation were to change when any route applications are filed, the Department would pursue all opportunities to coordinate the EIS reviews in those proceedings with any relevant federal agency reviews.

Attachment D.

This statement by Commerce in the state scope is contrary to facts known at the time. Many comments were made in the scoping meetings regarding the necessity of federal review of this project, but they were unreasonably dismissed. By refusing to acknowledge the expected RUS environmental review and to cooperate in federal environmental review, the state circumvented thorough environmental review encompassing all issues as required under federal rules.

B-001-003

The scope of state review was also deficient in that it specifically excluded consideration of the impacts of the likelihood that CapX 2020 would facilitate coal generation and emissions:

The ER will not review impacts of specific energy sources in addressing the project, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities or environmental impacts from a wind generation installation. The proposal is a set of transmission lines designed, as stated, to serve local needs and to improve the access of Minnesota renewable energy sources unto the grid. Transmission operates irrespective of the source of energy and is managed on the grid by the Midwest Independent System Operators independent of generation type. Therefore, these transmission lines are not directly associated with any particular source. This project differs from others designed to accommodate or compensate for the connection of a proposed generating facility onto the grid.

This exclusion of impacts by claiming the lines are not associated with any specific generation is not consistent with the record which clearly states that while the transmission owners cannot discriminate in provision of transmission services, a large portion of the capacity may well be coal. The scope of the RUS EIS must include impact of this line if it is used for various capacity ranges of coal.

The RUS EIS must address various scenarios of enabling coal generation

The capacity of each of the lines is 4,100 per testimony in the Certificate of Need case, and the wind lobby talks of getting 700MW of wind, meaning that capacity attributable PERHAPS to

B-001-003

Your comment has been noted. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

wind is about 1/6 of capacity and the rest would likely be coal. The RUS EIS should address impacts assuming various percentages of coal:

- o 10% - 410 MW
- o 30% - 1,230 MW
- o 50% - 2,050 MW
- o 75% - 3,033 MW
- o 85% - 3,485 MW

For the megawatt ranges, it is rather simple to calculate coal emissions for old pulverized coal units, supercritical coal units, and IGCC (without capture as carbon capture is not expected anytime soon) and address emissions at the various percentage levels of each.

B-001-004 | **The RUS EIS must independently verify need claim**

In the state's Environmental Report, the applicant's need claims were accepted and presumed without independent verification. In today's reality of significantly decreased demand, and governmentally mandated and consumer driven conservation efforts, need claims must be substantiated

B-001-005 | **The RUS EIS must address reasonable system alternatives**

I also draw to your attention to specific parts of the state "Environmental Report," which demonstrates failure to adequately examine system alternatives, and unreasonable limitation of alternatives. Attachment E, F, Minnesota Department of Commerce Environmental Report³ and maps. Passing off this "Environmental Report" as environmental review is contrary to the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. I ask that Attachment E and F be incorporated by reference into the RUS EIS. 40 CFR 1502.21.

The RUS EIS must address system alternatives, independently and combined

The RUS EIS must address system alternatives were rejected if they could not, alone, address the presumed need. System alternatives include conservation, efficiency, SmartGrid distribution to level out load peaks, generalized load shifting, local generation (i.e., the planned Rochester West End gas plant, SE Minnesota wind generation), and siting of generation without new transmission, i.e., Minnesota's Distributed Renewable Generation Study.

B-001-006 | **The RUS EIS must address impacts on river crossings of Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers and National and Minnesota Scenic Byways**

The planned and alternative routes for CapX 2020 would cross the Minnesota River and the Minnesota River Scenic Byway twice, and would cross the Mississippi River and the Mississippi

³ MN Dept. of Commerce Environmental Report, available online in two parts:
Attachment E - Environmental Report <http://nocapx2020.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/environmental-report2.pdf>
Attachment F - Environmental Report. Maps: <http://nocapx2020.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/environmental-report-maps.pdf>

B-001-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

B-001-005

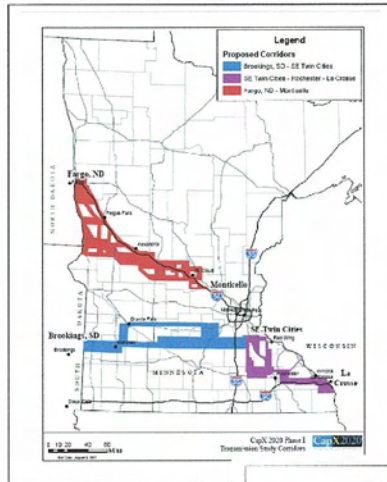
Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-001-006

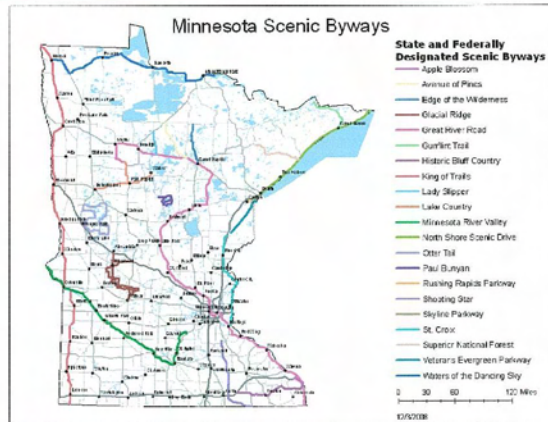
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-001-006

River Scenic Byway. Both river valleys contain protected wildlife areas that would be affected by the crossings and the impacts must be analyzed.



The corridors for CapX 2020 cover much of the state, crossing or paralleling the Mississippi River and the Minnesota River. The State of Minnesota has designated twenty-two (22) select roadways as scenic byways, encompassing more than 2,800 miles of statewide scenic routes ranging in length from a short 9-mile scenic byway to the Great River Road covering 575 miles. Six Minnesota byways are also federally designated as National Scenic Byways, but all 22 byways fall under the National Scenic Byways Program, which is part of the U.S. DOT, Federal Highway Administration. A comparison of CapX maps with the Minnesota Scenic Byways map⁴, as above, demonstrates that multiple scenic byways will be impacted by the project. See CapX 2020 Public Hearing Transcript, Tab 19, Rochester, 7:00 p.m. July 2, 2008.



⁴ National Scenic Byways Program <http://www.byways.org/>
Explore Minnesota Tourism Scenic Byways Page One
<http://exploreminnesota.com/experiences/byways/index.aspx?gclid=CKfD9ZPaqZcCFO8QagodLlnKjw>
Explore Minnesota Tourism Scenic Byways Page Two
<http://exploreminnesota.com/experiences/byways/drives.aspx>

The RUS EIS must address the many acres of wetlands in the footprint of CapX 2020

B-001-007 | How many acres of wetlands will be affected by the CapX 2020 project? How would impacts on that many acres be mitigated?

I'll be forwarding more comprehensive Comments throughout the next two weeks. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Comment.

Very truly yours,



Carol A. Overland
Legalelectric
P.O. Box 176
Red Wing, MN 55066
(612) 227-8638 and (302) 834-3466
overland@legalelectric.org

Enclosures:

Attachment A – Slide 7, CapX 2020 power point presentation to MAPP NM-SPG planning group on June 14, 2006

Attachment B – April 3, 2009, press release, showing extensions from ND and to WI

Attachment C – Vision Plan Cart, found in 2005 Biennial Report filed by Transmission Utilities (p. 36); the CapX 2020 Certificate of Need Application, App. A-1, Technical Update October 2005, and the CapX powerpoint update, June 14, 2006.

Attachment D – Scope of ER – Minnesota Department of Commerce

Attachment E – Environmental Report NOT ATTACHED — available online at

<http://nocapx2020.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/environmental-report2.pdf>

Attachment F - Environmental Report, Maps NOT ATTACHED — available online at:

<http://nocapx2020.info/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/environmental-report-maps.pdf>

B-001-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-001-008

Your comment has been noted. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings.

From: Sandok, Mary R [<mailto:Mary.R.Sandok@xcelenergy.com>]

Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 9:50 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: News Release: Upper Midwest Utilities Identify Electric Transmission Upgrades To Meet Renewable Energy Standard Milestones

Contact Information

Randy Fordice, Great River Energy

(o) 763-445-5713

(c) 612-865-1366

Mary Sandok, Xcel Energy

(o) 612-215-5329

(media line) 612-215-5300

News Release

April 3, 2009

Upper Midwest Utilities Identify Electric Transmission Upgrades

To Meet Renewable Energy Standard Milestones

Improvements Necessary in Wisconsin to Maintain System Stability

MINNEAPOLIS — Upper Midwest utilities have identified improvements needed in the region's high-voltage electricity transmission system to ensure they can deliver the renewable energy necessary to meet Minnesota's renewable energy milestones beginning in 2016.

Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Energy Act requires that utilities increase renewables on their systems in increments and by 2025 deliver 25 percent of their energy from renewable sources (Xcel Energy is required to deliver 30 percent by 2020). It's estimated that 4,000 to 6,000 megawatts of renewable energy will be needed to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard. North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin have 10 percent by 2015 renewable energy targets.

The utilities identified transmission needs in studies published this week. The studies can be downloaded at www.minnelectrans.com.

The studies confirmed that replacing a 60-year-old 230-kilovolt line that runs between Granite Falls and Shakopee with a double-circuit 345-kilovolt line would unlock up to 2,000 megawatts of transmission capacity from wind-rich areas in southern and western Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"Upgrading the 230-kilovolt line is the most cost-effective way to meet the 2016 renewable energy standard milestone," said Kent Larson, transmission vice president at Xcel Energy. "The upgrade will optimize capacity from the CapX2020 Group 1 lines, which are moving through the permitting processes, and serve as the next phase of our regional transmission build out to efficiently deliver wind power to our customers."

The 125-mile line would cost an estimated \$350 million, with an additional \$110 million for underlying system improvements.

The studies also found that further upgrades in Minnesota and the Dakotas (beyond the 230-kilovolt line upgrade) will not provide significant benefit prior to installation of a high-voltage transmission line between the La Crosse, Wis., area and the Madison, Wis., area. Without a line to the east of Minnesota, the transmission system will reach a "tipping point" where reliability is compromised, according to the studies. The studies found that the combination of the new 345-kilovolt double circuit line between Granite Falls and Shakopee and a new Wisconsin line would increase the transmission system transfer capability by 1,600 megawatts for a total increase — with the 2,000 megawatts from the new 345-kilovolt line in Minnesota — of approximately 3,600 megawatts.

A joint transmission planning study now under way by several utilities aims to determine the need for a new transmission line between La Crosse and Madison. The study is expected to be completed by 2010.

"The renewable energy requirements of states in the Upper Midwest will be efficiently met with further 345-kilovolt transmission line expansion," said Will Kaul, transmission vice president at Great River Energy. "Policy changes, such as the passage of a national renewable energy standard, may lead to the consideration of a 765-kilovolt overlay. However, the 345-kilovolt projects identified in the studies conducted by the Upper Midwest transmission-owning utilities are still required as a foundational component of a 765-kilovolt overlay."

Exhibit A: Sandok Press Release, April 3, 2009

Study Details

- The studies were sponsored by Minnesota load-serving utilities, including: Basin Electric Cooperative (also representing East River Electric Power Cooperative and L&O Power Cooperative), Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Great River Energy, Heartland Consumers Power District, Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Missouri River Energy Services (also representing Hutchinson Utilities Commission and Marshall Municipal Utilities), Northern States Power Co.-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company, Otter Tail Power Company, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and Willmar Municipal Utilities.
- The study teams conferred with the state Office of Energy Security's technical review committee, which includes representatives from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security staff, wind advocacy organizations, the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator and other regional transmission planners.
- Utility transmission planning engineers – representing transmission owners in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Manitoba – were consulted to gather information on new generation data and the accuracy of transmission modeling through 2016.
- For the purposes of Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard compliance, the study teams assumed that wind-energy generation would be the primary source of generation developed.

Also found on Xcel Energy's website:

<http://www.xcelenergy.com/Company/Newsroom/Pages/NewsRelease2009-04-03UpperMidwestUtilitiesIdentifyElectricTransmissionUpgrades.aspx>

Exhibit A: Sandok Press Release, April 3, 2009



Continuing work refines the plan, but the first project group is ready for implementation

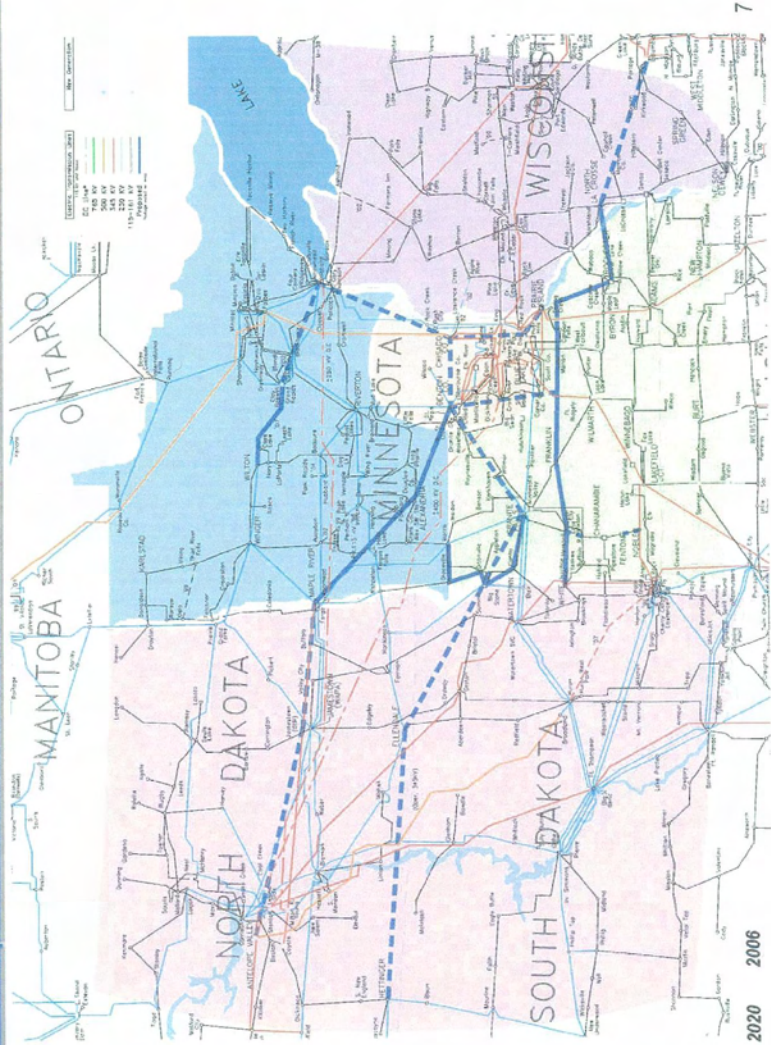


Table 4. Summary of Vision Plan

Facility Name				
From	To	V olt (kV)	Miles	Cost (\$M)
Alexandria, MN	Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	345	80	60
Alexandria, MN	Maple River (Fargo, ND)	345	126	94.5
Antelope Valley (Baulah, ND)	Jamestown, ND	345	185	138.75
Arrowhead (Duluth, MN)	Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	345	120	90
Arrowhead (Duluth, MN)	Forbes (Northwest Duluth, MN)	345	60	45
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	345	59	44.25
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	Granite Falls, MN	345	110	82.5
Benton County (St. Cloud, MN)	St. Bonifacius, MN	345	62	45.5
Blue Lake (Southwest Twin Cities, MN)	Ellendale, ND	345	200	150
Chisago County (Chisago City, MN)	Prairie Island (Red Wing, MN)	345	82	61.5
Columbia, WI	North LaCrosse, WI	345	80	60
Ellendale, ND	Hettinger, ND	345	231	173.25
Rochester, MN	North LaCrosse, WI	345	60	45
Jamestown, ND	Maple River (Fargo, ND)	345	107	80.25
Prairie Island (Red Wing, MN)	Rochester, MN	345	58	43.5
TOTAL			1620	\$1,215 (\$M)

Exhibit 17, Portion of the 2005 Biennial Report Filed by Transmission Utilities, p. 36; Ex. 1, Application, App. A-1, Technical Update October 2005; see also Exhibit 12, CapX 2020 Update, June 14, 2006; Rogelstad, Vol. 2A, p. 69-74; Rogelstad, Direct Testimony p. 17; Rogelstad, Tr. Vol 2A, p. 39 et seq.



**In the Matter of the Application of Great
River Energy, Xcel Energy and Others for
a Certificate of Need for the CapX 2020
345-kV Transmission Projects**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION
PUC Docket No. ET02, E002/CN-06-1115**

The above matter has come before the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce (the Department) for a decision on the content of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared in consideration of the Xcel Energy, et al., Application for a Certificate of Need for three, 345 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission lines (HVTL) in Minnesota. According to Minnesota Rule 7849.7030:

The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce shall prepare an environmental report on a proposed high voltage transmission line or a proposed large electric power generating plant at the need stage. The environmental report must contain information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project associated with the size, type, and timing of the project, system configurations, and voltage. The environmental report must also contain information on alternatives to the proposed project and shall address mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts. The commissioner shall be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of all information in the environmental report.

