

Appendix T –  
Comments from Businesses, Individuals  
And  
Non-Governmental Organizations



Written  
JAN 14, 2012

Comments

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 11, 2012 Cannon Falls, Minnesota, and Plainville, Minnesota and  
Alma and Gale, Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

B-001-001

The Minnesota EIS Scoping Route has  
no deeply concerned because you have not  
taken into account, or you have forgotten  
that this issue was raised when public comments  
were invited back in 2009; a farmstay  
retreat business that will be impacted if  
this more southerly route is established.  
People come to this business for quiet, rest,  
and relaxation plus the beauty of the open  
rolling prairie and unfettered views of the  
landscape. These 345 kV towers and transmission  
lines will impact this business negatively.

Optional: Name: MAIIE DOERR - DancingWinds FARMSTAY

Address: 6863 COUNTY 12 BLVD KENYON 55946

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~2-13-2012~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

B-001-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.



January 13, 2012

Comments on the November, 2011 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**B-002-001**

We at Elmaro Vineyard were very disappointed to note one, very small portion of a sentence that was dedicated to the existence of our vineyard along the Hwy 35 proposed route.

Elmaro vineyard is an eight acre vineyard with possibilities to become a 50 acre vineyard in the future. Currently we have a newly-erected winery and tasting room just south of the existing transmission line.

We have concerns related to the environmental impact to our grapes because herbicides used for control of brush (2, 4-D for example) under transmission lines can drift over a mile and according to a document produced by Purdue University, Southern Illinois and U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign "People interested in producing quality grapes should avoid areas of the state where herbicide drift is likely. In our opinion, it is impossible to grow quality grapes in Central Illinois and avoid herbicide drift injury."

With the predominantly-westerly winds in our area we currently have avoided herbicide drift, but with a larger transmission line, it may be impossible. The impact to the winery and vineyard could be devastating, as the production in the 8 acre vineyard has a projected cash value of nearly \$200,000.00 annually.

**B-002-002**

In addition to the herbicides, the existence of the larger power line could change the environment in our area for tourists which are the main asset in the winery business.

**B-002-003**

In addition to the vineyard, Elmaro Farms, Inc. owns over 800 acres of farm land on the prairie between Winona and the Black River bottoms. There are four irrigation pivots which may be impacted (need to be removed) by the transmission line depending on the path. Without irrigation, the value of the crops in these areas would be affected, possibly cut in half.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the impact statement. Please call or e-mail with any questions.

Elmaro Farms, Inc.

Mark E Delaney

608-385-4726

ihriynita@aol.com

**B-002-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

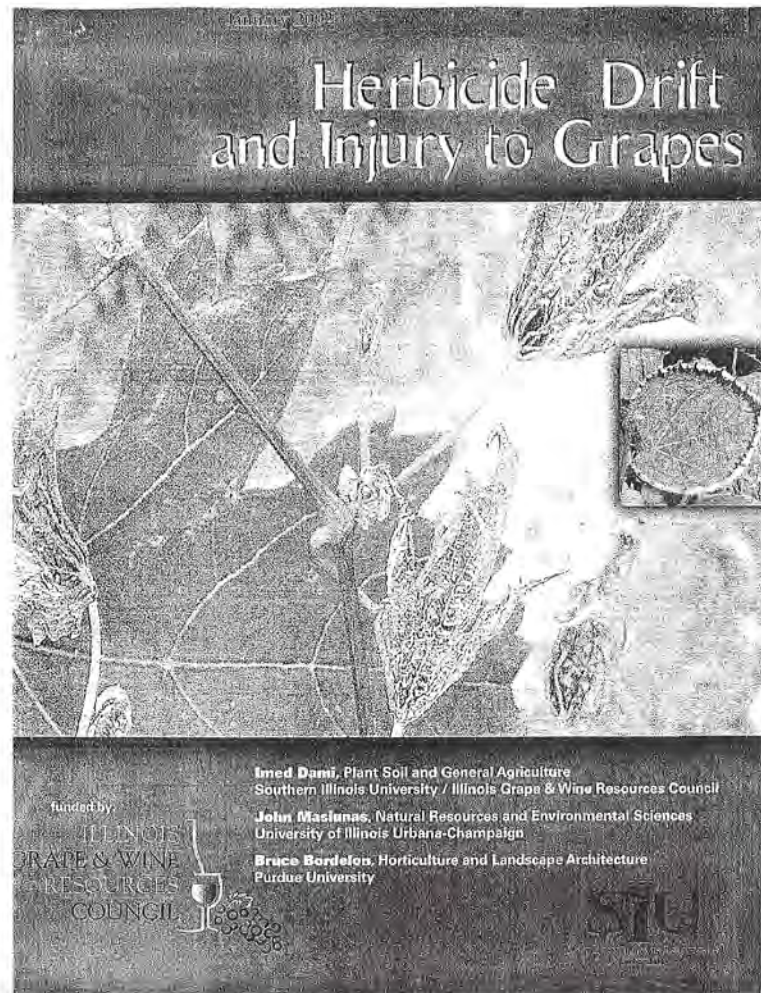
**B-002-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

**B-002-003**

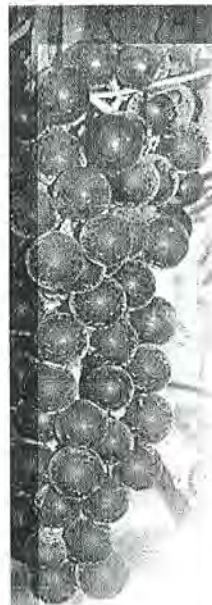
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

B-002-004



**B-002-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.



## Introduction

During the last 5 years, Illinois has experienced a phenomenal expansion of its grape acreage increasing by 650%. Unfortunately, herbicide drift poses a major threat to the continued growth and success of commercial grape production in areas dominated by corn, soybean, and wheat production. Historically, the decline of the grape industry in the Midwest was in part blamed on the introduction and widespread use of the herbicide 2,4-D in the 1950s. Among fruit and vegetable crops, grapes are the most sensitive to 2,4-D drift. Drift is defined as the movement of herbicides off the site where they were applied. Drift can either occur during herbicide application (physical spray drift) or because the herbicide volatilizes after being applied to plants and soil (vapor drift). Herbicide drift can injure the shoots and fruits, thus cause reduction in yield, poor fruit quality, and sometimes cause vine death. This results in a substantial economical loss.

Growth regulators, such as 2,4-D and dicamba, are the category of herbicides most likely to injure grapes. Field observations indicate that growth regulator herbicides can drift and injure grapes half a mile (sometimes up to ten miles) away from the application site. Grapes are as much as one million times more sensitive to growth regulator herbicides than are corn or wheat. Growth regulator herbicides mimic auxins, which are plant hormones that regulate growth and development. Growth regulator herbicides are inexpensive and widely used. In agricultural settings, growth regulator herbicides are used before planting for burndown in no-till corn and soybeans, at planting in corn, and postemergence in both corn and wheat. Growth regulator herbicides also are commonly used inurf, by railroads, utilities, highway departments, and townships to control unwanted woody plants on rights-of-ways. Table 1 lists the trade names of some common growth regulator herbicides.

Table 1. Herbicides that have the Potential to Injure Grapes.

2,4-D	Growth Regulators		Glyphosate	ALS Inhibitors	
	Tricamba	Others		Sulfonylees	Dinitroanilines
Auxim-4	Benvol	Auximide-T	Acrad	Acrad	Acrad
Herbex	Leberty Plus <sup>a</sup>	Golden	Ally	Ally	Ally
Brash-Shar	Clarity	Blazeon	Ardmaster	Blaze (Gold)	Vigilant
Crabgrass	Dialac	Sonol	Redwood	Decon	Pursuit
Elkron	Endow Mizer <sup>a</sup>	Tylose C-17	Elger	Classic	Pursuit Plus <sup>a</sup>
Flameth-40	MoKuma <sup>a</sup>	Tioxide <sup>a</sup>	Kelco	Conquest	Raptor
Phostol 300 <sup>a</sup>	Orthane <sup>a</sup>		Roundup Ultra	Specter	Rescue <sup>a</sup>
Solvo	Op-Hil <sup>a</sup>			Finemist	Specter
Scout III <sup>a</sup>	Rescue <sup>a</sup>			Glow	Squidrox <sup>a</sup>
Wardle				Humbly	Sol <sup>a</sup>
Wendover <sup>a</sup>				Pursuit	Tri-Scapt <sup>a</sup>
Wendover				Synthetic <sup>a</sup>	

<sup>a</sup>The list is not all-inclusive and other herbicides may also injure grapes.

<sup>a</sup>Are not registered for use on grapes.

## Types of Harmful Herbicides to Grapes

**Growth Regulators:** The most common growth regulator herbicides used in Illinois are 2,4-D and dicamba. The potential occurrence of vapor drift from 2,4-D and dicamba depends on the specific herbicide formulation. For example, the ester formulations of 2,4-D (i.e. Barrage, Ecteron) are more likely to drift than are the amine formulations (i.e. Formula 40, Amine-T). Ester formulations of 2,4-D are widely used because of their cheaper cost, greater absorption, and better activity against weeds than other formulations.

**Glyphosate:** Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup Ultra and similar products (Brenco). Glyphosate can drift and injure grapes but it is less of a problem because unlike growth regulators, it is not volatile and grapes are not extremely sensitive to these herbicides. Nevertheless, glyphosate can drift in windy conditions and since it is systemic it can translocate to and kill the growing points of plants. Glyphosate is applied prior to planting no-till soybeans or corn and is widely used on "Roundup Ready" crops (corn and soybean). In addition, glyphosate is labeled for use in vineyards. More frequently, injury occurring in vineyards results from Roundup application under the vines when the herbicide makes contact with green tissues of grapevines.

**ALS Inhibitors:** Acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitors are systemic and may also cause injury similar to glyphosate. The ALS inhibitors include the sulfonylureas (i.e. Acclaim, Classic, Harmony, Pursuit) and imidazolinones (i.e. Pursuit, Raptor, Scout). ALS inhibitors are widely used in corn, soybean, and wheat production. They are applied both before planting and postemergence at extremely low rates. The high biological activity of ALS inhibitors increases the likelihood of drift injury to grapes. Generally grape injury from Roundup or ALS inhibitors occurs only from nearby applications.

## Herbicide Drift Injury

The type and severity of injury will depend on the concentration of the herbicide, time of exposure and corresponding growth stage, and grape variety. Herbicide concentrations of 100 times below the recommended label rate have been reported to cause injury when contacting grapes. All three types of herbicides described above accumulate in the growing points of grapes where injury symptoms will first appear. Time of exposure is also important as injury is much more severe if exposure occurs prior to bloom, during the rapid shoot growth phase. Field observations have indicated that herbicide drift exposure prior to bloom caused shriveling and drop of



Antibiotic	2,4-D Susceptibility
Chloramphenicol	Slight
Chlortetracycline (25-200%)	Moderate
Chlortetracycline (500-2000%)	Moderate
Clindamycin	Moderate
Cycloserine	Strong
Dihydroxyacetone	Strong
Ethambutol	Strong
Ethambutol (100-1000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (2000-20000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (50000-100000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (200000-500000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (1000000-2000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (5000000-10000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (20000000-50000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100000000-200000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500000000-1000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (2000000000-5000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (10000000000-20000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (50000000000-100000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (200000000000-500000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (1000000000000-2000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (5000000000000-10000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (20000000000000-50000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100000000000000-200000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500000000000000-1000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (2000000000000000-5000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (10000000000000000-20000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (50000000000000000-100000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (200000000000000000-500000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (1000000000000000000-2000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (5000000000000000000-10000000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (20000000000000000000-50000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100000000000000000000-200000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500000000000000000000-1000000000000000000000%)	Strong
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Ethambutol (200000000000000000000000-500000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
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Ethambutol (20000000000000000000000000-50000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
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Ethambutol (200000000000000000000000000000-500000000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (1000000000000000000000000000000-2000000000000000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (5000000000000000000000000000000-10000000000000000000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (20000000000000000000000000000000-50000000000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100000000000000000000000000000000-200000000000000000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500000000000000000000000000000000-1000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (2000000000000000000000000000000000-5000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (10000000000000000000000000000000000-20000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (50000000000000000000000000000000000-100000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Strong
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Ethambutol (1000000000000000000000000000000000000-2000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (5000000000000000000000000000000000000-10000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (20000000000000000000000000000000000000-50000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100000000000000000000000000000000000000-200000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500000000000000000000000000000000000000-1000000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Strong
Ethambutol (2000000000000000000000000000000000000000-5000000000000000000000000000000000000000%)	Moderate
Ethambutol (100-200%)	Slight
Ethambutol (500-100000	

clusters, curling of shoot tips, cessation of shoot growth, and regrowth of deformed leaves after exposure. Severe cases are rare, but were observed in Chardon and Seyval commercial vineyards in Indiana and Illinois, respectively. Mid and late season exposure seems to cause minor leaf deformation since most shoots are full-grown and there is only a moderate amount of developing leaves to respond to 2,4-D. However, exposure to developing berries may greatly delay or even prevent veraison.

Herbicide injury to grapevines can last several years after the occurrence of the drift and may lower vigor, increase susceptibility to diseases, and shorten the life of the vineyard.

two days of the drift incident. The symptoms of 2,4-D injury include characteristic fan-shaped leaves with sharp points at leaf margins, epinasty (downward bending of leaves), leaf strapping with deep sinuses, leaf puckering with constricted veins that may be slightly chlorotic (Figure 1). Dicamba injury causes leaf cupping and a distinct marginal band of restricted growth (Figure 2).

Researcher at Washington have found that 2,4-D affects fruit quality including fruit color, sugar and acid content of Concord grapes. Growth regulator injury is particularly severe when multiple incidents occur to the same grape plant over a period of years. In general, American cultivars (Labrusca types and Norton/Cynthiana) often get the most damage. They are also the most susceptible and very small, distorted leaves. Other varieties, particularly Foch and Sticfield, show severe stunting of shoots and small leaves after exposure. A third group of varieties, such as Tannettine, respond to exposure with minimal leaf distortion, but shoot tips cease growth completely and lateral shoots develop. Shoot tips sometimes re-grow after the season but the vines do not continue to grow, which creates a very bushy vine, with poor fruit exposure.

The image is a 3x3 grid of nine photographs illustrating symptoms of grapevine virus infection. The top-left photo shows fan-shaped leaves with small pucker spots between veins and sharp points (enations) at leaf margins. The top-middle photo shows zig-zag shoot growth with short internodes. The top-right photo shows severely deformed leaves with parallel strap-like shapes and yellow veins. The middle-left photo shows epinasty or downward bending of shoot tips and leaves. The middle-middle photo shows a close-up of a shoot tip with epinasty. The middle-right photo shows a close-up of a shoot tip with epinasty. The bottom-left photo shows pear fruit set and uneven berry growth. The bottom-middle photo shows a close-up of a shoot tip with epinasty. The bottom-right photo shows a close-up of a shoot tip with epinasty.

Figure 2. Dicamba Drift injury Symptoms



Leaf cupping upward.

Leaf cupping downward.

Curling and cupping of developing leaves with distinct leaf margins.

**Glyphosate and ALS-inhibitors Injury Symptoms:** Symptoms vary, depending on the time of application. Grape injury from Roundup and ALS-inhibitors usually takes a couple of weeks to appear. The injury will start as yellowing of the growing points, followed by necrosis and death of the growing points (Figure 3). As a result, apical dominance may be broken, resulting in growth of numerous lateral shoots (bushy growth). Other symptoms include arrow-shaped, cupped and upward curled leaves, and shortened internodes, with (or more frequently without) interveinal chlorosis (Figure 3 and 4). Fall season uptake of Roundup may result in symptoms showing the following year. Spring season symptoms include stunting of early shoot growth; leaf chlorosis and distortion; very short internodes; abundant lateral shoots; and aborted flowers. Early-spring Roundup symptoms may be confused with viral or fungal diseases (Jatuya dieback). Grape root injury can occur from either Roundup or ALS-inhibitors, although we are uncertain of the amount of root injury and its long-term implications. Generally it is believed that root injury from ALS-inhibiting herbicides is more likely than root injury from Roundup.

Table 3. Alternative Herbicides for Control and Severe Inhibitors to Injure Grapes.

Class	Fungus	Insecticide	Soil fungicide
Regeneron	Alachlor	Alachlor	Amidoxon
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor
Endosulfan	Diuron	Alachlor	Alachlor

The list of herbicides is not exhaustive.

\*Herbicides that require pre-emergence application.