An ER provides a high level environmental analysis of the proposal and system alternatives, and reviews environmental impacts associated with named and alternative project corridors. The ER does not take the place of an EIS that would evaluate route alternatives, nor is it comparable in scope. It is only one part of a larger Department investigation of the Certificate of Need Application. The Department in its overall review will address in detail all the issues and alternatives required by rule.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) Unit held public information meetings on December 10, 11, 13, 17 and 18 in Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Alexandria, Clearwater, Winona, Rochester, Marshall, Olivia, Arlington, and Cannon Falls to inform the public about the project and the regulatory proceedings; discuss environmental, social and economic issues of importance in the area potentially affected; and to gather public input into the scope of the Environmental Report to be prepared for the project. The meetings provided the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and specific impacts to address in the ER. The public was given until January 14, 2008, to submit written comments. Fifty-four written comments were received.

Having reviewed the matter, and having consulted with staff, I hereby make the following Order on the content of the ER:

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The ER will address the following subjects/matters for the proposed project:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The ER will describe the proposed project, right-of-way requirements, location, purpose, and proposed design.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The ER will describe the regulations and regulatory processes which the project is being reviewed under, including the Certificate of Need, environmental review, and the public participation process.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROJECT

The ER will describe and analyze the feasibility of the following alternatives:

- No-build alternative,
- Conservation alternative,
- Existing line or system improvements,
- Generation alternative, and
- Use of alternative corridors.

ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

The ER will describe the environmental setting within the project area and analyze the avoidable and unavoidable impacts of and mitigation measures for the proposed project corridors, including data specific to each of the Fargo, LaCrosse and Brookings projects respectively. As appropriate, data may include:

- Impacts on human settlement: socioeconomic, displacement, noise, aesthetics, radio and television interference, archeological and historic resources, human health and safety (including electric and magnetic fields, and safety codes).
- Impacts on land-based economics: recreation, prime farmland, transportation, mining and forestry, and economic development.
- Impacts on natural environment: air quality, water quality (including surface water, groundwater and wetlands), soils and geology, flora and fauna, rare and unique natural resources

PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

The ER will describe the federal, state and local permits anticipated to build the project.

ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The ER will not consider the impacts or mitigative measures associated with specific routes within the proposed corridors. Site specific concerns (i.e., along specific routes) will be addressed in separate PUC permitting proceedings for each of the three line proposals expected to be filed sometime in late 2008. The ER will only identify the general potential impacts from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed HVTLs along the broad geographic areas proposed, and the measures generally available to mitigate these potential impacts.

The ER will not review impacts of specific energy sources in addressing the project, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities or environmental impacts from a wind generation installation. The proposal is a set of transmission lines designed, as stated, to serve local needs and to improve the access of Minnesota renewable energy sources unto the grid. Transmission operates irrespective of the source of energy and is managed on the grid by the Midwest Independent System Operators independent of generation type. Therefore, these transmission lines are not directly associated with any particular source. This project differs from others designed to accommodate or compensate for the connection of a proposed generating facility onto the grid.

It is not possible to associate this environmental review with any federal review at this time. Minnesota Rule 4410.3900 anticipates coordinating state and federal review where possible. However, the association is not possible in this case due to timing and relevance. First, completion of this ER is required for the contested case hearing prior to when any application initiating potential federal review would be filed.

Additionally, no application for a permit or funds from the Rural Utility Service is anticipated by any of the applicants. No action requiring a federal EIS is anticipated. If that situation were to change when any route applications are filed, the Department would pursue all opportunities to coordinate the EIS reviews in those proceedings with any relevant federal agency reviews.

SCHEDULE

The ER shall be completed by March 31, 2008, except for those portions which are dependent upon other direct testimony of the Department of Commerce due April 30, 2008.

Signed this 18 day of February, 2008

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE


Glenn Wilson, Commissioner

June 16, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808

Dear Ms. Strength,

Thank you for coming to Plainview, MN for the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting.

We own and operate a tree farm in Minnesota, Wabasha County, Zumbro Township: T.109N.-R.14W. The northern most route proposal touches our property.

B-002-001

This route disregards Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, of the route permit criteria, by fragmenting property and natural/critical habitat. It transects a state designated canoe route, another tree farm, and is the closest to a registered bald eagle nest of all the northern routes crossing the Zumbro River.

This route would devastate the aesthetics, and alter the river bottoms and the riparian ecosystem of this region within the Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

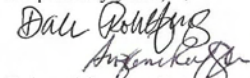
B-002-002

We ask that you please reinforce the use of existing corridors, road, rail and energy lines, when choosing the final route, pursuant to the above mentioned MN Statute.

Enclosed is a letter sent to Tom Hillstrom of Xcel Energy in April of 2009 with specific impacts of the route, area map, and photos.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,



Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Droh124057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

B-002-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

B-002-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

April 2, 2009

Mr. Thomas Hillstrom
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting
Mr. Grant Stevenson
Senior Project Manager
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall (MP 8A)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mazepa/Zumbro-Hyde
Citizens/Landowners
c/o Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dear Mr. Hillstrom and Mr. Stevenson,

We are citizens and land owners of Mazepa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, Wabasha County. We are responding to the most recent route change proposals for the CAPX2020 transmission line. These routes were displayed at the community meeting in Zumbro Falls at the Zumbro Community Church on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Mr. Grant Stevenson attended and spoke to the group at that meeting.

We would like to express our concerns and address them for you with respect to the **Public Utilities Commission Minnesota Administrative Rules, 7849.5910 "Factors Considered"**.

B-002-003

Factor A. "effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services" The new proposals appear to have no less effect on settlement. There would be, however, increased effects on recreation for the following reasons: 1- this stretch of the Zumbro River is a designated Minnesota state canoe route, with one of the two most popular routes being from the Zumbro dam to Zumbro Falls, according to the DNR. 2-this stretch of the Zumbro River is used for other water recreation, camping, fishing, sport and hunting by individuals and patrons of local camps/businesses. Aesthetics will clearly be impacted by the 150-foot transmission towers, the transmission lines, and the 150-foot clear cut needed for their maintenance. Many of the area's recreational activities will be adversely affected.

B-002-004

B-002-005

Factor C. "effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining" Major economic impacts include the following: 1- Steeplechase Ski Area. This four-season resort relies heavily on the present landscape and aesthetics for visitor use of the ski hills themselves and the 5-mile trail network used for hiking, biking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. Of special consideration are the specifics of downhill ski terrain specifications, leaving only the north half of the property for expansion potential. This business contributes to the local economy through employment, operating expenditures, and contribution to the activity of other local businesses. 2- Two working Tree Farms, sections 15 and 16. The white pine, red pine,

B-002-003

Your comment has been noted. While RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or those proceedings, however, potential impacts to human settlement and recreation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-002-004

Your comment has been noted. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the area surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-002-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

and black walnut planted on these two properties represent years of invested labor and expense that cannot be compensated. The actual monetary value of these cannot be realized until tree maturity and harvest. The clear cut for the transmission lines and the required maintenance would also prevent further plantings and potential return on the farms. These farms also utilize local businesses for tree and equipment maintenance. 3- The value of any property within sight of the transmission lines will be significantly reduced, as much of the value of rural property in the area derives from the remote setting.

B-002-006

Factor D. "effects on archaeological and historic resources" Between Wabasha County 70 and south to South Troy, there are historical points of interest. 1- The historic wagon trail north of County 7 and west of Hwy 63. 2-Troy/ South Troy. This includes the old Dale cemetery, the old South Troy town site near the existing cemetery and schoolhouse, the South Troy Church, and the grave of Frederick Ingalls, the infant son of Caroline and Charles Ingalls and brother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Historical Society has agreed to enter this site onto their Historical Society List. There is consideration for a historical marker, according to Mr. Allen Whipple, local historian.

B-002-007

Factor E. "effects on natural environment, including effects on air and water quality, resources and flora and fauna" Environmental effects and conservation concerns of the transmission line and its 150-foot clear cut are numerous. Following are a few examples: 1- This land is part of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. Only a small portion is state owned. It was intended to help preserve the river and the land around it. 2- The recently proposed routes would eradicate a significant acreage of forest land, which is also extremely susceptible to erosion. This has multiple implications: a- decreased natural habitat for native wildlife species which impacts food sources, nesting and protective options which then results in reproductive compromise and increase predation susceptibility. b- Increased erosion which contributes to alteration of native flora allowing invasive species, ic. buckthorn, and potential for alteration of shading and temperature fluctuations in the river. c- decreased sources of CO2 absorption and potential sources of carbon credits 3- This part of the Zumbro River has a designated "catch and release" regulation for smallmouth bass. This fishery depends on high water quality, which will be damaged by disturbing the surrounding forests. 4- The river crossing on the most northern route proposal is in close proximity to a registered eagles nest. There is dense eagle activity north of Wabasha County 7 and the green bridge.

B-002-008

Factors H. "use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines and agricultural field boundaries" **& J.** " use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-ways" Parts of the most recent route have transected property and do not appear to incorporate the need to parallel or utilize existing rights-of-way, survey lines, and existing transportation and transmissions lines. The primary beneficiaries of the transmission lines are the cities of Rochester and LaCrosse, both of which are serviced by existing transportation rights-of-way, ie: US Highway 52 and Interstate 90. These corridors are the logical routes for the transmission lines.