\*\*Herbicides that require post-emergence application. (Source: University of Illinois Extension, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026, 2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029, 2029/2030, 2030/2031, 2031/2032, 2032/2033, 2033/2034, 2034/2035, 2035/2036, 2036/2037, 2037/2038, 2038/2039, 2039/2040, 2040/2041, 2041/2042, 2042/2043, 2043/2044, 2044/2045, 2045/2046, 2046/2047, 2047/2048, 2048/2049, 2049/2050, 2050/2051, 2051/2052, 2052/2053, 2053/2054, 2054/2055, 2055/2056, 2056/2057, 2057/2058, 2058/2059, 2059/2060, 2060/2061, 2061/2062, 2062/2063, 2063/2064, 2064/2065, 2065/2066, 2066/2067, 2067/2068, 2068/2069, 2069/2070, 2070/2071, 2071/2072, 2072/2073, 2073/2074, 2074/2075, 2075/2076, 2076/2077, 2077/2078, 2078/2079, 2079/2080, 2080/2081, 2081/2082, 2082/2083, 2083/2084, 2084/2085, 2085/2086, 2086/2087, 2087/2088, 2088/2089, 2089/2090, 2090/2091, 2091/2092, 2092/2093, 2093/2094, 2094/2095, 2095/2096, 2096/2097, 2097/2098, 2098/2099, 2099/2100, 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Figure 3. Glyphosate (Roundup) Injury Symptoms.



Injury of a newly-planted vine following glyphosate particle drift. Early symptoms include interveinal chlorosis, curling and upward cupping of leaves.



Bushy growth with several lateral shoots indicates recovery from an early glyphosate injury (curled leaves in the center).



Young vines protected with grow tubes sometimes do not escape glyphosate spray-drift. Distorted and arrow-shaped leaf appearance.



Lateral shoot growth with unusual burst of latent buds on nodes, short internodes, and distorted leaves.

glyphosate contact to any green parts of the vine or by drift. If possible, avoid summer and fall application when grapes are the most susceptible to injury. Avoid glyphosate applications when shoots begin to trail especially with downward shoot training systems such as single high wire, Geneva Double-Curtin, Smart-Dyson, and Scott Henry. Use a shield mounted to a wand for a backpack sprayer application, or use a commercial shielded sprayer such as a dome sprayer. Avoid spraying in windy conditions; Use drift reduction nozzles (e.g. turbo flat-fan and air-atomizing types) that operate at lower pressure (15-30 psi) and produce large droplets which reduce the chance of drift; Use vine shelters (grow tubes) in first-year vines to protect from herbicide contact with green shoots. If chemical weed control is practiced in the vineyard, begin the weed management program with a tank mix of pre-emergence herbicides (check your local pesticide spray guide) and post-emergence before bud break. In mid season, fol-

low up with a contact herbicide (not systemic) to treat weed escapes.

### Reporting Drift Complaints

Herbicide injury is usually identified by observing physical drift or from the injury symptoms appearing on the grapevines. To conclusively demonstrate that a particular herbicide is present, it is necessary to analyze samples of the injured grape plants for the herbicide. If you file a misapplication complaint with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the investigator may collect samples and have them analyzed by the Department's laboratory. You can also collect samples and have them analyzed by a commer-

**Figure 4. ALS Inhibitors Injury Symptoms from Sulfonyleurea (Permit) Spray Drift**



Rough leaf appearance, irregular leaf shape, and short internodes.



Chlorosis of leaf veins and change in leaf appearance from smooth to crinkled.



**Disclaimer:** Products and brands mentioned in this publication are listed for information purposes only. The Illinois Grape and Wine Resources Council, Southern Illinois University, and University of Illinois do not endorse the products listed nor intend to discriminate against other products not mentioned.

**Credits:** All photographs taken by Dr. Jmed Dorai except noted. Designed and printed by SIUC Printing & Duplicating.

January 2002

cial laboratory. If you think that a lawsuit may result from the herbicide drift, talk to your lawyer about maintaining a chain of evidence. Analysis of plant samples for herbicides by commercial laboratories can be expensive unless you know the herbicide that caused the injury.

If you are convinced that herbicide drift injured your grapes, first contact the applicator and try to work out a settlement. If you want to pursue legal action contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Environmental Programs at 800-641-3934 or 217-785-2427 to request a complaint form. The completed complaint form must be filed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture within 30 days of when the drift occurred or the injury was first observed. The Illinois Department of Agriculture will send out an investigator to collect evidence. Based on the findings of the investigation the Department might assess penalties against the applicator. The only way for you to recover your losses from herbicide drift is to reach a settlement with the applicator or initiate a civil lawsuit.

### Additional Herbicide Drift Resources

There are several resources available to help identify herbicide drift. You can access several sites on herbicide drift through the University of Illinois Pesticide Applicator Training Program's site at <http://www.pesticidesafety.uiuc.edu/facts/drift.html>. Another important resource is the University of Illinois Plant Disease Clinic which will diagnose samples for diseases and will consult state specialists if they suspect herbicide drift injury. They do not conduct chemical test for herbicides. You can call the Clinic at 217-333-0519 or visit their website at <http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/research/clinic/clinic.html>.



From: Andy Ferguson [<mailto:ferg0146@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 8:30 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Ferguson's Morningside Orchard, LLC's Public Comment re: DEIS MN/WI 345 kV Transmission System

Dear Ms. Strength,

Please see Ferguson's Morningside Orchard, LLC's attached comment regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System (aka CapX2020).

Representatives from our company were present at the Public Meeting in Centerville, WI on 1/13/12. It is our understanding from that meeting that an email to this address is an acceptable form of public comment and that comments are being accepted until 2/13/12.

Thank you for your attention to these materials. A confirmation of your receipt of this email and attached comment would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Andy Ferguson  
Ferguson's Orchards



To: Stephanie Strength, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
From: Ferguson's Morningside Orchard, LLC  
Date: January 21, 2012  
Re: Public Comment re: DEIS CapX2020

B-003-001

Ferguson's Morningside Orchard, LLC is a commercial apple orchard business located in two sections along Segment 11G of the proposed alternative Arcadia Route of the Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project. Ferguson's Orchards is a destination for over 30,000 visitors each fall, a number greater than the total population of Trempealeau County. We have multiple concerns relating to the proposed Arcadia Route's negative impact on our business, danger to our visitors and employees, and potential damage to our valuable apple trees. Therefore, Ferguson's Morningside Orchard, LLC opposes the Arcadia Route, strongly urges that the Applicants and the USDA utilize any alternative route at their discretion.

In support of our opposition to the Arcadia Route, we list the following concerns:

#### SAFETY AND HEALTH CONCERNS

- Our orchard is enclosed by an 8 foot high permanent high tensile woven-wire fence, used to protect our crop from deer damage. ATC admitted during the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 open house in Ettrick, WI that the proximity of the wire fence to the transmission lines would cause a significant safety concern. Further, a significant amount of our 18,000 apple trees are supported by a high tensile wire trellis system, which ATC also admitted would cause a significant safety concern. A significant portion of both the 8 foot high wire fence and multi-wire trellis system run immediately below or near the proposed transmission lines.
- Even if the thousands of feet of wire referred to above were properly grounded at the Applicants' expense, we have a sincere concern for the safety of our 30,000 visitors, 4,000 school children and 25 employees. The WI Public Service Commission acknowledged in its report on Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) that, while the actual risk of exposure to EMFs is unknown, the risk increases with increased exposure and proximity. (DEIS Appendix B). We believe this risk is compounded by the thousands of feet of wire beneath the proposed transmission lines. Our 25 employees, for example, work for extended periods of time in close proximity to these wires (within a few feet) and are often required to make physical, unprotected contact with the wires.
- As indicated above, nearly 4,000 school children visit the orchard annually on field trips, coming within close proximity to the transmission lines and fence/trellis wires. The WI PSC report on EMFs cited a 2007 World Health Organization (WHO) report concluding that "consistent epidemiological evidence suggests that chronic low-intensity ELF

B-003-002

#### B-003-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

#### B-003-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

B-003-002

B-003-003

magnetic field exposure is associated with an increased risk of childhood leukemia” and that “precautionary measures are warranted.” (DEIS Appendix B, p. 20). Similarly, the report indicates a heightened risk for persons with implantable medical devices, such as Pacemakers. (DEIS Appendix B, p.23). We are concerned for the safety of our many visitors, school children and employees.

#### ECONOMIC CONCERNS

B-003-004

- In addition to our safety concerns, we have several economic concerns. Ferguson’s Orchards operates as an “Agri-Entertainment” business, which our 30,000 visitors patronize due to the scenic countryside and “rural” experience. We feel strongly that the aesthetic impact of the transmission lines and support poles would negatively impact our business. We are concerned that this economic loss to our business, and consequently the additional cost of compensation by the Applicants, has not been properly addressed in the DEIS.

B-003-005

- The DEIS indicates that the transmission lines would require an additional ROW of 6.56 acres of our orchard, the entirety of which contains high volume-producing apple trees supported by the above-mentioned wire trellis system. (DEIS 10.4.2. p.215). In calculating the value of fruit-bearing trees, the industry standard is to include the total life of the trees, which in some cases is up to 20 years of future income. We are concerned that this potential economic loss to our business, and consequently the additional cost of compensation by the Applicants, has not been properly addressed in the DEIS.

For the above-stated reasons, Ferguson’s Morningside Orchard, LLC opposes the proposed alternative Arcadia Route and strongly urges that the Applicants and the Commission utilize any alternative route at their discretion.

Sincerely,

Tom and Deb Ferguson  
Ferguson’s Morningside Orchard, LLC  
N17543 Grover Lane, Galesville, WI 54630  
608-539-4239  
fergusons@morningsideorchard.com

#### B-003-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N03-EMF Effects on Medical Devices.

#### B-003-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

#### B-003-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O01-General/Other.

**I-001-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J:  
Land Resources, J05-Other Public Lands.

From: Jone Adams [<mailto:joneadams@me.com>]  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 11:23 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Cap X, Hampton Rochester

**I-001-001**

I live on Lake Byllesby just outside the city of Cannon Falls in Minnesota, close to the proposed power line mentioned above. This lake has two county parks, Dakota and Goodhue counties and is a recreational lake many people in the area enjoy. Both the Highway 52 and Harry Avenue route will have a huge impact on our lake, the parks and a very nice golf course.

I understand there is another route being considered that runs along highway 56, just east of highway 52. I would strongly support that route, which is located just a few miles west of my home. I cannot think of much that route would disturb other than farmland.

Thanks for your time.

Jone Adams

From: Agger, William A [<mailto:waagge@gundluth.org>]  
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 8:00 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Proposed transmission,Cap 20x20 project in Western Wisconsin

I-002-001

Dear Ms. Strength,  
I am opposed to the Cap 20x20 proposal to run new transmission lines through La Crosse County, as are the overwhelming majority of our elected representatives on the LaCrosse County Board. This proposal, if allowed, will destroy the economic value of not only the land owners who's property it would transect, but also the citizens of Western Wisconsin who will loose recreational and commercial value to this monstrous project.

I-002-002

The proposal to cross though Northern La Crosse County, would damage the riparian habitats along the Black River. As this river was a major trade route for Native Americans, and early settlers, the area contains numerous pre to early historic sites the should be preserved. Furthermore, rare and unusual species would be put in jeopardy, including two rare species of dragon flies, and the endangered Karner's Blue a small but beautiful butterfly.

I-002-003

I-002-004

Just as bad, outdoor recreation, in no small part due to the natural beauty of the land, would suffer. Not only tourism would loose an unspoiled place, but also our local culture would suffer as we love our land's vistas, wildlife and clean, unmarred small farms.

I-002-005

If such a project is needed (and with falling electrical use due to conservation, many of us doubt it is), then to avoid further extension of damage by construction and later herbicide use, this project should follow already existent power lines, to minimize further environmental damage.

Wm Agger  
N2288 Willow Way  
LaCrosse, WI, 54601

#### I-002-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-002-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M02-Archaeological.

#### I-002-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

#### I-002-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

#### I-002-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.



1400 Independence Avenue S  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Additional comments:

If you would like to give this form to your client, please mail it to **Fed. 13<sup>TH</sup>** 2012 at the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside.  
Staples or tape cannot be used to attach this form.

Please email your comments to **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov> (Click on "Public Affairs" link under "About Us")



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-004-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-004-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-004-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-004-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature *Bonita Anacker* Date 2-14-12  
Print Name Bonita Anacker  
Address 13376 Wallace Rd  
La Farge Wisconsin 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by February 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape closed. Add a return and mail.

For email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1400P-CapX2020-DEIS/Hamilton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html

#### I-004-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-004-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-004-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### I-004-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-005-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-005-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-005-003** The stated purpose of "Regional Reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-005-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature

*Steven Anacker* Date *2/1/12*

Print Name

*Steven Anacker*

Address

*FL33 76 Wallace Rd  
La Farge Wisconsin  
54639*

If you would like to talk to us from your e-mail, please mail us your e-mail address on the back of this form. Fax: 800-698-6161 or 202-720-2772 or 202-720-2773. Please print clearly. Add a stamp and mail. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
We email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/programs/2012/02/13/Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov>

## I-005-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-005-002

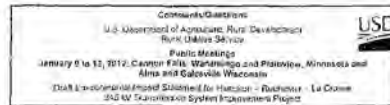
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-005-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-005-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-006-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-006-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-006-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-006-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature

Print Name: Mark & Carole Anderson  
Address: S1698 Cty. Rd. D  
Westby, WI 54667

If you would like to join the team with you, please email by **February 13, 2012** to the address on the back of this form. For questions in regards to the address, please email the address to the address on the back of this form. Add a stamp and mail. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Or email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information also appears can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/officeofpublicaffairs/energyandclimatechange/>

## I-006-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-006-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-006-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-006-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



	<p>Wisconsin CPCN – Appendix I, PSC REF# :150054 CapX2020  Appendix I:  Meeting List and List of Landowners  Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Received: 06/29/11, 8:49:28 AM</p>
I-007-001	<p>Note: All landowners along the Hwy 88A/B Corridor are not listed in this document.</p>
I-007-002	<p><b>Historic and Cultural</b> – 19 comments. Commenters requested that resources be avoided, such as century farms, places currently or nominated to be on the National Registry of Historic Places, historic farms, historic schoolhouses, cemeteries, archeological sites, historic trails, and homesteads.</p> <p><i>USDA should be promoting dairy/countryside preservation not the break down of our environment and productive agricultural areas. The building of utilities, which would cause the decline of our area economically, agriculturally and impact our natural resources. (site Kube Conservancy) WHAT IS THE USDA's purpose, (according to USDA.gov) to finance Utility growth RUS or protect the resources entrusted to the landowners? One of the primary purposes seems to be Conservation, plans protect, conserve and enhance our natural resources, including soil, water, air, plants and animals. Assisting owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources.</i></p>
	<p><b>The National Environmental Policy Act</b></p>
I-007-003	<p>The National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that became effective on January 1, 1970. In reaction to severe declines in the health of the natural environment that had become particularly evident during the 1960's, Congress passed NEPA, as well as a number of other laws protecting the environment. NEPA was written to ensure that Federal decision-makers take into account the environmental effects of their proposed actions and consider ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects before implementing the action. This is also the purpose of the NRCS environmental evaluation process.</p> <p><b>NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act</b></p> <p>As Policy-</p> <p>NEPA is unique among laws, because it established a Federal policy.</p> <p>NEPA declares "...it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with State and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans". It describes what NRCS is working to accomplish with private landowners and sponsors.</p> <p><b>Policy:</b> "The purposes of this Act are: To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; To promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality." Last Modified: 09/09/2011.</p>
I-007-004	<p>Noted in the RUS DEIS most concerns voiced were primarily based on Mn information throughout the draft.</p>
I-007-005	<p>Page 8 IIRL 345kC Draft EIS Executive Summary 12.8.11 – states that the Q1 is needed because the line is over 60 years old and is reaching the end of its service life. The rebuild is needed to address the age and degraded condition of the transmission structures and conductors. <b>Comment:</b> If the utilities want to rebuild the Q1 follow the existing Q1 Transmission Route. The ROWs are already there and would not disrupt agricultural, conservancies, airstrip that is currently in practice. Ref: Fred Gleiter/Gene Baker</p>
I-007-006	<p>Page 10 does not speak of the Hwy 88 A/B corridor option –<b>Comment:</b> The Hwy 88 route has Sand Hill Crane Migratory/nesting route, Eagle nesting and feeding on carrion from local chicken coops and migratory Canada</p>