B-002-006

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-002-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife, vegetation, water and air quality will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-002-008

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

B-002-009

Factor L. “costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route” Several of the proposed routes have many corners and angles that add to the cost of construction, and these same routes require significant timber removal expenses. Routes following highways will have fewer corners and timbered areas. Utilizing the angle of US Highway 52 to Oronoco and Interstate 90, rather than using the northern routes, will reduce the length of the lines. These routes will also be constructed primarily on farmland, which does not need to be cleared initially or in the future. The timbered areas on the northern routes would need regular clearing or spraying, both of which carry monetary and ecological costs.

We sincerely hope you consider the above mentioned factors, and choose alternately a more appropriate route which has less impact on an area that has minimal existing damage. We also suggest that you consider route proposals closer to Route 52 and Interstate 90, and the cities that this project will benefit: Rochester and LaCrosse.

B-002-010

We thank you for these considerations, and look forward to future contact.

Respectfully submitted,

The Citizens of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, and other interested parties.

Enclosures

Cc:

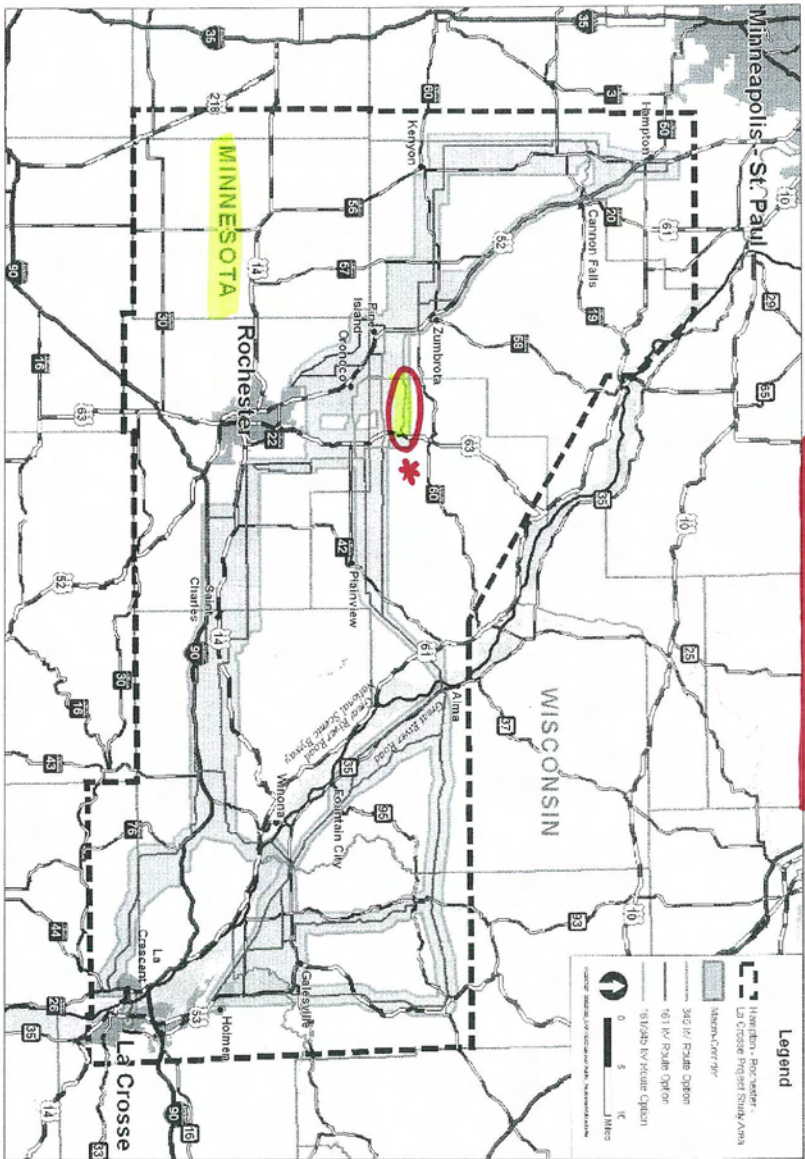
Bob Cupit, PUC MN
Matt Langan, MN DNR

B-002-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-002-010

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



***: Route of Concern**



Rohlfing Tree Farm

Minnesota

Wabasha County

Zumbro Township

T. 109 N. - R. 14 W

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainville/Elgin June 16th

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

see next page

[Signature]

B-003-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Impacts to land use in areas such as the Woodland Camp will be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
- Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

B-003-001

Woodland Camp needs to be considered to be preserved. This camp has mentored youth for more than 40 yrs. Land owner donated 25 acres to cause. Going through the middle of it would destroy campsite. Please consider going around. Concerned Neighbor!!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

(The response area for this question is mostly crossed out with a large diagonal line and contains some scribbles.)

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Michael Walker

Representing (Optional): Marta and Anna Mae Norman

Mailing Address: 56826 395th Ave

City: Zumbro Falls State: MN Zip Code: 55991

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-255-0274

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Bruce Wiese
Site Operations Manager



Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
317 330th Street
Stanton, MN 55018
Office (507) 663-7605
Fax (507) 645-7519
www.syngenta.com
bruce.wiese@syngenta.com

Wanamago - June 17, 2009



June 17, 2009

Subject: CAPX2020 Proposed Power Line Route A120

To Whom It May Concern:

B-004-002

Syngenta Seeds is an owner of a 412 acre Research Farm that is directly in the path of the CAPX2020 Proposed Power Line Route A120. Route A120 takes the power line down the west border of our property and within 20 ft. of our lateral move irrigation system.

B-004-001

Our immediate concerns are the proximity of the towers to the irrigation system and the possible effects this may have on our GPS reception that we use in moving our irrigation system and on our tractors and planters for field trial planting. Other concerns may surface as the process moves forward.

I look forward to working with you to discuss these and other concerns.

Please add me to any mailing or email lists that are appropriate to keep me informed on the progress of CAPX2020.

Bruce Wiese
Site Operations Manager
Syngenta Seeds
317 330th St.
Stanton, Minnesota 55018

B-004-001

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

B-004-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.





B-004 Wiese, Bruce
Appendix I



B-004 Wiese, Bruce
Appendix I



B-004 Wiese, Bruce
Appendix I

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Pentecost

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: We raise trees mostly (No trees near wires) means no trees to have 57

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: Basically a True Farm

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

B-005-001

FS line goes through Blair we would expect it to be on the west side of existing lines

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Loss of Timber forever

B-005-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Pretty well

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Robert Niederkorn*
Representing (Optional): *NiederKorn Farms*
Mailing Address: *118589 Brendtner Rd.*
City: *Galesville* State: *WI* Zip Code: *54630*
Daytime Phone (Optional): *608-582-2216*

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:30:13 AM
Attachments: [Carleton College Dairyland Power CapX2020 comments.pdf](#)

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

From: nbraker@carleton.edu [<mailto:nbraker@carleton.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2009 12:25 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: mn02ima@mail.house.gov; sen.kevin.dahle@senate.mn; david@davidbly.com
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project

Hello Ms. Strength:

Attached please find our comments on the Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Nancy Braker
Director of the Cowling Arboretum
Lecturer in Biology
Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, MN 55057
507-222-4543
nbraker@carleton.edu

Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Nancy C. Braker
Director of the Cowling Arboretum and Lecturer in Biology

507-222-4543
nbraker@carleton.edu

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Stephanie.strength@usda.gov

June 26, 2009

Re: Comments on the Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Strength:

I am writing to comment on the above referenced Transmission Line Project. Carleton College has a vested interest in this project due to our ownership of an important tallgrass prairie remnant located in Goodhue County, within ¼ mile of one of the proposed routes.

McKnight Prairie was purchased by the College in 1968 in order to provide a location for faculty and students to study and conduct research on native prairie and the plants and animals found there. Tallgrass prairie, or prairie of any sort, is a rare commodity throughout its range. In Minnesota, less than one-half of one percent of the original prairie remains. McKnight Prairie has been identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as one of the highest quality remnant prairies left in Goodhue County.

B-006-001

We strongly favor the eastern of the two proposed routes; that is the one that roughly parallels State Highway 52 as it passes through Goodhue County. This route follows an already developed transportation and utility corridor thereby limiting impact on the rural landscape. In addition to less impact on the agricultural community, this route will have fewer effects on native wildlife, including declining plants, animals and native plant communities.

B-006-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

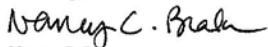
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

The western of the two routes, the one we do not favor, would directly impact wildlife habitat and the species that use that habitat. In particular, a population concentration the Loggerhead Shrike, a Minnesota threatened species, is found in the area, nesting and foraging for food in the brushy fields and remnant prairies patches that are found throughout this landscape. The shrikes, which frequent McKnight Prairie, nest and forage in the area that would be disrupted by the power line construction and maintenance.