## I-007-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

## I-007-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

## I-007-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A12-NEPA Summary or Interpretation.

## I-007-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A05-Reliance on Minnesota and/or Wisconsin EIS.

## I-007-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-007-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

<b>I-007-006</b>	<p>Geese flyway, please note that when the goose hunt is going on the Mississippi the 88 corridor becomes the new refuge where 100's of geese/ducks come for sanctuary, upon speaking with local farmers it is not unusual for there to be 200-300 geese per congregation on each property.</p> <p>Page 12 does not speak of Hwy 88A/B regarding active eagle nesting or the migratory birds that use our wetlands.</p> <p>Page 13 Alternative Evaluated in Detail does not mention the WI Alternative Hwy88A/B</p> <p>Page 14 Wisconsin paragraph 3 sites "the existing Q1 corridor was established prior to the acquisition of the scenic easements by WisDOT. Use of WI-88 avoids this section of the Q1 route while still allowing use of the southern parts of the Q1 alignment. Two variations along WI-88 (Option A and Option B are evaluated in detail.</p> <p>Comment: Where is this detail they are referring to?</p> <p>Page 17 Wisconsin route alternatives compared in Table ES-3. The primary trade-offs in the Wisconsin part of the Proposal are between the longer and costlier routes with greater impacts on agriculture and homes versus the potential impacts to the Great River Road. Comment: Note – Hwy 88A/B corridor is longer and the costlier route with greater impact on our agricultural cropland, dairy farms and homes. The 8 miles of GRR from Alma to the Town of Milton only views the river at Alma from Hwy 35 with a small amount of backwater visible but not cultivated as a scenic river view in that stretch. Mostly scrub trees, brush, railroad and the town of Cochrane, WI. Hwy35 from LaCrosse north to the north end of Fountain City, city limits is the scenic value that is embraced by the GRR.</p>
<b>I-007-007</b>	
<b>I-007-008</b>	<p>Page 23 Table ES-3 Water Resources Impact</p> <p>Comment: Hwy 88 A/B corridor has numerous wetlands and would expect impact to our water resource from runoff during construction. Due to heavy precipitation/saturation in recent history we have had numerous mudslides which have closed portions of Hwy 88 and part of the issue pertaining to the utility ROW's deforestation along these ROW's from utility clearings using chemical sprays. Also note with heavy precipitation we have a major flooding issue of the Waumandee Creek, which has closed/washed out secondary roads and bridges that junction with Hwy 88. Concern over impact to groundwater occurrences during construction and impact to dairy farms in the area, how long would construction last, would the water be potable and what are the farmers' options if this comes to pass? Will the utility truck in water or is the farmer on his own to bring in a resource that has always been readily available? At who's expense?</p>
<b>I-007-009</b>	
<b>I-007-010</b>	<p>Page 24 Acoustical Environment – Comment: What are the hours of operation and duration for construction, and what db level noise would be expected.</p>
<b>I-007-011</b>	<p>Page 24 Comment: historic occurrences CC Camp on Hwy 88 not listed</p>
<b>I-007-012</b>	<p>Page 25 Comment: Permanent impact acres are listed about the same, as the Q1 Hwy 35 route at 41.0 and 41.2 respectively, is this accurate?</p>
<b>I-007-013</b>	<p>Page 26 Archaeological sites new route Hwy 88A 10 – Hwy88B shows 11 Table 2.4.1 Comments: what's missing?</p>
<b>I-007-014</b>	<p>Page 27 "Following transmission line Comment: Hwy 88 Option Connector currently only has a distribution line. Also the proportions of the Q1 Hwy 35 route shows 39.6 length in miles with the W188A at 29.4 length and the W188B at 29.2. Why does the Hwy 35 route show longer? It is the shortest option so W188 should be at least 8 miles longer.</p>
<b>I-007-015</b>	<p>Page 46 Dairyland's existing 39-mile long North La Crosse-Alma (Q1) 161 kV line parallels the Mississippi River from Alma to just north of La Crosse, WI. Comment: shortest most available route would be acceptable for the most direct route.</p>
<b>I-007-016</b>	<p>Page 47 3.1.2 Purpose of and Need – The Rebuild Comment: what percentage of renewable energy generation sources would be used? Who would enforce? / If addressing the age and degraded condition of the transmission</p>

## I-007-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K02-Great River Road, Wisconsin.

## I-007-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E: Geology and Soils, E05-Erosion and Slopes.

## I-007-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water Resources, F03-Groundwater.

## I-007-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic Environment, H02-Construction Noise.

## I-007-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M01-General/Other.

## I-007-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

## I-007-013

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

## I-007-014

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

<b>I-007-017</b>	structures/conductors that would allow them to follow the current Q1 without disruption of the surrounding land, this would be most favorable.
<b>I-007-018</b> <b>I-007-019</b>	Page 55 1.1.2.3 With the proposal benefits Dairyland's service area 11% ownership would be proportion to the benefits it would receive from the proposal. Comment: What if any does the USDA benefit from this?
<b>I-007-020</b>	Page 66 Table 1-3 WDATCP Agricultural Impact Statement – WI Stat 32.035 Comment: What does this state?
<b>I-007-021</b>	Page 67 1.3.2.1 Scoping Period - Comment: Never notified by the USDA, were we left out of this process intentionally?  Page 69 1.3.2.2 Wisconsin proposal Draft EIS published in November 2011, with a 45-day comment period. Comment: Notification did not come by mail until December 21, 2011 Page 70 1.4.1.1 Notifying the public and agencies about the scoping meetings. Comment: The entire 88A/B corridor was left out of the entire process to date. December 21, 2011 we were informed at the Town of Milton Wisconsin meeting by the clerk. Waumandee Township Wisconsin not notified.  Page 72 1.4.1.2 The PSC also solicited comments in a letter sent July 5, 2011. Comment: Letter never rec'd by any landowner along the 88A/B corridor.
<b>I-007-022</b>	Page 74 1.4.3.1 RUS Scoping: Comments: See printed examples of how each comment is recorded and <u>DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!</u>  Page 77 Table 1-4 Summary of Major Issues raised during scoping. Your comments wanted on: Airport, Archaeological, effects on local development, EMP, Aircraft and Agricultural Navigation, medical devices, land based economics, noise, process, property values, proximity to homes/structures, rare or unique natural resources, recreation, soil (erosion, sinkholes, kaust, gravel), stray voltage, tree groves/wind breaks, TV, radio, internet access, visual and aesthetic impact, water resources (includes wetlands), water well installation, wildlife (including birds), permit applications, general opposition to the project, project need, and easement negotiation process, Electrical characteristics, social and economic, agriculture, residential, environmental justice on low-income population and cumulative impact from resource areas of concern including global warming, migratory birds, and landowners with multiple impacts from utilities.  Page 78 1.4.3.3 MN DEIS Comments purpose and need, alternatives, route alternatives (making the project as 'green' as possible), geology and soils (wetlands and erodible soil), noise, biological resources, river crossings, land use, land rights and easement acquisition, conservation easements, recreation, visual, transportation and access, historic and cultural, health and safety (concern spread of Chronic Wasting Disease due to soil disturbance), electrical characteristics, social and economic, agriculture (effect of high voltage on dairy cattle), residential, cumulative impacts (future highway construction projects).
<b>I-007-023</b>	Page 80 1.5.1 Wisconsin Key issues related to trade-offs between the longer and costlier routes with greater impacts to agriculture and homes VERSUS the potential impacts to the Great River Road. COMMENT: At this time the GRR seems to be the only clear option
<b>I-007-024</b>	Page 82 1.6 Dairyland plans to rebuild other parts of the Q1 system that are outside the proposal area and are NOT INCLUDED in this EIS. That part of the Q1 system included in this EIS (Alma to North La Crosse) has an independent need and does not require or trigger rebuild. NOTE: If the Alma to North La Crosse section of the Q1 were to be built separately from the PROPOSAL, it would not be considered a connected action.
<b>I-007-025</b>	Page 90 2.3 Wisconsin Criteria. Identifies a specific ROW location for the transmission line. Following is the WI policy for siting high voltage transmission lines: Existing Utility corridors/Q1, highways/Railroad corridors/recreational trails. COMMENT: site the Q1, secondary would be the Railroad corridor as the best option for the Transmission lines

## I-007-015

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-007-016

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A10-Transmission of Electricity Generated by Burning Coal.

## I-007-017

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-007-018

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

## I-007-019

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

## I-007-020

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

## I-007-021

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for Highway 88 Alternatives.

<b>I-007-026</b>	Page 92 Figure 2-1 Final Macro-Corridors 2009 Final was to have Belvidere Ridge; this was discarded due to no highlines across the ridge. In June 2011 this plan was switched to Hwy 88
<b>I-007-027</b>	Page 100 2.3.2 Wisconsin – Changes from the final 2009 Macro-corridors to the Final CPCN Routes. Shown in Figure 2-5. The two WI-88 segments allow for avoidance of the northern part of the Q1 route. Map is on pg 101. Comment: The northern part of the Q1 route is not scenic and used for the original Q1 project, therefore Hwy 88 should be removed from the alternatives.
<b>I-007-028</b>	Page 103 2.3.2.1 Route Options Bluff Route. Belvidere Ridge as eliminated from detailed consideration primarily because it did not meet the WI criterion of following an existing linear corridor.  Page 106 Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, WI most endangered reptile. A candidate species for federal listing (SFWS 2009a) The massasauga's habitat (wet sedge meadow, emergent wetland and shrub-scrub wetland) has been lost to natural succession, conversion and changes in hydrology. Comment: Does anyone have this on their endangered species listing under the conservancy?  Page 107 Comment: Make a recommendation the Regional Director (USFWS) that <b>NO EXPANSION</b> be granted. <del>ON 88</del>  Page 108 2.4.1 No Action Council on Environmental Quality regulations requires consideration of the no action alternative. (40 CFR 1502.14d) Comment: Recommend the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.  Page 110 2.4.2.1 1. Transmission lines reduce the impact of farming operations. COMMENT: In regards to heavy equipment 24' diggers, combines, chopper wagons, grounding of tractors 2. Only one circuit would be strung and the other side of pole would be available for adding a second 345kV circuit in the future, if and when conditions warrant. COMMENT: Absolutely unacceptable!
<b>I-007-029</b>	Page 112 2.4.2.1 In some locations, proposed triple-circuit structures would hold one 345kV circuit, provide a location for a future 345 kV circuit, and carry an existing 69kV circuit under the 345 kV transmission lines (a configuration known as "underbuilding") Representative structures are shown in Figure 2-10 and Figure 2-11. COMMENT: Once this is up they can do whatever they want to build up and move that voltage, what about our animals and human habitation impact?
<b>I-007-030</b>	Page 132 Segment 4 WI-88 Connector suggested by WisDOT as a 15-mile alternative to the northernmost 10 miles of the original Q1 Route. Comment: WI88A/B 5 miles longer recommend that the original Q1 be followed.  Page 148 2.5.2 WI Segment 4 Trade-offs in the WI part of the route are between the longer and costlier routes with greater impacts to agriculture and homes versus the potential impacts to the GRR/WI-35. Comment: In regard to what the USDA stands for they should be protecting our lands against this impact and let the GRR take the same corridor that the Q1 has had in history.
<b>I-007-031</b>	Page 160 Table 2-7 Cost Summary –Q1 Rebuild Scenarios. Comment: Very confusing must view individually
<b>I-007-032</b>	Page 162 Table 2.8 Resource Category dated December 2011. Comment: Where is Hwy 88 on the grid? Is this an oversight/after thought? This is a December 2011 table
<b>I-007-033</b>	Page 189 3.2.2.1 Groundwater and Surface Water – General. Comment: Adverse impact on water quality from discharges associated with construction and/or operation
<b>I-007-034</b>	Page 197 3.3.2.3 Impacts of the No Action Alternative. The no action alternative would result in no impact to the environment at the Proposal area. (The Proposal would not be constructed or operated and therefore, there would be no direct impacts on air quality or climate change. Comment: We support the no action alternative

## I-007-022

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

## I-007-023

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-007-024

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

## I-007-025

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-007-026

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

## I-007-027

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K02-Great River Road, Wisconsin.

## I-007-028

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

## I-007-029

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A08-Future Addition of Circuits.

<b>I-007-035</b>	<p>Page 197 3.4.1 Noise terminology/guidelines. Comment: State of WI does not have noise ordinance limitations on time periods for construction noise, among other requirements, what can we expect for the hours of construction? Also stated that a 20B change in continuous broadband noise generally considered 'just barely perceptible' to the average listener, if you have sensitivity to noise this will be a problem. OSHA requires ear plugs @ db</p> <p>Page 201 3.4.1.2 Impacts of the No Action Alternative. Comment: No direct impact on the acoustic environment if the project went to a no action alternative</p>
<b>I-007-036</b>	<p>Page 206 3.5.1.2 Invasive Species and Noxious weeds. Comment: How will you prevent seeds/roots from being spread from other areas into the Waumandee Valley via dozers and construction equipment?</p>
<b>I-007-037</b>	<p>Page 214 3.5.1.4 Birds and Other wildlife Resources. Comment: Impact to our Sandhill Cranes, <sup>Golden Eagles</sup> Bald Eagles, migratory ducks and Canada Geese and other birds we are a rich and important bird habitat. We are part of the Mississippi backwaters and this is a globally important bird area.</p>
<b>I-007-038</b>	<p>Page 249 3.5.2.2 Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds can be spread by construction equipment. Comment: Disturbed soil can encourage noxious weeds and invasive vegetation because these plants are more aggressive than others when establishing themselves. Once they are introduced, invasive species will likely spread and impact adjacent properties ie: purple loosestrife. How will this be prevented?</p>
<b>I-007-039</b>	<p><u>ALSO NOTE HWY 88 Route is left out of most of the IMPACT STATEMENT</u></p> <p>Page 256 Comment: No where does it mention the Hwy 88 impact</p> <p>Page 257 Comment: Forested wetlands would be impacted by being converted to emergent or scrub/shrub wetlands. It would be greatest for the W1-88 Option A Connector to the Q1 – Galesville Route Table 2</p> <p>Page 259 Comment: No mention of 88-option/wildlife impact</p> <p>Page 268 Comment: Kube – left out, use their botanist conservancy information</p>
<b>I-007-040</b>	<p>Page 275 3.6.1.2 Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Figure 3-13 shows Prime and Important Farmland Waumandee Valley-Dark green 'PRIME' farmland. Figure 3-14 Formally classified land lack of color in WI. Comment: Need to pull up and magnify to note that most poles are placed in agricultural fields along the 88 option.</p>
<b>I-007-041</b>	<p>Page 283 3.6.2.2 Prime Unique Farmlands. Comment: Hwy 88 option is not represented.</p>
<b>I-007-042</b>	<p>Page 286 3.7.1 Affected environment Comment: In agricultural areas transmission line structures would likely represent the tallest features marring the Waumandee Valley landscape of its scenic view. Power poles would be visible on clear days for up to four miles. This would add to the changing landscape of the area along HWY 88, where the preserved natural landscape would be propelled into an urbanized world.</p> <p>Page 286 3.7.1.1 Comment: The Great River Road National Scenic Byway (NSB) program established the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act – a legacy for Users was extended until September 2011 was this renewed? Why couldn't Hwy 88 be a NSB? The definition is a highway must have 'special scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archeological, and/or natural qualities that have been recognized as such through legislation or some other official declaration, moreover, and NSB refers not only to the highway itself ' but also to the corridor through which it passes.</p>

### I-007-030

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

### I-007-031

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C13-Q1 Rebuild.

### I-007-032

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C13-Q1 Rebuild.

### I-007-033

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water Resources, F01-General/Other.

### I-007-034

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

### I-007-035

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic Environment, H02-Construction Noise.

### I-007-036

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I05-Invasive Species.

### I-007-037

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

I-007-042

Page 289 3.7.1.3 Other WI Visual Resources the greatest individual visual impact will be to people living very close to the transmission line, there is a direct relationship between individual visual impact and the number of residences in proximity to the transmission line (Table 2-4) Comment: Our Waumandee Valley is pristine a legacy worth fighting for.

Page 292 Wisconsin Comment: the WI-88 alternative does not follow any existing transmission line and the alternate would also reduce visual impact. John Frie has photos simulation which would show the impact on Hwy 88 and the chairman of the WI-MRPC has expressed concerns about the impact of the Q1/Highway 35 alternative on the scenic value of the GRRNSB, however has he ever driven the HWY 88 segment? We believe it is as scenic or more so than the 8 miles of the Q1 we are to replace. We propose that the original Q1 use the existing transmission line in the vicinity of the GRRNSB as this section was classified as being of poor visual quality.

Page 293 3.7.2.1 Impacts of the No Action Alternative Comment: there would then be no impact to Hwy 88 and no impact on visual resources.

Page 294 3.7.3 Comment: Mitigation measures are specific to the GRR section of the Q1 to remove existing 161kV and 69 kV transmission lines from a 3 mile segment adjacent to the GRR and re-routing it farther away from the road, modify structure types along a segment south of Alma to narrow the right of way to retain a screen of trees, and reduce the number of poles located in scenic ensembles and the length of GRR scenic ensembles containing transmission facilities.

I-007-043

Page 298 3.8.3 Comments: Airports and Airplanes conflicts and feasibility with FAA clearances / refer to Fred Gleiter

I-007-044

Page 301: 3.9 Historic/cultural properties Comment: CC Camp not on list / refer Gene Baker

Page 305 3.9.1.6 Cemeteries Wisconsin Anchorage Cemetery WI88A and Rieck Grave site 88A/B Connectors may be close to or with the ROW. Comments see 3.9.2.4 below

Page 310 Potential Archaeological Sites WI88A Comments: would require add'l field investigations Anchorage Cemetery, Rieck Graves, and a historic Euro-American cabin/homestead on 88A. The cemetery and Rieck Graves would require compliance not only with the Nat'l and WI Historic Preservation Acts but also with the WI Burial Sites Preservation Law.