In summary, we strongly encourage you to select the eastern of the two routes, adjacent to Highway 52. This route provides for more efficient land use, and has a limited effect on important natural resources.

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Braker

Cc: Congressman John Kline
Minnesota State Senator Kevin Dahl
Minnesota Representative David Bly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
To: Lilley, Bliss;
cc: Collins, Carly;
Subject: FW: Capx2020 Project concerns
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:31:34 AM

From: Mrsprchal@aol.com [mailto:Mrsprchal@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:49 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 Project concerns

Dear Stephanie Strength,

Racetrack of powerlines coming our way?! There is much talk about energy alternatives, conservation and the need for more energy. What worries me is that just in the past months I have heard about solar power from Nevada to power the US, GreenPower Express which already has a map online of possible routes and Phase 2 of CapX 2020 and here we are battling over CapX2020 Phase 1. When asked about the GreenPowerExpress, CapX2020 did not seem to know anything about it! The state needs to stop the chaos, slow down and further study this before there are 175 foot poles with 8 foot diameter bases in our land that will be here FOREVER! How much studying was done to see if we can incorporate our own wind generation locally? Much of this project is driven to sell the power further down the line. There is also much debate about just how much wind power this is carrying, with the majority of it seemingly coming from coal burning operations. Even if something new or better comes along and these are obsolete, they are here to stay. The standard poles we are used to seeing are approximately 40 feet so you can imagine the enormity of this project.

Over 400 residents representing Le Sueur, Rice & Scott County met at New Prague High School in New Prague on April 7 to address their questions, concerns & comments to Scott Ek representing the PUC & Craig Poorker, project representative. The project being addressed is the 237 mile 345 kilovolt transmission line proposed to be installed by CapX 2020 with construction slated to begin in 2010. Scott County has been chosen as having the preferred route and Le Sueur and Rice County designated as the alternate route. These routes are just proposed and could and most likely will change, we were told. This should be a concern for all residents regardless of where you live as it will impact entire communities pitting neighbor against neighbor, driving down property values and creating an unneeded eyesore for our natural, rural and agricultural areas.

Many people in attendance, who would be impacted by these lines, posed questions and concerns about the health aspects, aesthetics, damage to fields and wildlife. Some questions were answered but far too many were left unanswered or were answered with "we don't know". We farm just south of New Prague in Lanesburgh Township and as century farm owners of a working farm we are highly concerned and have spent well over 150 hours writing letters, informing residents and doing our own grassroots campaign against this project. There is evidence that demand has dropped and there are other means of energy that have not been fully explored including nuclear and localized wind power instead of blighting the countryside with these monstrous lines. Submitted by owners of Czech Country Farms, Shirley Gassman, Brenda Fromm, Jodi Prchal and husbands and children. 30901 State Highway 13 New Prague, Mn 56071. 952-758-3781.

B-007-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. [See yours in just 2 easy steps!](#)

From: wildhorsehills@aol.com [mailto:wildhorsehills@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 7:03 AM
To: Tim.Pawlenty@state.mn.us; Scott.Ek@state.mn.us; stephanie.strength@usda.gov
Subject: High Voltage Power Line

Hi, I am writing to express my concerns and objections to the high voltage power line suggested route along 50th street in Webster, Minnesota. I run a show horse breeding operation with over \$100,000 in horses on my property. I feel this power line will be detrimental to the health of my livestock, and my business. Sincerely, Kathryn M. Ott, DVM

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B-008-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:32 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: More CapX2020 information...
Attachments: scott ek letter.doc

From: Mrsprchal@aol.com [mailto:Mrsprchal@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:04 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: More CapX2020 information...

Please see attached...thanks much.

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. [See yours in just 2 easy steps!](#)

B-009-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Docket ET-2/TL-08-1474

April 14, 2009

Dear Mr. Scott Ek and the PUC,

I am writing regarding Section 15 and 16 of Lanesburg Township, in addition to the area west and east of these sections, particularly where the route begins cutting cross country from 300th St to 141st Ave. I am highly disappointed that the proposed line would be cutting through prime agricultural land when from day one of learning about this project this was one of the top concerns of the CapX2020 group. Following road right of ways was going to be a priority for this project, we were told. In addition this also impacts a number of homes that are close to the line as well, including daycares and many children who live and play near these lines.

I cannot even describe what emotional toll this is taking on the people of this area. This area is being impacted not only because of their homes but their agricultural businesses as well. Although they may not be out there with a suit and a tie, this is their BUSINESS! How may this impact our business and those around us?

1. Compaction of soil is a great concern. When semis, excavators, cement trucks, cranes are all running over the land there is going to be compaction. In fact there are places that the mere buffalo trails can still be found and are still compacted to this day. Imagine what all of this equipment is going to do to the ground where a tiny seed needs to send out a sprout. A sprout means a crop and a crop means money for the farmer which means an impact on our BUSINESS. Who will be responsible for soil that is so compacted it will take many , many years ,if ever to get that yield back to where it was before this project?

2. Tile Breakage is another big worry. Running all through these fields are tiles that help to properly drain these fields. Large equipment can crack or break them. This may not be realized for years. Putting these tiles in was not cheap. Checking them to make sure they didn't get damaged costs money as well. And I cannot imagine the cost to replace them. This should be of great concern not only on our farmland but those east and west of us as well. Who will be responsible to make sure that tiles were not cracked or damaged and if they were who will pay for it? If the fields don't properly drain this means wet areas that can't be planted as soon as they could have, it means areas that remain wet or drowning long after they would have ,which means loss of crop which means loss of money which makes a negative impact on our BUSINESS.

3. Maintenance of the lines/poles: This is not just a one time deal. The building of this alone would be detrimental enough but now think about the future. I have to believe that these lines and poles will be subject to inspection and repair in the future. So now the soil has been compacted, tile lines may be damaged and land was taken away but this will never quit. It will forever go on. It can be said maintenance would be done in the winter but problems could occur anytime, even when the crops are growing. Who will be responsible if growing crops get damaged?

4. Working around poles: While I respect the fact that these are single pole structures, it is still a big obstacle for large equipment to try to maneuver around. Where once the

farmer could plant straight rows, now every row will be impacted due to the obstacles in the way. This is not just a minor inconvenience. If you are going around things you are wasting seed. And seed costs money to the tune of \$250 a bag in some cases. Now add the cost of extra fertilizer, chemical spray and time. It all adds up. This is not an exaggeration. This is real. Getting up and down off of the tractor to put the booms up and down to get around these poles is something we didn't have to do before and this is not just for one pole, it would be the entire length of the fields and for everyone across this area. Time is precious and valuable.

5. Now that this project has so negatively impacted the business aspect let's think about the human aspect. What was once an enjoyable time of planting and harvesting for generations working together for a common good (we have 3 generations working together in the field), we now have lines to be under and poles to work around. Depression is real and this project will be the root cause of it. As a mom I would not allow my children to ride in the tractors and the combine near these lines and since this affects pretty much the entire portion of the farm then their dreams have been crushed. We spend a lot of time running up and down the entire field picking rocks with a 4 wheeler. The kids actually enjoy this but having them under these lines is a risk I cannot expose them to. Who will be responsible for the emotional aspects that people will now experience?

6. Damage to farm equipment: Many times work must be done in the dark if there is a time factor involved during planting or harvesting. There is large equipment that is hard to turn. Trying to get around these poles without catching equipment is a big concern. In addition when plows are being used in the ground, there is a possibility of catching the cement pad under the pole. The costs of repairs are astronomical. Who will be liable for this if the operator is doing the best they can but an accident happens?

7. Huge metal grain bins with electrical motors for aeration, a corn dryer with electrical parts, old metal sheds, older tractors and combines which need chains behind them, electric fences that may stay on all the time..these are all real concerns. To get an electrician to come in and make sure things are properly grounded would be more expense for our business. This would not be cheap to get it checked, let alone to get it fixed. Who would be responsible for this bill since this is something that we would not have had to worry about prior to this proposed project? Who purchases the chains for each tractor? What if we have to cover a wet bin when an approaching electrical storm is coming, which has had to be done before? Who will want to climb up there and possibly be electrocuted? It may sound minor to those who want this project to go through but they are nonetheless real to us who will have to live with it FOREVER!

8. If this project is truly needed (which I am still opposed to due to lack of enough studies) then alternatives that should be highly considered and not dismissed due to length or cost should be:

- a. Put the entire line underground: this would eliminate so much of the opposition and in the long run may be just as cost effective. Studies should be done to make it a more

viable option. Perhaps with more research this could be done. This would also eliminate the visual fear factor of making us targets for terrorists and the entire EMF fear.

b. Follow road right of ways and then bury the line in sensitive areas where there are organic farms or highly populated areas close to the road. This would be more of a give and take type approach for CapX instead of just a taking approach.

c. Follow I90 and 35W. This should not be dismissed. There is already existing right of ways and the impact to homeowners would be minimal since there are not many homes on a freeway and if there are, they are further back. The amount of land needlessly taken from hard working people would be minimal. The complaints those landowners are going to have will never end either. Staying on a freeway would decrease the impact to a large portion of the state of Minnesota and make this project more user friendly in the eyes of everyone.

In closing, I just want to say that the PUC should be looking out for all of us. We all work hard to get where we are. We have emotional and family ties to the places that could be destroyed forever while we try to do our part by recycling and conserving energy. Please consider this project carefully and take into account the number of lives being affected due to one project.

Submitted by Daniel and Jodi Prechal and their children in care of Czech Country Farms
30901 State Hwy 13 New Prague MN 56071. 952-758-4213.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

The projected line along the Highway 60 route will be traveling through land that has been purchased, improved and maintained for four generations. The poles will be placed in productive agriculture fields, disrupting the pattern tile lines that are being used. The poles will also be a place for weeds to grow and spread throughout the fields. The lines will also take away productive land that can not and will not be used for production agriculture again. Will the destroyed tile lines be repaired in a timely matter, if repaired at all?

B-010-002

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Wanamingo Township, section 31 and 32

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Agriculture is the most sensitive resource in this project area. The proposed route will travel through thousands and thousands of acres of productive agricultural land. Installing and maintaining these lines will cause severe compaction on the agricultural land, causing damage of land, making it unproductive. How much will the power companies be willing to pay per month for the use of our land to place these poles in?

B-010-001

B-010-001

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

B-010-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

It was not explained at all. Land owners of the affected area had to find out information by asking questions and hoping they were the right questions.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Elroy Flom, Brian Flom, Verene Miller, Valerie Ashland, Joanne Flom*
Representing (Optional): *Flom Family Farm*
Mailing Address: *44241 70th Ave*
City: *Kenyon* State: *MN* Zip Code: *55946*
Daytime Phone (Optional): *(507) 789-6634*

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:32 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020 Project
Attachments: capxletter.doc; Reasons to avoid the LeSueur.doc

From: Mrsprchal@aol.com [mailto:Mrsprchal@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:57 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020 Project

Please read the attached letter regarding the proposed CapX project. Thanks, Jodi Prchal

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. [See yours in just 2 easy steps!](#)

B-011-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Reasons to avoid the LeSueur/Rice County Alternate Route (300th St/County Road 28/Rice County 2/60th St) according to the EIS statement and the PUC factors that are considered in route determination:

1. Human Settlements
 - a. Would destroy the rural integrity of the area.
 - b. Cultural Resources-Many century plus family farms would be impacted...many go back to the founding fathers of this area. Would also impact a cemetery in Rice County along Rice County 2. Landowners are proud of their land, many having had this land passed down for generations with the intent to continue to do so. Although CapX claims to have followed section lines/fence lines that really does not mean much since it is still not following any existing right of way and would impact still impact the landowners on both sides and in many cases it is going in the middle of fields.
 - c. Land Use-The alternate line runs close to towns that are growing and will continue to do so. Developing of the land may be inevitable and a high voltage line would greatly devalue the land values that could have been much higher if there was no line. Also when non existing right of ways are used the entire right of way must be given by the landowner and in addition many of these locations would be affected as far as buildability in the future. In some locations the only feasible place to ever expand the operation or build a home is right where the line would be. This is just not fair if there are existing right of ways that can be used.
 - d. Socioeconomics-The alternate lines runs not only near but through many businesses. There are at least two daycares, many acres of farm fields (which when having to go around poles requires more time, spray, seed, and compaction of soil reducing the yield as well as possible breaking of field tiles), Kajer Organic Dairy Operation, working hay field operations, buffalo ranch, horse ranches, Pieper Dairy Operation, a woodworking business (Nytes), organic gardens and poultry operations which require electric fence, etc.
- e. Community Services
- f. Utility Systems-The line would pass through several gas pipelines-(south of New Prague and near Lonsdale). As in the case of Section 15/16 Lanesburgh township there is already an MVEC Electric line on the west side of Hwy 13/21 but on the east side of the highway is a bigger 69 KV transmission line as well.
- g. Traffic/Transportation: There is a working railroad in section 15 Lanesburgh Township where trains run many times daily. The line would cross over the tracks in this section. There was information regarding possible issues with railroads in the application book. Crop Dusters may have issues and crop dusters are used in this area. There is also an airport near Webster which I know had concerns.
- h. Safety and Health: EMF's are a concern for everyone including those on the alternate route. The alternate route follows small and narrow county and township roads where homes were allowed to be close to the road. Given that the road itself is narrow and the home can be close to the road it should be clear that there is not much area to work with compared to following a larger road where there is more right of way to begin with. There are many concerns about electric fences, fuel tanks, grain dryers, metal grain bins, metal sheds, large older tractors and combines that can all have affects from the high voltage lines. In many areas this

would pass extremely close or over these structures. During construction there would be dust and traffic issues. We have a developmentally challenged adult living on the farm. We also have asthma issues as well.

- i. Noise- Many people in the rural areas keep their windows open all spring, summer and fall so noise would be heard from the lines.
2. Natural Environment:
 - a. Air Quality/Climate
 - b. Geology/Soils- We have prime ag land being threatened. The rich soil is perfect to grow beautiful crops. We know of other farmers who have had to deal with projects like this(just this past winter) and have had many issues with soil compaction. With large equipment there is no denying that the ground will become compacted and there is significant research that shows this will affect the yield for many years to come. It makes no sense to be affecting entire fields to get into the middle of them to place poles. When maintenance is needed, perhaps in the middle of a growing season the fields will be disrupted again for generations to come.
 - c. Water Resources- This line would affect wetland areas all along the area, would cross streams and cut through marshes. Many are also wondering how this will affect their private well.
 - d. Wetlands- The DNR/University of MN and private homeowners have all made attempts to maintain areas for natural preservation for wildlife. Documentation for most areas was submitted in public comments regarding this. This should be highly considered when doing an EIS.
 - e. Biological Resources- Eagle nests and birds have been witnessed where the lines would be placed, in addition to many species of animals and birds that make their homes in the ever decreasing natural areas. The increase in housing in the area has really made the areas that are left natural very desirable and vulnerable.

Economic and Land Use Resources

- a. Agriculture-touched on above already but very important as these are not only family farms but businesses as well. There is also a tree farm(Al Dietz). The alternate route in these counties takes a hard hit at the farm fields and the natural areas when it cuts cross country. It doesn't make sense to further hurt the agriculture sector when it is up against so much already and should be preserved.
- b. Forestry- Again going cross country would deplete some natural wooded areas. These counties were part of the "Big Woods".
- c. Mining- I am not familiar with the mining in this area.
- d. Recreation/Tourism- There are many places to hunt which get used heavily in the fall/winter/spring. Because the area is growing there are less and less places to hunt. Snowmobile trails run under the lines in many locations.

In discussions with many residents about this issue everyone feels that this line should be run from Brookings south on 29, east on I 90, and then north on 35W. Substations could be built closer south or follow 14/99/and wind toward 35W. Another idea was to utilize underground mitigation near populated areas. Because of the sensitivity of the Le Sueur Crossing from an Environmental standpoint, cross in Belle Plaine and if homes/schools are an issue then start underground there and utilize the proposed extension of Scott County Road 2(see map Appendix B5 Sheet CH 29-

gray line) from 169 and follow it utilizing underground as needed. If the LeSueur Crossing must be utilized there are other roads that could be used(to avoid the Pyrotechnic factory) to connect up to this County Road 2 extension. I am not as familiar with these roads but many of them on the map showed very few homes on some of them.

No matter which route you go there are going to be homes close to the road, children waiting for busses under it or playing or sleeping under it. But to criss cross through the countryside upsetting natural preserved areas, following narrow roads or no road at all, cutting through private businesses, destroying entire family farms really does not make environmental, economical or ethical sense. I would welcome any further questions anyone may have or clarifications.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jodi Prehal, Czech Country Farms, Sections 15,16, 26 Lanesburgh Township
32155 Sanborn Dr Montgomery MN 56069
952-758-4213

Dan and Jodi Prechal, Czech Country Farms
30584 State Hwy 13
New Prague, MN 56069
952-758-4213

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter with the concern over property we own and currently farm in Lanesburg Township sections 15 and 16, however we are concerned about the sections around this area as well. This concerns docket number ET-2 E002/CN-06-1115. I feel as though I am writing with a double edged sword as our current residence is also under consideration which is located at 32155 Sanborn Dr. Montgomery. This is where we currently live (County Road 28), however we own and farm the other property and have discussed the possibility of someday building a home at the above location. Our main concern is why the proposed powerline follows County Road 28 east out of Le Sueur and then diverts north and then east and south again to meet up again with County Road 28 again. I would like to make it clear that my residence is actually in the section that is being diverted and I don't necessarily want a powerline to go past my home here either, but feel that it makes no sense to ruin farms, woods and other natural areas across the township. Should this end up the final route selected, the line should continue in the rightful location along the road right of way (County Road 28 to Lonsdale) or follow a path along other section lines and existing roadways. It crosses into prime farmland and natural wetland areas and directly through our 100 year old family farm. We operate almost 80 acres of corn and soybeans. This land was founded by our Czech ancestors and handed down through many generations and will continue to be handed down to my children and their children. There is an occupied home there now, but we have plans that someday a new home could be built preferably north of the existing building site, perhaps even by our children. We have also discussed the possibility of wind generation of our own. I was saddened to look online and see exactly where this line was being proposed and even more saddened after attending the meeting and finding out there is a wide area on each side of the line that would be the right of way of the line and no new homes could ever be built in this area. So now out of almost 100 acres, there is really no desirable place left for a new home or windmill to ever be built. The land has wetland areas as well and is divided by a highway, a creek and bordered by a railroad. Stray voltage for cattle is also a concern that this powerline brings to farmers as well. It is also easy to say that a pole could be in the middle of a field, however the impact will be felt by that farmer every time they have to try to go around poles with large equipment. As just one example of this, it would involve getting off the tractor to adjust the planter many times to get the planting completed. Combines are not easy to maneuver either.