-Potential Archaeological Sites - WI88B Connector A prehistoric campsite containing pottery fragments and lithic scatter, located on Segment 88G. The second is the Rieck Graves burial site on Segment 88F. Comments: Investigations require would be done by a qualified archeologist able to assess each site's location and boundaries and its current integrity.

I-007-045

Page 313 3.10.1 Affected Environment Public Health and Safety potential health effects of EMF, Potential impacts of EMF on implantable medical devices. Electrical safety issues Comment: Would like to know more specifics as studies to date are inconclusive but point at cellular damage right to the DNA

3.10.1.1 EMF Comments: Electric fields are easily shielded by solid objects but magnetic fields are not.

I-007-046

Page 318 3.10.2.3 Induced and Stray Voltage. The magnitude and the strength of the charge will be related to the mass of the ungrounded metal object and its orientation to the transmission line. Induced current can be prevented or corrected by grounding metal objects near the transmission line. Grounding chains can be installed on tractors. Metal fences can be connected to a simple ground rod with an insulated lead and wire clamp. Electric fences with proper grounding should continue functioning properly even when subject to induced voltage. Stray voltage is a potential concern primarily for dairy cattle. Comment: Stray voltage would be at the farmers' expense, and could potentially put him out of business. USDA involvement for active dairy farms would hopefully be an advocate for agriculture and not the utilities. Concern over equipment with sophisticated electronics operated under these transmission lines is a grave concern, also the risk of a gas/oil leak and danger of fire by spark.

I-007-047

## I-007-038

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I05-Invasive Species.

## I-007-039

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

## I-007-040

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J03-Farmland.

## I-007-041

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

## I-007-042

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

## I-007-043

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

## I-007-044

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M01-General/Other.

## I-007-045

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-007-048

Page 320 3.10.4 Routes were identified to minimize proximity to residences and no residences are allowed within 75 feet of the 345kV line Comment: Bob's Hideaway Bob Kamrowski

3.11 Socioeconomic and environmental justice with the impact on property value (economic), impact to tourism including agro tourism, impact on FHA loans, interference with communication equipment, impact to windbreaks, impact to agricultural practices and farm animals (economic) Comment: public health, safety, business, animals etc

3.11.1 Affected environment—These impacts would occur only very close to the transmission lines, and are relevant to individual homeowners, business and farmers Comment: Applies to most of the Hwy 88 corridor

I-007-049

Page 321 3.11.1.1 Agriculture: Organic Farms and specific locations of dairy farms were not identified. Comment: the right to farm in a manner for good business practice and economics.

I-007-050

I-007-051

3.11.2.1 Environmental consequences/Property values, housing loans and Tourism: The potential reduction in sale price for single family homes in the us may range from 0-14%, higher end properties are more likely to experience a reduction in selling price than lower end properties. Adverse effects on the sale price of smaller properties could be greater than effects on the sale price of larger properties. Comments: In addition to the above what about insurance premium rates or refusal of insurance in close proximity to transmission line?

I-007-052

Page 323 Comment: property owners are better educated, use more sophisticated equipment and there are further health studies this will also drive down prices. The value of agricultural property is likely to decrease if the power line structures are placed in an area that inhibits farm operations.

Page 327 3.11.2.3 Comment: AI Kube/Impact to Tree Groves and Windbreaks

I-007-053

3.11.2.4 Agriculture and dairy cattle and BMF Comment: potential impact on the milk yield and reproduction potential of dairy cattle. Comments: Base this on your past experience with stray voltage. Impacts on livestock and other confined animals have been studied in detail by state and federal agencies since the 1970's. Based on our past personal experience, death of animals is not something we would like to revisit.

#### I-007-046

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

#### I-007-047

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O08-Electronic Equipment.

#### I-007-048

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O01-General/Other.

#### I-007-049

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

#### I-007-050

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

#### I-007-051

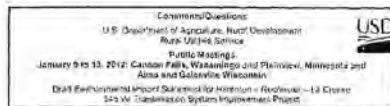
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O01-General/Other.

#### I-007-052

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-007-053

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-008-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-008-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-008-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-008-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in three so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape corners, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following website:  
<http://www.usda.gov/energy>

#### I-008-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-008-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-008-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### I-008-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Casson Falls, Wisconsin and Manitowish, Wisconsin and  
Alsea and Odesville, Wisconsin  
Dish Environmental Impact Statement for Tranquil - Thunder - La Osa  
345 kV Transmission System Acquisition Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

I-009-001

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

I-009-002

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

I-009-003

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I I and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

I-009-004

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020 MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature

Date 2-12-12

Print Name

Address

WIKOQUA WI 54665

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **FEB. 13<sup>th</sup>** 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
[http://www.usda.gov/ETD/CapX2020/Response/Welcome\\_LaOsa.html](http://www.usda.gov/ETD/CapX2020/Response/Welcome_LaOsa.html)

## I-009-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-009-002

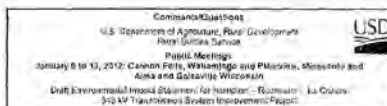
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-009-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-009-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2344  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-010-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-010-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-010-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-010-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Kathy Ashley-Wright Date 1/31/2012  
Print Name Kathy Ashley-Wright  
Address E13953 Maple Ridge Rd  
La Farge WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13th 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
To email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following website:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1400/1400CapX2020/1400CapX2020.htm

## I-010-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-010-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-010-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-010-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

**I-011-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

1       passed away many years ago is causing it. When I  
2       really know deep down what's causing this issue.  
3       I've had computers for the last two years that fail  
4       to work properly, and I have to ask myself what's  
5       causing that. We haven't come to a conclusion with  
6       that.

7                       So we have to look and we have to  
8       think about the kids and the substation that's going  
9       to be a quarter mile from our classroom and from our  
10      school and how that's going to affect the health and  
11      the well-being of our kids. And we just need to  
12      think about what we teach our kids today. We are  
13      teaching our kids about alternative energy systems,  
14      we are teaching about being green, and here we are  
15      leading by examples is what we are supposed to do,  
16      and we want to put up a huge power line right down on  
17      a national wildlife refuge, a flyway, it's just  
18      ridiculous. Thank you.

19                    MS. RICHTER: Gene and Cheryl  
20      Baker. Do you both want to speak or just Cheryl.  
21      Cheryl will speak on behalf of them. Thank you.

**I-011-001**

22                    **CHERYL BAKER:** I'm Cheryl Baker.  
23      I live on Highway 88. Our address is W1166 Meyer  
24      Road. We were informed just a couple of weeks ago by  
25      Susan Suhr, who was a neighbor of ours, of the

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

I-011-001

1 CapX2020 coming through. And also, with Sue, we've  
2 been farming, we bought a farm in 1982, and then  
3 later we went through a major, major stray voltage.  
4 And like Sue, many of our cattle had to be disposed  
5 of. Jumpy, didn't give any milk. That imposes a  
6 great loss on a farmer. You have to replace the  
7 cattle, and nobody does anything about it. If this  
8 line would come through on 88, on our property, we  
9 ourselves would have seven poles.

I-011-002

10 Part of it is wetlands where the  
11 CCC camp was, in which my grandfather used to be  
12 there. Excuse me. The town of Waumandee had  
13 approached us with the historical society and wanted  
14 to move the chimney. We have many people who have  
15 come through there riding horses wishing to take  
16 pictures. We had a gentleman that came through that  
17 was at the CCC camp, and reminisced about what  
18 happened during the days. The only thing left that  
19 stands there is the chimney and is the artesian well  
20 that still remains.

I-011-003

21 The poles would be directly  
22 outside of our house. We would be able to see that.

I-011-004

23 How will that affect our machinery as we try to get  
24 through? It's not like we have thousands of acres  
25 that we farm either. We've only got 160 acres open,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

## I-011-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M01-General/Other.

## I-011-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

## I-011-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

**I-011-005** 1 I believe. And will some of those lines require  
2 guidelines because we are on the curve?

**I-011-006** 3 I suffer from tinnitus, and I have  
4 enough -- my ears are ringing in here. If the lines  
5 are going to give any kind of noises, what is that  
6 going to be like when it's right straight across the  
7 road from our house. Our son would like to take over  
8 the farm, and who's to say that any of us would  
**I-011-007** 9 develop cancer or any of the other things that come  
10 from stray voltage. We put up with this in the past,  
11 I don't hope that we would have to do it again in the  
12 future. But that would be an everyday occurrence.

**I-011-008** 13 There are also air strips out  
14 there that no one is taking into consideration. Our  
15 neighbor Fred Gleitor flies in there all the time.  
16 And he has other people that fly in. We also have an  
**I-011-009** 17 air strip on ours that was not included. We haven't  
18 used it in a number of years, but it was still  
19 readily available.

**I-011-010** 20 Our family opposes the CapX2020  
21 line coming through on the Highway 88 corridor.  
22 Thank you.

23 MS. RICHTER: Okay. We have Steve  
24 Willedsen.  
25 STEVE WILLEDSON: I'm Steve

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

#### **I-011-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

#### **I-011-006**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic  
Environment, H01-General/Other.

#### **I-011-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### **I-011-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

#### **I-011-009**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L04-Other Airport/Strip.

#### **I-011-010**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

**I-012-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-012-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-012-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

**I-012-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

**I-012-005** *There are low-voltage options that aren't being considered thoroughly. Our children & grandchildren will be better served without this massive high-voltage line cutting through the great state of Wisconsin.*

(Optional)  
Signature Sharon Baldwin Date 2/13/12  
Print Name Sharon Baldwin  
Address 23871 Lobster Rd  
Wilton, WI 54670

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Use email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/USDA/CapX2020/Information/Comments/CComment.html>

## I-012-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-012-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-012-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-012-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-012-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1 you're referring to the crossing, the effect on  
2 wildlife, we have two sandhill cranes that nest near  
3 our home and feed in our fields every spring, summer,  
4 and fall. We have golden eagles that migrate and  
5 bald eagles that hunt and feed in our fields, as well  
6 as ducks, geese and wild turkeys. We have an active  
7 eagles nest within one mile of our property along 88.  
8 Thank you.

9 MS. RICHTER: Next is Erv Balto  
10 and he will be followed by Jeff Falk.

I-013-001

11 **ERV BALTO:** My name is Erv Balto.  
12 I am a member of the Citizens Energy Task Force. I  
13 would like to, I guess, state the obvious, which is  
14 that I haven't heard anybody speak in favor of the  
15 power line except a representative from CapX2020, Mr.  
16 Hillstrom. Mr. Hillstrom did state that individuals  
17 will speak about need. I am not going to meet  
18 Mr. Hillstrom's agenda tonight and speak of need,  
19 rather I would like to speak to the rural utility  
20 environmental impact statement, stating -- stating  
21 need.

I-013-002

22 What was not examined in the  
23 statement was a combination of renewables, rather  
24 they examined each renewable such as wind and solar  
25 separately without looking at the combination. If a

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952-922-1955

### I-013-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-013-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-013-002

1 need is demonstrated, what I did not see was an  
2 examination of both local renewable and conservation  
3 strategies rather than use of a high voltage power  
4 line. As an example, the Wisconsin Public Service  
5 noted that there was a generating plant at French  
6 Island which could meet demands in perhaps five days  
7 in the summer in which a need might be demonstrated  
8 rather than building a high voltage power line. It  
9 does not make sense to build a power line when a  
10 peaking plant certainly could meet that need.

11 Also, I want to state that looking  
12 at not only other methods such as renewables, local  
13 generation, but also efficiencies which would create  
14 local jobs. So for all of those reasons, I would  
15 support the no action option. I would also support a  
16 cost benefit analysis of taking that same moneys,  
17 which would be used to build a power line and look at  
18 alternatives such as efficiencies, renewables, and  
19 local --

20 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Jeff  
21 Falk will be followed by David Fetting.

22 JEFF FALK: I'm Jeff Falk,  
23 F-A-L-K. I live in Fountain City. If you look at the  
24 sheet here, it starts out with purpose and need. I  
25 want to talk about purpose and need. Because the

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1 distributed renewable generation and energy-related  
2 economic development before high-capacity  
3 transmission is considered. And the costs for the  
4 Alma to North LaCrosse to Madison high-voltage power  
5 line would cost rate payers more than 675 million  
6 dollars and building the transmission line would  
7 require the use of public rights-of-way and  
8 condemnation of private property for easements, and  
9 the center line of this transmission line in this  
10 150-foot right-of-way would be placed within 75 feet  
11 of a residence, business or school, and the line will  
12 result in increased electricity costs for all rate  
13 payers.

14 And I will hand in the rest of the  
15 comments. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you very  
17 much, Ms. Wood. Two items I forgot to mention.  
18 Nicole doesn't start the timer until after you put  
19 your name on the record, so difficult names to spell  
20 are not to your disadvantage.

21 Two, I have been advised that it is  
22 a very directional mic, so please be sure to speak  
23 directly into it. Following Herb Balto (phonetic)  
24 will be Sally Miller.

25 MR. BALTO: My name is Herb Balto. I

I-014-001

1 live at E2451 Lickey (phonetic) Lane, Chaseberg  
2 (phonetic), Wisconsin. I am a member of the Citizens  
3 Energy Task Force. I have been trying to come as  
4 informed as possible over this past year's  
5 involvement. I have to say that I need to stand up  
6 because I am extremely upset and distressed and  
7 indignant over this line.

8 I know I must be polite, and I will  
9 try to do so, try to be polite, but the issues are  
10 clear. CAPX 2020 is about power, but it is not about  
11 electricity. It is not about need. It's about  
12 power, it is about profit. It is about profit  
13 before people.

I-014-002

14 The Rural Utility Statement is direct  
15 in their Environmental Impact Statement. If you have  
16 a hard copy or a disk, Page 57 of the Introduction is  
17 quite clear in stating essentially that there is no  
18 need in western Wisconsin, or in fact most of  
19 Wisconsin as a whole. They are in agreement with  
20 the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Their Draft  
21 Environmental Impact Statement also states that the  
22 line is not needed in western Wisconsin.

I-014-003

23 Not only is this line not needed,  
24 but there is almost uniform, I have met one or two  
25 people, but almost uniform opposition to the building

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I-014-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-014-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-014-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-014-003

1 of this line.

I-014-004

2 The question then is what is this  
3 line about? It is about overcapacity and  
4 overbuilding in the Dakotas. They will speak of  
5 congestion of capacity because of overbuilding. With  
6 the plan being that power will be exported for  
7 profit, even against popular opposition, to Michigan,  
8 Ohio and Indiana.

9 There is a type of anger that arises  
10 from injustice that gives people the energy to  
11 correct that injustice. The name of that -- that  
12 name is righteous indignation. People, including  
13 myself, are indignant. What I would encourage people  
14 to do is to use that energy to speak to your state  
15 representative, state and local representatives to  
16 give testimony before the PSC on March 13th and 14th  
17 in opposition to a line that is not needed and not  
18 wanted. This is flyover country for energy in  
19 Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Sally  
22 Miller will be followed by Dwayne Miller.

23 MS. MILLER: My name is Sally Miller.  
24 Town of Gaylesville. I don't have an opinion either  
25 way on this, other than to say that my concern is

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#### I-014-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



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Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

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For: Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or deliver your organization to:

**Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found at the following sites:

Any Agency needs study year of FY 2012 or FY 2013 contact us at the USGS website.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

(Whereupon, the following individual statements were taken and entered into the record.)

**MR. BANASHAK:** My name is Michael Banashak. Michael, Banashak, spelled B-A-N-A-S-H-A-K. W5740 Baker, B-A-K-E-R, Road, Holmen, Wisconsin 54636. Holmen, H-O-L-M-E-N.

I would encourage the both federal and state decision makers to not allow this high-power line to go through. I have done about four years of research and I have gone to numerous meetings. This is probably my, I don't know, twentieth meeting that I have gone to. But after doing a lot of research, I find that there is no need for this power line and comments that there is a need in LaCross County is not true.

Everything that has come out recently has shown that there is no need and there are other ways to source that electricity. There are a lot of disadvantages; safety, health, the value of property, as well as a very nasty appearance when these power lines are put at 170 to 180 feet tall. There is some very pristine areas here that would be very negatively affected.

There is some hidden Facts that

#### I-016-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-016-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

#### I-016-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

#### I-016-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-016-001

I-016-002

I-016-003

I-016-004

I-016-004

1 occur. They want to run the power line near the  
2 Holmen High School and a grade school. And I'm on  
3 the facility committee for the school district of  
4 Holmen and have been very involved in putting  
5 together a resolution to the state stating that we  
6 do not want these power lines in LaCrosse County.

I-016-005

7 I have been involved as well with the  
8 resolution that the County of LaCrosse has passed,  
9 and that they do not want the power lines as well.  
10 There is also Farmington Township and Holland  
11 Township also. Holland and Farmington Townships  
12 have both signed resolutions that they do not want  
13 them. Because there is some real disastrous impacts  
14 on people with the power lines.

15 Very frankly, I'm not so sure if I believe  
16 some of the information that I received, especially  
17 as I have been able to dissect this and pull it all  
18 apart and look at it over the last four years. Some  
19 of the stories are changing a bit.

I-016-006

20 So, I highly recommend that they vote  
21 against it and that we do not have the power line  
22 coming through here. And there is no -- there is no  
23 question in my mind that this is just a means to an  
24 end to get this power into Chicago and to get it into  
25 other parts of the midwest, and even further out

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## I-016-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-016-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-016-006

1 east.

I-016-007

2 So it is just not necessary here. If they  
3 are going to do this with the power lines, it should  
4 go straight across from Alma to the Interstate 94,  
5 and down the interstate, and keep it away from these  
6 great pristine areas; "God's Country," as we call it.

7 I think that's it.

8 MR. SHEPARD: Erik, E-R-I-K, Shepard,  
9 S-H-E-P-A-R-D. W24 220 Rivera Lane, Gaylesville,  
10 Wisconsin.

11 I guess I would like to just say,  
12 if it goes through the Arcadia route, we are going  
13 to be less than a quarter of a mile away. And I  
14 have got several concerns, but two of our biggest  
15 concerns is, for one, are health issues with the  
16 EMFs, with high-voltage power lines, and also our  
17 property values. But the first is our health because  
18 my wife is electrically sensitive.

19 And there are several, and I mean I  
20 could go on and on and on about all of the different  
21 research, the factual research that has been out for  
22 over 30 years about high-voltage power lines and EMFs  
23 and how dangerous it is to human health.

24 And I would like to mention this as  
25 well, but you don't want to write the whole thing,

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## I-016-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1 MS. RICHTER: Following Roger then  
2 will be Linda Vanart. Okay.

I-017-001

3 ROGER BECHLY: My name is Roger  
4 Bechly, B-E-C-H-L-Y. I live at W1194 Bechly Road,  
5 Fountain City, Wisconsin. There are several reasons  
6 why I oppose the CapX2020 transmission line proposed  
7 for Highway 88 for the Highway 35 Great River route.  
8 I live in the town of Milton where they work on the  
9 land use planning project where our prairie will be  
10 suited better for housing in the future than for  
11 farmland, so a high power transmission line through  
12 that area would probably not be suitable for new  
13 housing.

14 And point two is reduced land  
15 values of current housing make it harder for  
16 established houses to sell or for selling land that's  
17 currently there.

I-017-002

18 No. 3 is endangerment of local  
19 wildlife in the area, such as geese, bald eagles,  
20 sandhill cranes, and other waterfowl living along the  
21 river that may come into contact with lines.

I-017-003

22 Point 4, safety and health issues  
23 due to stray voltage and the electric magnetic fields  
24 for both human exposure and livestock exposure

I-017-004

25 resulting in an increase in human illness and

I-017-005

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#### I-017-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-017-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I03-Birds.

#### I-017-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-017-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

#### I-017-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O10-Animal Health.



I-017-005

1 decrease in livestock production and health.

I-017-006

2 Point 5, safety and health issue  
3 of operating farm equipment near and around the power  
4 lines. And I do believe there's not the need for the  
5 transmission line of this size due to lower demands  
6 from conservation of electricity. And if needed be,  
7 use the cleaner sources of energy when the need  
8 arises.

I-017-007

9 In closing, I say not to proposed  
10 CapX2020 transmission line. Thank you.

11 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. And  
12 Linda will be next followed by Brian Becker?

13 LINDA VANART: Hello, my name is  
14 Linda Vanart. I live in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I'm a  
15 member of Citizens Energy Task Force, a bunch of  
16 volunteer citizens in Minnesota and Wisconsin who are  
17 opposing the CapX2020 project. Just two years ago in  
18 2009 Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar announced that  
19 the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish  
20 Refuge had been designated a wetland of international  
21 importance. Refuge manager Don Holtman said the  
22 designation was aimed at strengthening public  
23 awareness and appreciation of the role wetlands play  
24 in sustaining environmental health, economic  
25 enterprise, and recreational well-being. And yet,

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#### I-017-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

#### I-017-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012 - Cannon Falls, Warramago and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galeville Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 KV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-018-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-018-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-018-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I I and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-018-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP I I investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-018-005** | *There is strong opposition to this project throughout our region.*

(Optional)  
Signature Jean Beck Date 2-13-12  
Print Name Jean Beck  
Address 53368A Hougred Ridge  
La Farge, WI 54631

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Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/ERP/CapX2020/Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

## I-018-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-018-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-018-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-018-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-018-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-019-001

GO WITH THE Q1 PLEASE

Optional: Name: TOM BICE

Address: IR Emphatic

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FEB. 13TH

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Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-019-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-020-001

1 MR. BRADY: Hi. My name is David  
2 Brady. That is B-R-A-D-Y. I live at north N -- I'm  
3 sorry, N6378 County Highway XX, Holmen, Wisconsin.  
4 They want to put this line, hook it up to  
5 a substation very close to our -- our little chunk of  
6 land. The little chunk of land has been in my family  
7 for over 70 years. I plan on building habitat and  
8 homes for disabled vets. I am a disabled vet myself.  
9 These power lines, it comes down to what Chuck had  
10 just said, it is about big companies, with big money  
11 stepping on anyone they have to to get what they  
12 want, which is more money.

I-020-002

13 The energy technology is exploding  
14 today, and by the time that these projects are  
15 complete, we are not going to need them. We don't  
16 need them now. But in a few years, the way it has  
17 been going, it has just exploded and there are very,  
18 very many houses now that are energy positive. They  
19 sell energy back to the electric company. And we  
20 can't forget about that.

21 We have got a great resource, the  
22 Mississippi River. If they want to put up something  
23 that will contribute and be local energy, they could  
24 put a hydrodam on the river with very minimal costs,  
25 compared to this monstrosity of a project.

### I-020-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-020-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-020-003

1                   We don't need it. We don't want it.  
2           It is bad for us, bad for our kids, bad for our  
3           neighbors. And there is a lot of better ways of  
4           doing this, people. And Chuck is right, grab a pen  
5           and just write, "I don't like it" or "I don't want  
6           it," because everybody here needs to stand up when  
7           you have a chance and let your people know that are  
8           running this country or running this state or county  
9           that you don't want this and you are against it. And  
10          they have to listen; otherwise, we can throw their  
11          asses out.

12                   Thank you.

13                   MODERATOR RICHTER: John, is it Frie  
14          or Fry?

15                   MR. FRIE: Frie.

16                   MODERATOR RICHTER: I apologize  
17          because I think we met the other night. I couldn't  
18          remember. It is F-R-I-E.

19                   MR. FRIE: My name is John Frie. I  
20          live at S2699 State Road 88. And the reason I came  
21          back down tonight is I am passing through, and also,  
22          we heard a lot about the Great River Road, which I  
23          know is a long corridor, but that is the reason that  
24          it affects us, is because on 88, we have a great  
25          scenic road also, it is called Highway 88, State

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I-020-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

1 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved  
2 this in Minnesota, CAPX immediately filed to try  
3 to block required renewable energy that Minnesota  
4 required on the line, in the line that hooks up with  
5 this one in Hampton, Minnesota. And the reality is  
6 that if we want to do wind is that the best wind  
7 power in the upper midwest is offshore on Lake  
8 Michigan, right near Milwaukee and Chicago, where a  
9 lot of this power is needed. And we also know that  
10 it's not about coal because the Attorney General of  
11 North Dakota has sued the Attorney General in Federal  
12 Court because in 2007 Minnesota enacted a law  
13 allowing no new coal power to come into Minnesota  
14 because we want to have renewable energy. North  
15 Dakota is wanting to overturn that law in Minnesota  
16 to the Federal Court so that they can get coal power  
17 through Minnesota.

18 And that's what we're really talking  
19 about when we talk about this power line. There are  
20 many counties that request resolution and a detailed  
21 explanation for the perceived needs of this  
22 high-voltage power line. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

24 MR. BRADY: I am David Brady again.

25 A couple of points.

I-020-004

1 I was invited to a show in Stony  
2 Creek Inn and it was funded by the CAPX2020 people.  
3 They had us sit down and watch this real pretty  
4 little, I don't know what you would even call it,  
5 advertisement I guess, for their line. All they said  
6 was, "Wind, wind, wind." Coal wasn't mentioned once.  
7 So, from the start they have tried to evade the  
8 entire thing and keep it from the public.

9 And there's a gentleman that said we  
10 take it for granted that we hit the switch and lights  
11 come on. Well, I don't know about you, but I take  
12 money out of my check and pay for that electricity.  
13 I don't take it for granted; I pay for it.

14 But the Stony Creek Inn, they never once,  
15 not once mentioned coal. And that should kind of set  
16 the attitude for the line. I don't know if they just  
17 need more electricity down in Chicago for -- for  
18 expanding. It doesn't matter. I don't care. We  
19 don't need it here and let them produce it there.  
20 They have got a river. They can put a hydro damn up.  
21 And Joe is right, this is one big extension cord.

I-020-005

22 And I asked the gentleman from  
23 Dairyland Power, if any of these towers ever fell,  
24 and he said yes. What would happen if one of those  
25 towers fell on the bleachers behind Holmen High

#### I-020-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### I-020-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N05-Other Electrical Safety.



I-020-005

1 School? The bleachers behind Holmen High School,  
2 what would happen to the students and the teachers  
3 and the fans? They would be fried. Don't do it.  
4 Don't do it on our backs. They want it down there,  
5 they can figure it out. I mean they produced a  
6 president, so they can produce some electricity.  
7 You know, neither one are working damn well.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: This will be our  
9 last speaker then, the last three minutes, then we  
10 will be taking a break. Does anybody want to come  
11 back after the break? The alternative is that we are  
12 still here with our maps. If you have questions,  
13 this is not a time for questions, it is for comment.  
14 People are still here and you can ask questions, but  
15 we will close after this. Thank you.

16 MS. WOOD: I think that I am the  
17 beginning cover and the end cover of a book.

18 I am just going to continue so that  
19 you know what LaCrosse County did in their "be it  
20 resolved" part. But the two other issues.

21 Whereas a new transition line will  
22 result in increased electricity costs for all of the  
23 rate payers, loss of property value and tax base  
24 because of the impact on view and the dangers that  
25 high-voltage power lines inherently carry, and

I-021-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

Development

Comments/

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
and Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 30, 2012: Cannonville, Vanamir and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Maville, Wisconsin

Drain, Environ., Imp. 345 Tran Rochester - La Crosse  
t Project

I-021-001

I strongly urge you to pay special attention to any  
and all health concerns and personal testimonials to  
health issues. It is not right that hard working families  
be put at risk, so someone else can profit. There are other  
safer ways to produce power where it is needed.  
Every time my husband has cornered on energy  
repressure and asked if they would live under these  
obnoxious power towers, the answer has been "NO." We  
are saying "NO." Is anyone listening?

Name: David & Beverly Brady

Address: N6378 Cty. Rd. XX, Holmen, WI 54636

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~March~~ 30, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/WWP-CapX2C20-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.htm>

**I-022-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

1 section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section  
2 organic farming was not even identified at all. This  
3 line would compromise our right to farm in a matter  
4 for good business properties and economic practices.

5 We are also very concerned about  
6 the effect of any or all stray voltage from the  
7 proposed line on people and animals. If we are not  
8 careful in the future, stray voltage will put us  
9 humans as the No. 1 thing on the list of endangered  
10 species. Our family is working towards a century  
11 farm status, and we are very distressed about the  
12 proposal of this line to come through, and that on  
13 top of all our efforts lose the value that we are now  
14 trying to build.

15 We do not agree with the proposed  
16 line that is supposed to come through on 88. My  
17 husband and I would definitely vote no on this  
18 project. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: Gary?

20 **GARY BRONE:** It's all been  
21 covered. But I strongly feel the no action  
22 alternative is the way to go. Thank you.

23 MS. RICHTER: David Herzberg, and  
24 he will be followed by Kay Lockinstein.

25 DAVID HERZBERG: David Herzberg,

**I-022-001**

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

From: Mark Brone [<mailto:mbrone@bronesbikeshop.com>]  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:58 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Cc: Gary Brone  
Subject: CAPX2020 Do We Need It

Stephanie,

Gary had asked me to send you this.

Sincerely,

Mark Brone  
Brone's Bike Shop  
615 S. Main Street  
Fountain City, WI 54629  
608-687-8601  
507-458-9861 (cell)  
[www.bronesbikeshop.com](http://www.bronesbikeshop.com)

#### CAPX 2020 – DO WE NEED IT?

I-023-001

I recently went to the CAPX 2020 website to research what this controversial project is all about. I found that "it 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". The lines are being proposed because of projected increases in demand from North Dakota to Chicago and beyond. As a citizen of Buffalo County (where proposed lines from Alma, WI to La Crosse will run) I question if there is indeed increased demand. The population here has remained steady, with very little growth in housing and industry. We are mainly an agricultural region with tourism becoming more prevalent. The farmers and business people I have spoken with are very much opposed to the large "super highway" of 345K lines with towers 170 ft. tall crossing their land or running along the beautiful Mississippi River.

I-023-002

When addressing the question of where the energy that flows on the new lines will come from; the website states "due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature-it flows like water in a stream—it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity". It further notes that "Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30% from renewable sources by 2020". My concern here is where will the other 70% come from? I assume it will be coal generated from mines located in the Dakotas. Is this what we want environmentally, and why is it difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid?

The website addresses the issues of safety and health in a very general way. The very controversial issue of EMF (electric and magnetic fields) was addressed by this response—"EMF exposure from lines, which are high in the air and outside negotiated easements, is minimal. Decades of scientific and medical research have found no cause/effect evidence of threats to human health from EMF". I believe more research should be conducted regarding health concerns before anything is approved and adopted. General statements, such as those quoted, are not acceptable.

I recently e-mailed my concerns to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and would encourage others to speak out regarding this issue. Many of us do not want the beauty, health and economy of our area to be compromised by this project. The use of coal from the Dakotas to generate power for people East of Chicago, coming across huge power lines in our county is immoral and possibly illegal!

Gary Brone

Fountain City, WI 54629  
608-687-8600  
[gbrone@bronesbikeshop.com](mailto:gbrone@bronesbikeshop.com)

I-023-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-023-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

From: ajbruha@charter.net [mailto:ajbruha@charter.net]  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 9:55 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020

Stephanie Strength,

I-024-001

My name is Alan Bruha, and although I am a resident of Illinois, I am vehemently opposed to the construction of the high voltage power line, CapX2020, through western Wisconsin. I was born and raised in LaCrosse, WI, and own property near Holmen, WI, along one of the proposed power line routes. Opposition groups to CapX2020 have already made numerous arguments against this power line including loss of wildlife habitat, devaluation of property values, and possible health concerns. What prompted me to write this email is the proposal to have the USDA provide funding to Dairyland Power to help finance the project. How galling! My tax dollars funding a project that I don't want! If the electric utilities behind this project want to build it, let them finance it. It is the utilities who will profit. It has been projected that local electricity rates in the affected areas will also go up as a result of this project. Why do residents have to pay higher rates for a project that they do not want and will not benefit from. This transmission line will carry "dirty" coal generated electricity to points east of affected area. Please, Ms. Strength, don't allow the USDA to aid the CapX2020 project. The USDA should concern itself with insuring a healthy and cost effective supply of dairy products for our nation, not building power lines. Thank you for the time you took to read this email.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Alan J. Bruha  
218 Avalon  
Wood River, IL  
62095  
ajbruha@charter.net

## I-024-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

**I-025-006**

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail it to [redacted] 2012 at the address above by the end of the form. Fold the form in half so the address appears on the outside flap so it is not visible. Add a return address and return to [redacted] 2012.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strongh@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following link site:  
http://www.usda.gov/organic/nop/2012/02/13/2012-nop-forms-are-out-let-us-know.html

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).



1 thinking of things that could give us jobs locally  
2 here? And the people in Chicago, Milwaukee and  
3 Madison can have energy produced there and they can  
4 produce their own jobs there.

5 So I don't think we have to just think  
6 about ourselves. I think maybe in the same way,  
7 maybe when we are, though, thinking about ourselves,  
8 we are still thinking about other people and, you  
9 know, thinking about the future instead of working  
10 on things of the past.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Next is Randy  
13 Campbell, followed by Charles Hanson.

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:** My name is Randy  
15 Campbell. C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L. I live at N20578 Hovell  
16 Lane. One of the proposed routes is directly across  
17 from my home.

18 I see two, I just jotted down some  
19 notes as I was listening tonight. This isn't really  
20 a prepared speech, but I see two things here. The  
21 macro picture of whether or not this transition line  
22 is necessary or needed.

23 I don't envy David Oelkers' job of  
24 trying to figure out how to provide power in the next  
25 few decades because we are a selfish society that

## I-026-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

I-026-001

I-026-001

1 wants what we want. But I do think that the  
2 underlying issue here really hasn't been touched on,  
3 and really that is generation.

4 The federal government, through  
5 mandates, through squeezing coal power generation and  
6 making it almost a dirty word, dirty coal, dirty  
7 word, nuclear power and so forth, we have come to the  
8 point where we are looking out of our own country to  
9 find ways to produce power. So that is the macro  
10 view.