We are also concerned about the lack of knowledge as to what Phases 2 and 3 entail. We asked at the meeting but the rep did not know. We are concerned about the possibility of even more lines continuing to cut through our farm. We would like to know what the future plans are if Phase 1 is approved.

This past weekend we drove the route that this line is being proposed and hope that you have representatives that actually get out and visit the areas you are proposing to go

through and not just look at aerial maps. When we drove the route we could not imagine a huge towering powerline cutting through all the beautiful farms and natural areas, as well as right through property owner's yards. Some of these homeowners actually paid a significant amount of money to bury the lines around their home so they would not have to see them. Now imagine the feeling they have that a 175 foot pole with 8 wires could be going through that same property. We also drove County Road 28 from the point it diverts into the countryside to the point it comes back to 28 and it is true that there are homes along this road, which there are homes along the entire stretch of 28 anyhow. Many of the homes where it is being diverted have homes that are set back quite a way or their view is blocked by trees. There are also long stretches where there are no homes at all or just a few. Some stretches also have no powerlines at all. An existing roadway right of way is quite honestly, the better option if the need is approved as those homeowners are already living with existing lines. But to go through sections of townships does not make sense. The growth of New Prague is pushing south all the time. In fact the city has annexed property not too far north of the farm. With this in mind, generations from now the cities of New Prague and Montgomery will likely be one.. If the growth potential or number of homes along County Road 28 is too great then perhaps looking at a different location altogether would be a solution. Perhaps the location north of New Prague would be better suited for this or perhaps more research should be done on this entire project. Maybe there is a better way to deliver and transport the power. In addition, the CapX Project has all along said this to deliver wind power, but in fact after I did some research, found that over half of the energy is actually coming from coal burning plants, which we do not support. Coal burning plants emit large amounts of toxins into our environment, polluting it even more than it is already and adding to the effects of global warming. We worry about the future of my children and their children to have to live in a world that we are destroying. We talk about leaving our environmental footprints behind...what type of footprint would be left with towering poles and wires stretching across the countryside? I will leave you with a photo we took of our children a few years back. They are innocently looking across the farm that one day they will inherit. Our son especially lives and breathes for John Deere and farming. Please remember that when you make the decisions for this project that you are not just impacting the land itself but hopes and dreams of actual people. Please contact us anytime at 952-758-4213 or mrsprchal@aol.com to further discuss this. Thank You, Dan and Jodi Prechal and children



Looking west across the land....

Camp Victory Ministries
58212 - 403 Avenue
Zumbro Falls, MN 55991
May 13, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
11400 Independence Ave. S.W. MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: Cap X 2020 Rochester – LaCrosse 345 KV Project Routes B17 & B18 RUS EIS

Dear Ms Strength:

We support, respect, and appreciate the need to plan for the future and meet the growth demands for electrical services in S.E. Minnesota caused by the growth in both population and business in the area. Likewise, today's need for personal stress relief with quiet and solitude or leisure activities and leisure open space is a growing situation and priority in people's lives. Public and private recreational areas, residential sites close to nature, and adjacency to water away from the pressures of urban city living, is a highly sought after and premium commodity for this reason. This section of the Zumbro river valley and Lake Zumbro are the closest adjacency to Rochester and one of the few useable lakes and rivers in S.E. Minnesota. To run a 345 K.V. high pole power line through this rural community is a hard-core, maximum impact, incompatible industrial intrusion, and should not be done. What is the total impact?

Today Camp Victory has over \$3 M invested and served over 1,200 people last summer, with 90 kids plus staff on site all summer. Ultimately, the camp's master plan grows to around 350 kids plus 150 staff each week in the summer.

The camp is expanding its programs including adult retreats throughout the year and a growing day camp program in the summers.

We are writing to express specific concerns about the potential impacts of the B17 and B18 route location option on Camp Victory. They are:

- The southern 2000 feet of the camp's bluff land is an undeveloped natural setting used for outdoor life education in addition to the primitive camping. It is available to groups of various sizes to use, learn, explore and enjoy. They can be anywhere, and all over, this site.
- There is a natural terrace along this bluff that is part of a children's camping program. It includes 30-50 children living in tents for up to one week at a time for a scheduled 11 weeks in the summer. Other groups utilize these primitive sites during weekends over the balance of the spring, summer, and fall camping season.
- We are highly concerned about the impact on these groups of children as the potential power line route B18 directly overlaps this area. What are the electrical fields, magnetic fields and attracted lightening risks to youth activities and sleeping in, around, and under the power lines?
- This portion of the bluff has a substantial iron content in the subsurface rock. (A mining company once owned it with the intent of mining iron ore.) How does this impact or extend the magnetic field influence?

B-013-003

B-013-001

- Routing a major trunk power line through this location along the bluffs and across the Lake Zumbro would present a major negative visual impact both upstream and downstream through the heart of this beautiful, rural community setting. What is the magnitude of the impact on the quality of life in the adjacent area?
- The bluffland zoning ordinance in this area is highly controlling for any visual impact or disruption to the bluffs. Construction of roads and buildings by individual landowners is prohibited in this zone for that reason. Should a power line be exempted from this policy/philosophy?
- The Minnesota D.N.R. has previously considered and is currently pursuing a "scenic and wild river" formal designation for this area to preserve the natural beauty of the river, bluffs and valley for the benefit of the general public. How does the proposed power line fit it?
- Topography along this route rises up to 320 feet vertically from the river to the bluff top (El 860 – El. 1180).
- There are numerous steep slopes, cross slopes and ravines to be crossed with the route identified. Some slopes are in the 90 foot vertical rise per 100 foot horizontal distance category.
- A portion of the soils along the river terraces are very sandy and highly erodible. Construction and maintenance traffic is detrimental and is an environmental risk. Currently there are locations in this area with serious erosion caused by past logging operations. What is the potential impact from the power line clearing, construction, and ongoing maintenance?
- There is a longstanding occupied eagle's nest along this river bluff within 100 feet of route B18.
- Maintenance access to service this area would be quite difficult. In addition to the slope and cross slope issues, there are few roads in the area. Access would need to come from the east end and travel the easement right of way over very rugged terrain for over a mile to access the westerly portions of this route. Is this the best route for maintenance needs?
- There is another private Christian camp adjacent to this property. Woodland Camp, a long established camp for children and adult groups lays full length along the southeast property line and would be significantly impacted by route B18. Route B18 goes directly through their camp, and could well put them out of business. Is that appropriate and necessary?

B-013-002

Notwithstanding, we suggest serious consideration of meeting the power grid expansion by utilizing existing roadway and utility easements and right of way, such as the County Highway 12 and 247 corridors that already disrupt the countryside environmentally. Another option would be to transverse this area further north at a location with lesser scenic bluffland, environmental, recreational, and residential impacts.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hayden, P.E.

Camp Victory Board

(507) 843-2329

B-013-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

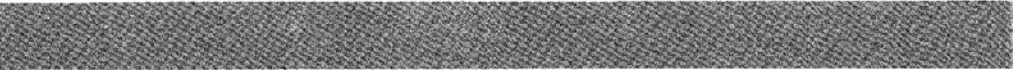
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

B-013-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

B-013-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

B-014-001

4329 75th St. NE Rochester MN 55906. Family Dairy farm. The powerlines are coming right over the building site, but they should follow the property line which is further to the east. This is a family dairy farm that wishes to keep growing and survive future generations and those powerlines can greatly hinder this. This farm has survived many decades and is going on its third generation and these powerlines could eventually put a stop to this successful dairy farm and future family.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

B-014-003

The most sensitive resources are agricultural in this project area. ~~The~~ The powerlines are jeopardizing the future of our business. The long term effects would be negative because there is no room for expansion and health issues are unknown.