11 We have spent several dollars every  
12 year down in American Genoa that France recycles and  
13 uses several times. There is technology out there  
14 that would probably be available to make some of that  
15 stuff available in the U.S. and to make our needs in  
16 the U.S. much less.

I-026-002

17 I have a micro picture too. You all  
18 walked in the front door out there. The proposed  
19 transmission line would be within that distance from  
20 my front living room window. I have three disabled  
21 children, two with autism that we have adopted. I  
22 have a grave concern over what the potential problems  
23 could be from this. And while the studies could go  
24 either way, down any rabbit trail you want, the fact  
25 of the matter is that autism is up 800 percent over

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

## I-026-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-026-002

1 the last 20 years. And whatever underlying causes  
2 that there may be for that, I just hope that we err  
3 on the side of caution and the best information that  
4 we have to do that.

I-026-003

5 I also have concerns, like many of  
6 you said, about property value. That basically is  
7 my retirement. The health issues and whether or  
8 not that is the best route. I think you have a  
9 right-of-way already going down the river bottoms  
10 that is already supporting a transmission. I talked  
11 with a gentleman from Xcel that said that one of the  
12 DNR's biggest issues was birds. I think I have birds  
13 in my area, too, and I think they are just as  
14 important.

15 So I just hope that everybody takes  
16 a good strong look at this and factors in especially  
17 the needs of the children. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Charles.  
19 And then he will be followed by David and Beverly  
20 Brady. Did both of you want to speak?

21 MR. BRADY: No. Just David. David  
22 will speak.

23 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, fine. You  
24 will follow Charles then. Thank you.

25 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. My name is

### I-026-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

I-027-001

1 MS. COUGHLIN: Sure. My name is Mary  
2 Coughlin. C-O-U-G-H-L-I-N. I am here to also  
3 express an opinion for the no action option.

4 Yeah, I agree with a lot of things  
5 that people have said about health and the welfare  
6 of people around here, and the natural environment.  
7 I also wanted to say a couple of other things about,  
8 you know, sometimes it sounds like the people here  
9 are just out for themselves or that they are looking  
10 out for their own interests and don't care about  
11 other people getting electricity from further away,  
12 so we don't want to pay.

13 You know, I agree. I don't think we  
14 should have to pay. On the other hand, I think if we  
15 do build big lines like this, it isn't really in the  
16 best interest of people in Chicago and other places  
17 because I think we will be spending money on these  
18 big lines and then there won't be money left over for  
19 doing other things. And things change so much, as  
20 other people said, about, you know, how electricity  
21 can be made and distributed and we are going to tie  
22 ourself into something for 50 years that isn't really  
23 something that I think is -- is, you know, the type  
24 of technology. It is like old technology.

25 Why tie us into that when we can be

### I-027-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

I-027-001

1 thinking of things that could give us jobs locally  
2 here? And the people in Chicago, Milwaukee and  
3 Madison can have energy produced there and they can  
4 produce their own jobs there.

5 So I don't think we have to just think  
6 about ourselves. I think maybe in the same way,  
7 maybe when we are, though, thinking about ourselves,  
8 we are still thinking about other people and, you  
9 know, thinking about the future instead of working  
10 on things of the past.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Next is Randy  
13 Campbell, followed by Charles Hanson.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Randy  
15 Campbell. C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L. I live at N20578 Howell  
16 Lane. One of the proposed routes is directly across  
17 from my home.

18 I see two, I just jotted down some  
19 notes as I was listening tonight. This isn't really  
20 a prepared speech, but I see two things here. The  
21 macro picture of whether or not this transition line  
22 is necessary or needed.

23 I don't envy David Oelkers' job of  
24 trying to figure out how to provide power in the next  
25 few decades because we are a selfish society that

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Dear Ms. Strength—

<b>I-028-001</b>	In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
<b>I-028-002</b>	The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
<b>I-028-003</b>	The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
<b>I-028-004</b>	In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional) Signature Wendy Crews Date 2.3.12

Print Name WENDY CREWS

Address 29039 Pierre Hill Rd  
Nicoleta UT 84655

If you would like to take time with your spouse until ~~February~~ 2012 to live at home on the back of this form. Fold my form in thirds so the address appears on the outside.  
Please do not use credit card or cash! Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.fishbase.org/2012/02/USDA-Science-Group.html



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-029-001

If they need power east of us  
(Buffalo County) build the plant there.

\* Why is this about power companies getting  
their act. If we are by passed the  
power companies are left out

\* How much money is going to the bond  
business? Why?

\* This project is not needed

I-029-002

What about property values a local concern.

I-029-003

If the plant is built where the road is - the need  
for all of these lines ends

Optional: Name:

LARRY CYRUS

Address:

W152 50<sup>th</sup> RD Fountain City, WI

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13<sup>TH</sup>

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-029-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

**I-029-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

**I-029-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.





Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wamamingo and Pfairview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-030-001

*In my opinion, the route of the power line should stay west of Cannon Falls and not be routed through busy traffic areas. The power line will serve to deter any development near the intersection of highways 19 and 52 as well as the southern interchange area south of the Cannonball Truck Stop. Cannon Falls is suffering from unusually high property taxes related to the lack of development which affects the number of people who are willing to move to Cannon Falls. More people would lower the property taxes per capita. Hamy Avenue west of Cannon Falls would be the best possible route joining highway 52 well south of Cannon Falls. This route should be considered.*

Optional: Name: Jerry J. Dammer

Address: Cannon Falls Minnesota

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13~~, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-030-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

1 problem didn't even exist..

2 One of the scheduled routes would  
3 come within several blocks of my home. I would  
4 suspect, should it go through there, that the value  
5 of my land and my home there would be zero. In  
6 addition to this, my daughter will never be able to  
7 visit me at my home; never. The minute she steps out  
8 of the car, which is grounded, she will begin to have  
9 seizures. It is a fact that these power lines create  
10 problems for people, permanent health problems.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you,  
13 Joanne. So Rob Danielson, and then you will be  
14 followed by Steven Dorr.

15 MR. DANIELSON: Thank you for this  
16 opportunity to speak with you. I am with the town of  
17 Stark, the Committee on Energy Planning and --

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Talk louder.  
19 They would like to be able to hear you speak.

20 MR. DANIELSON: I am with the town  
21 of Stark, the Committee of Energy Planning and  
22 Information. We have been studying the Badger-Coulee  
23 proposal and the CAPX proposal as a committee to our  
24 local town government for the last 15 months.

25 I will provide you with a list of the

### I-031-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-031-001

I-031-001

1 information that is needed in this study, which we  
2 feel is missing, in a separate letter.

3 Basically, with the three minutes to  
4 talk here, I guess the simplest thing to say is that  
5 the draft study at this point is a study of only one  
6 business plan. That is to say that if we look at the  
7 CAPX 2020 line, we are supposed to see it as a  
8 critical piece. We are supposed to see it as an  
9 individual transmission proposal, but indeed it's  
10 more accurately a critical first piece of a 65 to  
11 200 billion dollar plan to expand the wholesale  
12 transmission system in the entire midwest. And that  
13 plan and that amount of expenditure is compared to  
14 what?

I-031-002

15 There are other alternative ways to  
16 conduct energy planning. There are viable energy  
17 business plans that would compete with high-voltage  
18 transmission. And until those plans are included in  
19 your study, it will not be complete and of value in  
20 terms of representing the public interest.

21 I would simply point to one section  
22 here in your alternative energy studies, on Page 314,  
23 "Conservation measures," I am quoting the report  
24 here, "Conservation measures will not reduce or  
25 obviate the need for the proposal to address

## I-031-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-031-002

1 community service reliability, service-wide growth,  
2 and outlet capacity, because the effects of  
3 conservation will not appreciably reduce the  
4 projected growth in peak electric demand."

5           There are a number of studies out,  
6 some of them conducted by the Energy Center of  
7 Wisconsin and in the Public Service Commission's  
8 draft statement that say indeed, we can address  
9 the demands in terms of use and in terms of peak.  
10 So we need to simply look at what those figures are  
11 realistically. We need to do a cost of benefit  
12 study that combines creatively things like doing the  
13 low-voltage upgrades, like mentioned in the room  
14 here. We don't put in a massively large system.  
15 And we create energy efficiency, which is what  
16 electric customers really want to see.

I-031-003

I-031-004

17           One, see their energy dollars create  
18 jobs in their communities and not export them to  
19 other states. No. 2, enable them to have energy  
20 self-sufficiency. We need a plan that enables people  
21 to not become increasingly dependent upon utility  
22 companies. We know we have the technology to do  
23 that. And also the values that are important to  
24 consumers.

25           So thank you.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

### I-031-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

### I-031-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).



1400 Independence Avenue S  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP | regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

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Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or initial your comments to **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/2012>

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-033-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-033-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-033-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-033-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature [Signature] Date 2-8-12

Print Name Lynda Davis

Address 325 W. 54th St

Verona, WI 54601

If you need this to file this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds as directed on the top left. Staple or glue closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Registration and logo use are free. Please do not use the following text: "USDA" or "Rural Development" without the USDA logo.

### I-033-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-033-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-033-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-033-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-034-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-034-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-034-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-034-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Debra D. Dilling Date 1/23/12  
Print Name Debra D. Dilling  
Address 5793 Norwegian Valley Rd.  
Daniel, WI 54631

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape closed, add a return address.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/IMP-CapX2020-Norwegian-Valley-Lac-Croix.html

### I-034-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-034-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-034-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-034-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.





Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-035-001

Due to the significant negative  
impacts on peoples' health, I urge  
you to take the no action  
approach on CapX2020. Also the

I-035-002

Mississippi Flyway would take  
a very large negative hit from  
the tall powerline.

Optional: Name:

J.M. Martin

Address: 114739 Wright Rd Galesville WI 54630

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~March 1, 2012~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-035-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-035-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I03-Birds.

1 Danielson.

2 MS. DeMASTER: My name is Joanne  
3 DeMaster. I live at N14739 Wright Road in the town  
4 of Trempealeau.

I-036-001

5 I have concerns about the power line  
6 on several levels. I don't believe it is necessary,  
7 which makes all of the other issues make it that much  
8 more inexcusable. I know I have had to sell a home  
9 because it was electrically polluted. I know for a  
10 fact that electrical power lines cause health  
11 problems for children, particularly clusters of  
12 children, like leukemia, epilepsy. It causes health  
13 problems with dairy herds and milk production and  
14 gestational issues.

I-036-002

I-036-003

I-036-004

15 I have a child, who is now an adult,  
16 whose health was permanently affected by electric  
17 power lines. She is the reason we sold the home.  
18 The instant she stepped foot into the electrical net  
19 of that home, she began having seizures. Her health  
20 is irreparably damaged. She will never become the  
21 person that she was supposed to be. We know, because  
22 we had an electrical engineer in our home. The  
23 problem was not in the home. It was with the  
24 electric utility. The electric utility was arrogant  
25 and disregarded our problem, insisting that the

#### I-036-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-036-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

#### I-036-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

#### I-036-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-036-004

1 problem didn't even exist..

2 One of the scheduled routes would  
3 come within several blocks of my home. I would  
4 suspect, should it go through there, that the value  
5 of my land and my home there would be zero. In  
6 addition to this, my daughter will never be able to  
7 visit me at my home; never. The minute she steps out  
8 of the car, which is grounded, she will begin to have  
9 seizures. It is a fact that these power lines create  
10 problems for people, permanent health problems.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you,  
13 Joanne. So Rob Danielson, and then you will be  
14 followed by Steven Dorr.

15 MR. DANIELSON: Thank you for this  
16 opportunity to speak with you. I am with the town of  
17 Stark, the Committee on Energy Planning and --

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Talk louder.  
19 They would like to be able to hear you speak.

20 MR. DANIELSON: I am with the town  
21 of Stark, the Committee of Energy Planning and  
22 Information. We have been studying the Badger-Coulee  
23 proposal and the CAPX proposal as a committee to our  
24 local town government for the last 15 months.

25 I will provide you with a list of the

1 I want to make one correction, not a  
2 correction so much as to amend what Tom Wilson said  
3 about it, which may affect some of your folks, for  
4 your time for comments before the PSC. And that is,  
5 if you weren't notified at first, and this affected a  
6 lot of people along Route 88 and around what they  
7 call the alternative option (phonetic), they were  
8 notified late by mistake, which was approximately 120  
9 people. You have until January 23rd to make comments  
10 to the PSC, so you should be welcome to do it.

11 I am going to submit some written  
12 statement on this later and I have made comments in  
13 Alma, so I will say no more.

14 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thanks.

15 MR. NYGAARD: Thanks everybody.

16 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

17 Philip will be followed by Linda Van Art (phonetic).

18 **MR. DeMASTER:** My name is Phil  
19 DeMaster. I live at N14739 Wright Road, Gaylesville.  
20 It is right over here on the prairie, in the town of  
21 Trempealeau.

22 I don't have any prepared statements.  
23 All I have to say is that this is a transmission  
24 line. I don't believe that it is intended for any  
25 local distribution and I think we are just being a

### I-037-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-037-001

I-037-001

1 pawn in the whole thing and I would urge you to take  
2 an alternative action and believe that this isn't  
3 needed.

4 Thank you.

5 MODERATOR RICHTER: Is Linda here?

6 MS. VAN ART: Yes.

7 MODERATOR RICHTER: Great. And Linda  
8 will be followed by -- I'm having difficulty with  
9 this name. Is it David Oelkers?

10 MR. OELKERS: Oelkers.

11 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. So  
12 you know you are next.

13 MS. VAN ART: My name is Linda  
14 Van Art. I am a retired nurse. I worked 37 years  
15 primarily as a nurse midwife and public health nurse.  
16 I first learned about electromagnetic fields while I  
17 was reading about CAPX 2020 about a half a year ago.  
18 Some of this, one of the other people have mentioned  
19 already.

20 "In 1979 in Denver, Colorado a  
21 doctor named Nancy Wertheimer was looking at unusual  
22 clusters of childhood cancer in Denver, Colorado.  
23 She found that children living in homes near 345  
24 kilovolt power lines were developing leukemia, brain  
25 cancer and lymphoma more than twice as often as



Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

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Alm and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-038-001

I-038-002

I-038-003

I-038-004

Due to the significant negative  
environmental impacts on tourism,  
property values, and health effects on  
people and especially the degradation  
of the Mississippi Flyway, I urge  
you to exercise the siting  
option for CapX2000!

Optional Name: Philip DeMaster

Address: 114739 Wright Rd. Galesville WI 54630

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~March 13~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strangth@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strangth@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UMP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-038-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

I-038-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-038-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-038-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I03-Birds.

From: Devick, Julie E. [mailto:devick.julie@mayo.edu]  
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 12:07 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: comments per RUS DEIS

January 12, 2012

Stephanie Strength, Project Manager  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2244  
Mailstop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

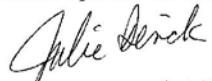
RE: CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV and 161kV Transmission Line  
USDA RUS Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Strength:

- I-039-001** | We live along the proposed CAPX2020 southern route in south eastern MN.
- The USDA should not help finance Dairyland power's part of the Capx2020 powerline and the proper option to take at this time is "No Action".
- I-039-002** | The latest Draft Environmental Impact Statement brings up several points that have been stressed over the lengthy comment period for this project.
- I-039-003** | 1) The power usage in the area is not following the numbers that Capx2020 is predicting for the future. Our usage is going down, especially in western Wisconsin. The statistics used were old and should be recalculated.
- I-039-004** | 2) Only the Alma crossing seems to be on the table at this point. We were told two routes needed to be considered.
- 3) The Implementation Guidance for eagles nests states that the crossings need to be two miles from Eagle use areas. The whole Mississippi river corridor from Alma to La Crosse is an Eagle Use area. The crossings over Lake Zumbro are also within Eagle Use areas.
- I-039-005** | 4) The actual EMF exposure is not calculated correctly by the applicants.
- I-039-006** | This powerline has been designed to transport the commodity of electrical power from coal generating plants in the west to consumers east of Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin for the profits of several Energy companies.
- We won't get any of the power off those 345kv lines, we don't need the power from those lines, but Capx2020 thinks we need to pay for them and put up with the health hazards and the resale value of our homes. Some folks may not be able to sell when a powerline looms right over their home.
- I-039-007** |

The best option at this point is "No Action."

Sincerely,

  
11884 14TH AVE NW  
ORONOCO MN 55960

#### **I-039-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

#### **I-039-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-039-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C10-Mississippi River Crossing.

#### **I-039-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

#### **I-039-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### **I-039-006**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### **I-039-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.



**I-040-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

**I-040-001**

1 get old enough to do so. But you do not even include  
2 my parents' farm on Highway 88. I oppose the Highway  
3 88 corridor.

4 MS. RICHTER: And this is Barbara.

5 **BARBARA DIETRICH:** My name is  
6 Barbara Dietrich, and I am nine years old. Section  
7 3.11.1 eviction and environment. This impact will  
8 occur only very close to transmission lines. This  
9 will be entirely Highway 88. This will be my barn,  
10 my house, my pets, my cows. This affects me, and I  
11 don't want this coming by my farm. I like my farm  
12 just as it is. Please don't change it.

13 MS. RICHTER: Okay. Now we have  
14 Ann Schaub followed by Gary Brone. And thank you  
15 all, we are staying very much on time. I think we  
16 will be done at 8:00 or a bit before. Thank you.

17 ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I  
18 would first like to start out by saying thank you for  
19 the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann  
20 Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband  
21 Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is  
22 S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there.  
23 We were very distressed to find out about the  
24 proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have  
25 numerous concerns about this line. On page 321,

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952-922-1955

**I-041-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

**I-041-001**

1 DEIS, there's this cute little chart talking about  
2 the river crossings and why they were eliminated.  
3 The chart reflects that all are affected. So check  
4 that out. I'll have more on this tomorrow. Stay  
5 tuned.

6 MS. RICHTER: Billy will be  
7 followed by Don, Jordon, Korlen and Barbara.

8 **BILLY DIETRICH:** My name is a  
9 Billy Dietrich, and I live on Highway 88. I am the  
10 mother of seven children. Their ages are four weeks  
11 to 13 years old. I also live on a registered dairy  
12 farm with 150 milking Holsteins. The USDA's web site  
13 states that rural development is committed to helping  
14 improve the economy and quality of life in all of  
15 rural America. How will these lines help my rural  
16 life?

17 Section 3.11 states a number of  
18 socioeconomics and environmental justice. You have  
19 not included public health and safety. I will have  
20 children getting on the bus on Highway 88 within 90  
21 feet of where this pole will be put. This is five  
22 days a week throughout the school year. As a mother,  
23 how can I not be concerned about my children's  
24 health?

25 MS. RICHTER: Okay.

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952-922-1955

I-042-001

1

**DONALD DIETRICH:** My name is

2

Donald Dietrich. I live at S228 State Highway 88.

3

I'm a father of seven and operate a 150-cow and

4

registered Holstein dairy farmer. I oppose the

5

Highway 88 corridor. My concerns are for the health

6

of my family and my dairy cattle. The Highway 88a

I-042-002

7

route would run directly across my property, 220 feet

8

from my dairy barn and 620 feet from my children's

9

bedrooms. Further on the west of my property would

10

be the option off Highway 88b route, curving back

11

within a quarter mile of my residence, and the

12

buildings on the opposite end of the 40-acre field,

13

which runs an Xcel distribution line.

I-042-003

14

We heard earlier tonight that

15

there's a greater risk of stray voltage between the

16

transmission line and a distribution line. I would

I-042-004

17

anticipate the valuation of my property, which is

I-042-005

18

considered prime farmland, which I have not found in

19

your study.

I-042-006

20

Page 318, section 3.10523 states,

21

"stray voltage is an essential concern primarily for

22

dairy cattle." I would hope that USDA involvement

23

for active family dairy farmers would be an advocate

I-042-007

24

for agriculture and not the utilities. I should not

25

have to put ground chains on tractors and connect

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#### I-042-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-042-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

#### I-042-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

#### I-042-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-042-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J03-Farmland.

#### I-042-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

#### I-042-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

I-042-007

1 ground rods to metal fences in order for my family to  
2 safely do daily farm operations, and also the effect  
3 on machinery and electronics.

I-042-008

I-042-009

4 Should this line come through, I  
5 extend an open invitation to anyone who supports this  
6 project coming through my property, the town of  
7 Waumandee and the county of Buffalo to publicly have  
8 themselves tied to a pillar for just one day, because  
9 it would be strapping my family and myself to it for  
10 a lifetime.

11 JORDON DIETRICK: I'm Jordon  
12 Dietrich and I'm one of the sons -- I'm a son from  
13 Billy. I'm in the eighth grade of Cochrane Fountain  
14 City School, and I would like to address page 256.  
15 Nowhere does it mention Highway 88 impact. This  
16 would include the dairy farm I live on and the  
17 beautiful woodlands that I hunt on. I oppose the  
18 Highway 88 corridor.

19 KORLEN DIETRICH: My name is  
20 Korlen Dietrich. I'm in fifth grade, and I live on a  
21 dairy farm that I hope to be in charge of when I  
22 graduate from Cochrane Fountain City School. I would  
23 like to address Page 321, 3.11.1.1 that specific  
24 locations of dairy farm where not identified. I am  
25 hoping that my right to farm will be there when I do

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#### I-042-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O08-Electronic Equipment.

#### I-042-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

**I-043-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

1 ground rods to metal fences in order for my family to  
2 safely do daily farm operations, and also the effect  
3 on machinery and electronics.

4 Should this line come through, I  
5 extend an open invitation to anyone who supports this  
6 project coming through my property, the town of  
7 Waumandee and the county of Buffalo to publicly have  
8 themselves tied to a pillar for just one day, because  
9 it would be strapping my family and myself to it for  
10 a lifetime.

11 **JORDON DIETRICH:** I'm Jordon

12 Dietrich and I'm one of the sons -- I'm a son from  
13 Billy. I'm in the eighth grade of Cochrane Fountain  
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18 Highway 88 corridor.

19 **KORLEN DIETRICH:** My name is

20 Korlen Dietrich. I'm in fifth grade, and I live on a  
21 dairy farm that I hope to be in charge of when I  
22 graduate from Cochrane Fountain City School. I would  
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24 locations of dairy farm where not identified. I am  
25 hoping that my right to farm will be there when I do

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I-043-001

**I-044-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

1 ground rods to metal fences in order for my family to  
2 safely do daily farm operations, and also the effect  
3 on machinery and electronics.

4 Should this line come through, I  
5 extend an open invitation to anyone who supports this  
6 project coming through my property, the town of  
7 Waumandee and the county of Buffalo to publicly have  
8 themselves tied to a pillar for just one day, because  
9 it would be strapping my family and myself to it for  
10 a lifetime.

11 JORDON DIETRICH: I'm Jordan  
12 Dietrich and I'm one of the sons -- I'm a son from  
13 Billy. I'm in the eighth grade of Cochrane Fountain  
14 City School, and I would like to address page 256.  
15 Nowhere does it mention Highway 88 impact. This  
16 would include the dairy farm I live on and the  
17 beautiful woodlands that I hunt on. I oppose the  
18 Highway 88 corridor.

19 **KORLEN DIETRICH:** My name is  
20 Korlen Dietrich. I'm in fifth grade, and I live on a  
21 dairy farm that I hope to be in charge of when I  
22 graduate from Cochrane Fountain City School. I would  
23 like to address Page 321, 3.11.1.1 that specific  
24 locations of dairy farm where not identified. I am  
25 hoping that my right to farm will be there when I do

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952-922-1955

**I-044-001**

I-044-001

1 get old enough to do so. But you do not even include  
2 my parents' farm on Highway 88. I oppose the Highway  
3 88 corridor.

4 MS. RICHTER: And this is Barbara.

5 BARBARA DIETRICH: My name is  
6 Barbara Dietrich, and I am nine years old. Section  
7 3.11.1 eviction and environment. This impact will  
8 occur only very close to transmission lines. This  
9 will be entirely Highway 88. This will be my barn,  
10 my house, my pets, my cows. This affects me, and I  
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13 MS. RICHTER: Okay. Now we have  
14 Ann Schaub followed by Gary Brone. And thank you  
15 all, we are staying very much on time. I think we  
16 will be done at 8:00 or a bit before. Thank you.

17 ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I  
18 would first like to start out by saying thank you for  
19 the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann  
20 Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband  
21 Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is  
22 S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there.  
23 We were very distressed to find out about the  
24 proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have  
25 numerous concerns about this line. On page 321,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955



1 the loss of cropland, the -- you know, the health  
2 dangers, and all the other issues, I'm very opposed  
3 and I'm not sure that the power line is necessary at  
4 all. But if it has to be that, it should go down  
5 existing corridors where the right-of-way -- either  
6 the Highway 35 or the overland route where they  
7 already have the right-of-ways.

8 CINDY KAZMIERSZAK: All I wanted  
9 to say is I'm against building a brand-new  
10 infrastructure of power lines when one already exists  
11 along Highway 35. I don't understand the economic  
12 reasoning behind wanting to build a brand-new route  
13 when we currently have power line routes. And I also  
14 want proof that there is a need for more power in the  
15 state of Wisconsin.

16 I, as a taxpayer and landowner in  
17 the proposed route, don't think this is going to  
18 benefit me in any way, and I'm going to lose property  
19 value. There's no benefit to me.

20 \* \* \* \*

21 IRENE DITTRICH: My main concern  
22 is the high voltage near my house. The health hazard  
23 problem. And I already have a high line near my  
24 house on my property. It will decrease the value of  
25 my house for resale. And it should follow the route

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952-922-1955

#### I-045-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-045-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-045-001

I-045-002

I-045-003

1 already established if they want to put this line  
2 through. And it's foolish to follow Highway 88.

I-045-004

3 And we were missed early on the  
4 mailing list. I don't know if that was accidentally  
5 or on purpose. And I think we should educate the  
6 public on conserving energy to preserve the  
7 environment for future generations. And other than  
8 that, I guess I don't have anything -- I think I've  
9 listed my concerns.

I-045-005

10 \* \* \* \*

11 (Whereupon a short recess was  
12 taken.)

13 MS. RICHTER: I would like to  
14 welcome you all to our meeting at this time. My name  
15 is Trudy Richter, and I've been asked to be the  
16 independent facilitator tonight. I had no prior  
17 background or information about tonight's meeting  
18 other than arriving here this evening to facilitate  
19 the comments. And we'll go over the rules of the  
20 evening, but first I would like to introduce  
21 Stephanie Strength with the USDA. She has a few  
22 opening pieces of information she would like to  
23 share, as do others here tonight before we get  
24 started on comments.

25 MS. STRENGTH: Hello, everybody.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-045-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

### I-045-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for  
Highway 88 Alternatives.

### I-045-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

1 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. And  
2 Stephen. I am sorry if I said your name wrong.  
3 Stephen will be followed by Carol Overland.

4 MR. DORR: My name is Stephen Dorr.  
5 S-T-E-P-H-E-N D-O-R-R.

6 I have had the pleasure to travel  
7 outside of the United States and I helped a retired  
8 man of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, followed him  
9 to Mexico, lived in a home without electricity for a  
10 period of time because there wasn't wires coming to  
11 him. And I also have a lot of in-laws from my wife's  
12 side of the family that they just recently, four or  
13 five of their homes just recently got electricity,  
14 after several years living without electricity  
15 because they couldn't afford to bring the power to  
16 their homes. They make like six pesos a week,  
17 which is like less than \$50 a week, to get in Mexico  
18 their utilities and the food, with the exception of  
19 vegetables, which is the same, if not more expensive  
20 than the United States.

21 We take it for granted that we have  
22 power here and take it for granted that we have  
23 natural gas and power to use freely. Look around  
24 here now. We are warm. We have light. We take it  
25 for granted. Obviously, someone is going to have to

# I-046-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B01-General/Other.

I-046-001

I-046-001

1 invest in the capital.

2 I don't have the money to bring  
3 petroleum products from Oklahoma, Texas, the Dakotas,  
4 to Minnesota and Wisconsin by myself, so someone is  
5 going to have to invest their money to put the trucks  
6 and get the products over here. I have been working  
7 hard trying to get a job out here in the Midwest,  
8 exploring all of my options, and I benefitted from  
9 the fact that Minnesota and Wisconsin need petroleum  
10 products. And we demand that our neighboring states  
11 give us gas, diesel and natural gas, but yet we don't  
12 yet have it here. Interestingly enough, they just  
13 recently discovered that we have a resource here  
14 in Minnesota, to get some land that they need;  
15 petroleum, natural gas. We get very lately one of  
16 the counties, many of the counties in Minnesota, and  
17 also counties in Wisconsin have become quite selfish  
18 in sharing that resource, and of course, ultimately  
19 what they have done is destroyed economic security  
20 in the United States because our Chinese counterpart  
21 very quickly supplied the need to the Dakotas with  
22 their resin products.

23 I'm hoping that if we need this, that  
24 people will go ahead and allow Illinois -- I don't  
25 know if we need this, I will say that right upfront.

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I-046-001

1 I just started gathering data myself. But at the  
2 same time, I know that we need energy. And if,  
3 indeed, Illinois and Ohio need energy, that they  
4 don't have the ability to create it locally, if some  
5 of us want to travel there, we will take it for  
6 granted that there is going to be electricity when we  
7 get there. We will go get in our car or get in a  
8 airplane and fly to Chicago, and we will probably  
9 take it for granted that we have all of the power  
10 that we want when we get there.

11 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

12 MR. DORR: Thank you.

13 MODERATOR RICHTER: Carol. And Carol  
14 will be followed by Joan Kent.

15 MS. OVERLAND: Carol Overland,  
16 O-V-E-R-L-A-N-D, representing "No CAPX 2020." And  
17 you can get more information at [www.nocapx2020.info](http://www.nocapx2020.info).

18 There are a lot of you here. How  
19 many are here because you got a phone call or read it  
20 on the Internet? Can I have a show of hands? How  
21 many of you are here because you read about it in the  
22 newspaper? And how many of you are here because --  
23 we did the Internet already. Never mind.

24 It is good to see so many of you  
25 here. And I wanted to address the EMF issues which I

From: Peter Drogemuller [mailto:vandroge5@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 7:37 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: CAPX2020-HWY 88 ROUTE

I-047-001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

THIS IS IN REGARDS TO THE CAPX2020 PROJECT

I feel that this project is not needed at this time so I wish to request that no action be taken. I also feel that both HWY 88 Routes are inappropriate. WI statue 1.12 (6) siting of electric transmission facilities should follow existing corridors is the # 1 priority. There are currently several transmission lines along the Q1 ORIGINAL ROUTE even though some of this route is in the on scenic river road easement. I also feel the HWY 88 option would have a dramatic effect on the farmers who live along this route. Once again I request a vote of NO Action.

I-047-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

From: Denny Dunker [mailto:denny.dunker.b4yc@statefarm.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 10:41 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Cc: Denny Dunker  
Subject: Cap x route 2020

I-048-001

Stephanie. My name is Dennis Dunker. My wife Jan and I live at 5382 Spruce Lane Cannon Falls, Mn. I am writing to express our opposition to the alternative route 1p-003 Map8. 1-11. I have carefully followed the proposed route and I find as it turns East as shown on map { # 5&6 } that it would directly pass directly over our home and other high valued residential property.. As it continues East back to highway 52, It comes back into the City of Cannon Falls about mile North of what would be the South city limit line. Then as it would turn and continues South toward Rochester, It would pass in front of a number of commercial businesses and near the location of the new hospital. It would seem to me that the hospital may not be happy with that.

My suggestion is that the Harry Ave. line be extended an additional 2 miles before it turns East back to highway 52. I have lived in this area for over 40 years and am very familiar with the lay of the land. A line East at that point would be virtually free of structures of any kind. Please put this in the hands of those who could review my suggestions. I would be most happy to visit with you if I could add to this info. Dennis Dunker Cell 507-269-7639

Dennis Dunker, State Farm Agent  
Cannon Falls, MN  
507-263-3622  
800-657-3222  
[find us on Facebook](#)

## I-048-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.



I-049-001

1 Utility --  
2 MS. RICHTER: I want to thank you  
3 all for your cooperation with the time limit.  
4 DAVE EBBE: I'm Dave Ebbe. I live  
5 in Mondovi, but I'm a Buffalo County supervisor,  
6 district six. I'm against the Highway 88 corridor  
7 alternative, and I'm glad they explained MISO. They  
8 have 229 projects, and of those projects they will  
9 produce 4,511 megawatts of coal, iron energy; 1,805  
10 kilowatts of gas, fuel generation; and 1,008  
11 kilowatts of wind power. I think that's a little  
12 high for coal. In addition to the problem of using  
13 the coal, more than others, is applicants that have  
14 no particular right to transfer renewable energy  
15 because they have contracted with a renewable energy  
16 contract or plan to construct a utility owned  
17 renewable energy project. This means that they are  
18 going to -- they are going to stand in the way of  
19 renewable projects.  
20 And for Dairyland -- I'm kind of  
21 skipping around here because I'm trying to cover new  
22 stuff. For Dairyland, whatever their investment is,  
23 it'll be borne by -- entirely by the retail  
24 customers. So I question the ideas behind spending  
25 all this money when they should be spending it on

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#### I-049-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-049-001

1 things like French Island, which is an Xcel company,  
2 and it works. You take our refuse from our  
3 throw-away society and turn it into electricity. And  
4 we need to concentrate more on those types of things.  
5 Alternatives.

6 The Cap Vision Plan study was  
7 prepared from 2004 to 2005. We need to update it a  
8 little bit. We need to emphasize renewables and  
9 really spend USDA money for things of that nature. I  
10 don't need any more time. Thank you.