B-014-004

B-014-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Public Scoping meeting - Plainview, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture) residential, recreation
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: Powerlines are not following property boundaries

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

We are concerned about the negative effects that these powerlines will have on our dairy operation. The powerlines will be too close to the building sites which can have many detrimental effects on human and animal health and is a major safety issue for a family run farm. The powerlines will also conflict with future manure storage system and additional building. The manure storage system is key to keep a safe environment.

B-014-002

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

B-014-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-014-003

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to business owners affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-014-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

B-014-001

We understand there is a need to update the electric grid, but we were told the lines would follow property boundaries and existing easements. In our case the line is scheduled to come across the middle of our property which is not only extremely close to farm buildings, but our home as well. There has been no reasons given why the lines are not following the property line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Roger Holtegaard; Nathan Holtegaard
Representing (Optional): Blue Horizon Dairy Farm
Mailing Address: 4329 75th St NE
City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55906
Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 272-0553

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

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I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

B-015-001 | *the line along I 90 would put your*
lines right over our farm. we sit right
on the South side of the interstate on
B-015-003 | *the 76 ft. we got concerned about*
stray voltage for our cattle

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

B-015-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our property is in section 12 of Wincoy township. We live right next to interstate 90 on the Houston Unit #258. I circled this farm on the map enclosed.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

B-015-002

I think the project needs more time to think of other types of energy for the Chicago area. Maybe wind power!

B-015-004

If we run out of coal to burn where will their energy come from then? reconsider this expensive project

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Johnson Farm
Representing (Optional):
Mailing Address: 33748 Boynton Dr.
City: Winona State: MN 55987 Zip Code:
Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

B-015-002

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

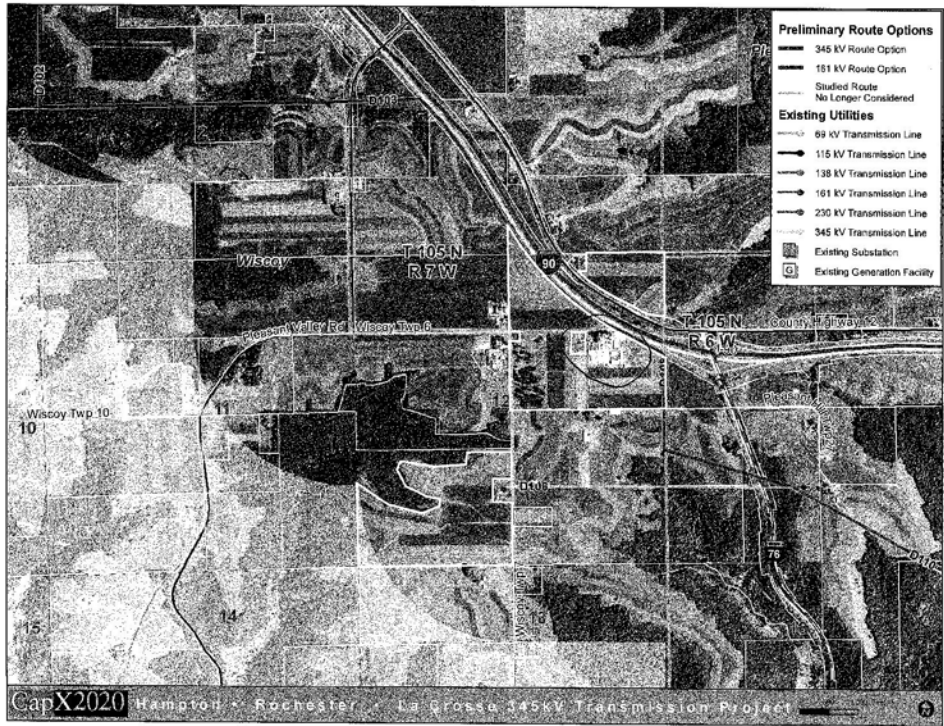
The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

B-015-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

B-015-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response B-015-002.



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Improvement Project



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Conservation Easement
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

B-016-001

stray voltage concerns for livestock production
 we own a 700 cow dairy that sits very close to the proposed route of the transmission line.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

humans + livestock

B-016-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Project Purpose and Need
- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio or television interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Other: SEE attached letter

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

SEE attached letter



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- Agriculture Residential Conservation Easement
 Commercial Industrial Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

SEE ATTACHED LETTER

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?



June 22, 2009

Corporate Headquarters

RTP Company
580 East Front Street
PO Box 5439
Winona, Minnesota
55987-0439 USA

Telephone (507) 454-6900
(800) 433-4787
Fax (507) 454-8618
Internet www.rtpcompany.com

USDA Rural Development
ATTN: Ms. Stephanie A. Strength
1400 Independence Avenue SW
MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

RE: CAPX 2020 TRANSMISSION LINE

Dear Ms. Strength:

B-017-001

This correspondence is to provide public comment regarding the CapX 2020 High Voltage transmission line should the route chosen be through Winona, MN crossing the Mississippi River at the East End Boat Harbor. In reviewing this route, it appears the transmission line would come through or in close proximity of two proposed future manufacturing site locations (a 14-acre parcel located at 1416-1510 East Eighth Street and a 13-acre parcel located at 1050 East Fourth Street which adjoins the East End Boat Harbor). The 13-acre parcel located at 1050 East Fourth Street has had engineering and excavation work completed and has been prepared for future construction of a 175,000 square foot manufacturing building. The 14-acre site located at 1416-1510 East Eighth Street has also had engineering and excavation work completed and is prepared for future construction of a 60,000 square foot manufacturing building to be built near the existing 16,000 square foot office building.

RTP Company wishes to express our concern, as the routing of these transmission lines through this property may cause the restriction or possible elimination of already proposed future manufacturing capability in Winona, Minnesota. We currently employ 260 people in Winona. At a time when our economy (national and local) needs to provide assistance and incentives for further manufacturing, impairing this site and our company's projects would be counterproductive.

We respectfully request this be given careful consideration during the planning and placement process of the transmission lines.

Yours truly,

RTP COMPANY



Hugh Miller
President and CEO

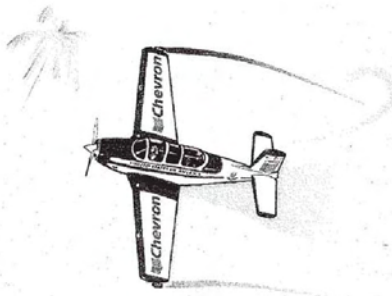
HM:js
cc: W. Barth
K. Lanik
R. Strangis

Winona, MN • South Boston, VA • Fort Worth, TX • Indianapolis, IN • Beaune, France • Singapore • Suzhou, China

B-017-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



Julie Clark's
Chevron MENTOR
3114 Boeing Rd. Cameron Park, Ca 95682 530.677.0634
www.americanerobotics.com Fax 530.676.3434

July 17, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 – 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

This letter is being written in objection to the proposed re-route or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. As I understand, the re-route of the CapX2020 Brooking to Hampton line will bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile barrier of Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster, Minnesota. This private/public airport houses over 70 registered aircraft and operates as one of Minnesota's largest airports in terms of aircraft on field.

The proposed alternate route places these towers directly into the published airport traffic pattern of Minnesota's largest residential airpark. As an aviator, I recognize this as both a significant and unacceptable risk to lives by placing these lines in such close proximity to operating aircraft such as; Ultra Lights, Hot Air Balloons, Light Singles, and other low performance aircraft.

Additionally, it should be noted that per both FAA and Minnesota Regulations, any such development within the navigable airspace as presented in Federal Aviation Regulations, 14 CFR Part 77, would and does require federal review and review of the existing state and local airspace regulations. As listed in the FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5190-4A. Model Zoning Ordinance to Limit Height of Objects around Airports, I believe that the proposed alternate re-routing has not addressed these critical safety issues to navigable airspace around 1MN8, Minnesota Sky Harbor Airport.

As a retired commercial airline Captain and an active aerobatic air show performer, safety is my number one concern when operating an aircraft. I have been a pilot for more than 35 years, lived in an airpark setting for more than 25 years and lived specifically at the Sky Harbor Airpark since 1988. The suggested placement of said towers is simply too close to the airpark to maintain safety. Might there be the option of another location farther away from the airport or the option of placing lines below ground?

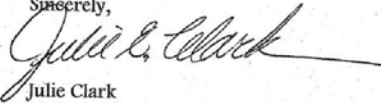
B-018-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

It is the purpose of this letter to convey both the danger and hazard to navigation that these towers would impose upon one of one of Minnesota's largest aircraft bases. I do not believe the proposed re-routing to be in the best interest of the citizens of Webster, Minnesota, or Rice County, and add my official objection to this project.

Sincerely,



Julie Clark
Captain, Northwest Airlines (retired)
President and Pilot, American Aerobatics, Inc.

CC: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC20250-1571

American Aerobatics, Inc.