11 MS. RICHTER: Susan will be  
12 followed by Joan Schnable?

13 SUSAN SUHR: My name is Susan  
14 Suhr, S-U-H-R. I live at State Highway 88 where I'm  
15 on a century farm. I'm opposed to the -- CapX, the  
16 no action alternative is what we want to impose. Our  
17 generation has been operational in our dairy farm  
18 since 1973. The meetings were not set for the farmer  
19 who milks cows. I'm here representing my family. We  
20 have had profound changes over the last 39 years.  
21 We've been able to remain in operation even during  
22 the 1990s when Wisconsin lost almost 40 percent of  
23 our dairy farmers.

24 We feel that it is USDA's  
25 responsibility to support our local agriculture and

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952-922-1955

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

T-93

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

If you would like to take this form with you, please email it to [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov). 2012-03-09 10:00 AM  
on the back of this form. Fold your form in thirds so you display a portion on the outside.  
steps or leave folded, and a stamp and mail.

To email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.wildlifeandnaturalresources.com>

## I-052-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

13 February 2012

To: Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

From: Lori M. Endres

Subject: Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission Improvement Project

Dear Stephanie A. Strength,

I-052-001

My name is Lori M. Endres. I attended the public meeting held in Cannon Falls, MN the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for the CapX2020 proposed possible routes from Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse and would like to submit this written statement for the USDA DEIS. I have outlined my comments, concerns, issues, and impacts of the three proposed routes below-- specifically from the Hampton substation to a point approximately 1.4 miles south of the intersection of US Highway 52 and 240th Street.

The routes will be identified as follows and can be referenced in the attached Google maps (provided by Grant Stevenson of Xcel Energy):

- Modified Preferred Route (Red Line) 4.16 miles
- Alternate Route (Purple Line) 4.85 miles
- 1P-008 Scoping Route (Green Line) 4.33 miles

For further reference, I included a cost estimate from Grant Stevenson, Senior Project Manager from Xcel Energy. The Modified Preferred Route and the 1P-008 Scoping Route cost are very close in price. The Alternate Route is the most expensive, approximately \$500,000 higher than the other two routes.

I have been very involved with this project from the beginning. I've attended most of the Public Hearing, Scoping Meeting, and sat in the audience at the Task Force Meetings in Cannon Falls, Minnesota for the CapX2020 Proposed Possible Routes from Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse.

### Modified Preferred Route (Red Line)

On June 16, 2011 at the public hearing I found out that the Applicant has a Modified Alignment to the Preferred Route on the west side of Hwy 52 and I am in full support of this new alignment.

This Route would start at the Substation that is located north of Hampton on the west side of Hwy 52 and follow the right of way on the west side of the Hwy until south of the County Rd 47 overpass. (Reference the County Road 47-Ramps and Loops Construction 2012 Map) The Modified Preferred Route then crosses Hwy 52 at an angle and continue behind the businesses east of Hwy 52 in Hampton. This is the correct route because it causes far less harm. I have outlined major advantages to the Modified Preferred Route below.

**I-052-001**

- The Modified Preferred Route, by staying on the west side as it leaves the substation would avoid two central pivot irrigation systems in prime farmland that are located along the east side of Hwy 52 and north of 222nd street.
- The Modified Preferred Route, by staying on the west side of Hwy 52 as it jogs around County Road 47 controlled access loops and ramps will avoid the four homes located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection, including my home. This route impacts the least amount of homes.
- The Modified Preferred Route would then cross over Hwy 52 at an angle and go behind the current businesses and would ultimately not affect their day-to-day commerce.
- The area east and south of the current businesses is zoned Industrial. The Public Utility Commission and the Capx2020/Xcel groups agree this type of power line is totally compatible with Industrial and Commercial Zoning. The area north of the current businesses is farmland. Residentially zoned areas in the City of Hampton are not affected by the Preferred Route. All of these homes are set west of Hwy 52 about ¼ mile between County Road 47 and the north end of the businesses.
- In the Modified Alignment to the Preferred Route the power poles would impact the agriculture/farmland the least by using the existing right-of-way along Hwy 52.
- The Modified Alignment to the Preferred Route limits the impacts on homes, wooded wetlands, irrigation systems, farming land, natural resources, and karsts features. Please reference the attached map from CapX showing the intersection of Hwy 52 and County Road 47 with the clouded area identifying the four homes and the AECOM Irrigation System map identifying the central pivot irrigation systems, wooded wetlands, and karsts features.
- The Modified Preferred Route is the least expensive, most direct, follows property lines and right of ways-- all of which were in the guide lines when the Public Utility Commission and the Capx2020/Xcel groups decided on the possible routes.

Alternate Route (Purple Line)

The Alternate Route is the cross country route. It would leave the Substation north of Hampton and head east across Hwy 52. For many reasons, this doesn't seem to be a logical route. I have outlined some of these concerns below:

The Alternate Route would continue east and split property owned by Endres Farms Partnership and conflict with their pivot-style irrigation systems. Two systems are shown in the DEIS and I have submitted comments that should reflect two additional systems in the EIS. This route would very negatively impact their property, property value, income and irrigation systems. (Reference section 33 on the attached AECOM Irrigation System map)

My parents, Melvin and Mary Lou Endres, live at 22075 Northfield Boulevard, northeast of Hampton on County Road 47. They have owned and farmed this land for over 50 years. They are now are elderly, 75 and 81 years old respectively and still depend on their prime agricultural land, as necessary rental income during their retirement.

**I-052-001**

- The Alternate Route when it turns south would essentially split their property. The Alternate route would negatively impact and divide two quarter sections of land. (Reference the NE ¼ of section 4 and NW ¼ of section 3 on the attached AECOM Irrigation System map)
- The quarter sections currently have two overlapping, pivot style irrigation systems on them. The two irrigation pivots overlap more than typical because County Road 47 runs at a northeast direction. The two systems currently successfully irrigate approximately 300 acres of prime agricultural land. With this proposed alternate route, the irrigation systems would be relatively useless, and without water, the farmland becomes far from prime. This route would very negatively impact my parents property, property value, income and irrigation systems.
  - The Alternative Route would impact more agricultural land than the Modified Preferred Route or the, I was told at the Public Utility Commission and the Capx2020/Xcel groups tried to avoid irrigation systems and splitting property during the process of determining a route.
- The Alternate Route is longer and would require more poles and line. As a result, the Alternate Route would be the most costly choice of the three.
- The Alternative Route would impact more agricultural land than the Modified Preferred Route or the 1P-008 Scoping Route. - I was told at the I was told at the Public Utility Commission and the Capx2020/Xcel groups tried to avoid splitting property and tried to follow property lines when routes were determined.
  - The Alternative Route does not follow any right of way. I was told by the Public Utility Commission and the Capx2020/Xcel groups they tried use established right of ways when determined the routes.
- Note: As the Alternate Route continues south of my parent's property there may be additional property splits.

1P-008 Scoping Route (Green Line) and Request to Narrow the Route

At the Task Force Meetings the 1P-008 Scoping Route was added. As the Modified Route crosses Hwy 52 it would then change to the 1P-008 Scoping Route and continue east to the east city limit line instead of along Hwy 52. Once it reached the east city limit line it would then continue south until it crossed Hwy 50 and then jog back to Hwy 52.

- The 1P-008 Route would split 4 different properties on the east side of Hwy 52 and would not follow any right of ways.
- The 1P-008 Route would impact more agricultural land than the Modified Preferred Route.

I-052-001

I live at 22745 Northfield Blvd. just northeast of Hampton on County Road 47. My property is in Hampton Township, north of the city of Hampton. The west side of my property aligns with the city of Hampton's east city limit line.

I am asking for the route to be narrowed on the northeast side of the County Road 47- 2012 Interchange to insure and preserve any possible conflict with the 4 homes in this area including my home. The west side of my property has one of the few untouched and undeveloped wooded wetlands in Dakota County. The area has rare and unique natural resources including natural springs, ground water, and regions of karsts formations. The karsts formations are especially rare because it is extremely unusual for them to exist as far north as Dakota County. (Reference the 4 homes, Wooded Wetland and Karst Feature on the attached AECOM Irrigation System map)

To summarize my advocacy of the Modified Preferred Route versus the alternate routes, I feel it is the most responsible choice based on facts.

- The Modified Preferred Route is within the established right of way of Highway 52 except for the small portion that would jog around the current businesses.
- The Modified Alignment to the Preferred Route would impact property owners the least. It is the most direct, and least expensive of any routes.
- The city of Hampton's homes are primarily located ¼ mile west of Highway 52, and wouldn't be affected by the Modified Preferred Route.
- Land within the city limits on the east side of 52 is zoned industrial, agricultural and relatively undeveloped.
- The Modified Preferred Route has no irrigation systems on any of the agricultural land along this portion of the Route.
- Zero impact to natural wetlands, karsts formations, woodlands, wildlife, and ground water.

I hope this correspondence adequately expresses by opinion and statement of the facts surrounding the various routes and clearly points in favor of the Modified Preferred Route for this project.

Sincerely,

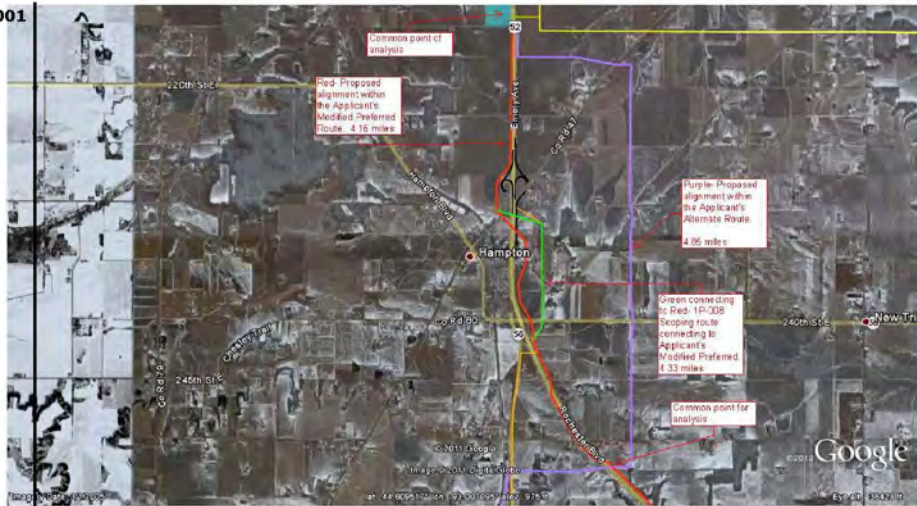
Lori M. Endres  
22745 Northfield Blvd.  
Hampton, MN 55031

Home: [lme\\_27@netzero.net](mailto:lme_27@netzero.net)  
Work: [lmendres@pcj.com](mailto:lmendres@pcj.com)

Cell: 612.328.1134  
Home: 651.437.6825



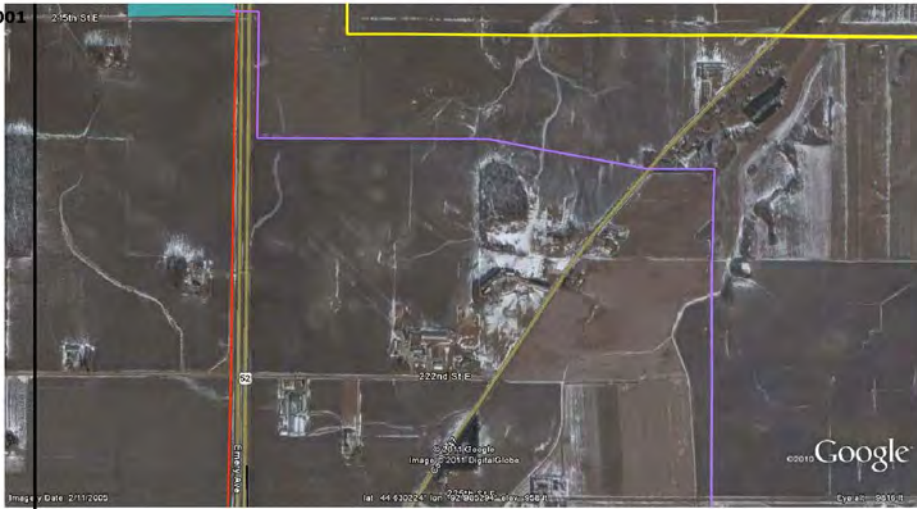
I-052-001



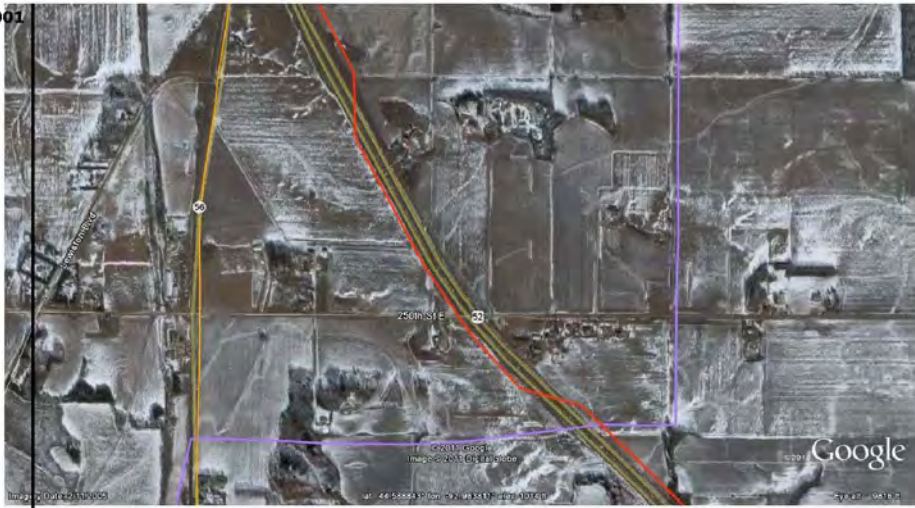
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I-052-001



I-052-001



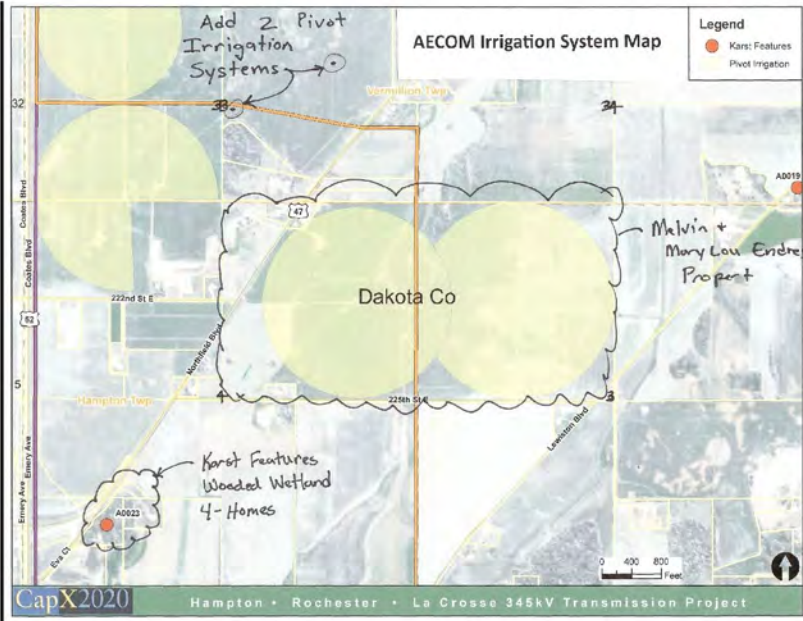
I-052-003







I-052-001



## I-053-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

To whom it may concern we are  
against this big new electric Cap X  
line being built here. Because we  
have in the past experienced much stray  
voltage due to electric power

that did cause us alot of income  
loss and all kinds of stress.

Our health is bad enough from all of this.  
Adding this big new line could make it  
worse.

Mr & Mrs Deane Engstrand



Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wausau and Plainville, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville, Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-054-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-054-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-054-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-054-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- I-054-005** | Additional comments:  
*Considerations should be given to "homeland" security issues. Large massed powerlines are more vulnerable to effective sabotage than smaller "local" lines*

(Optional)  
Signature M.J. Esterline Date 2/12/12  
Print Name M.J. Esterline  
Address 18721 Co. Highway A  
Norwalk, WI 54648

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/USDA-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

#### I-054-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-054-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-054-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### I-054-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

#### I-054-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

1 need is demonstrated, what I did not see was an  
2 examination of both local renewable and conservation  
3 strategies rather than use of a high voltage power  
4 line. As an example, the Wisconsin Public Service  
5 noted that there was a generating plant at French  
6 Island which could meet demands in perhaps five days  
7 in the summer in which a need might be demonstrated  
8 rather than building a high voltage power line. It  
9 does not make sense to build a power line when a  
10 peaking plant certainly could meet that need.

11 Also, I want to state that looking  
12 at not only other methods such as renewables, local  
13 generation, but also efficiencies which would create  
14 local jobs. So for all of those reasons, I would  
15 support the no action option. I would also support a  
16 cost benefit analysis of taking that same moneys,  
17 which would be used to build a power line and look at  
18 alternatives such as efficiencies, renewables, and  
19 local --

20 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Jeff  
21 Falk will be followed by David Fetting.

22 JEFF FALK: I'm Jeff Falk,  
23 F-A-L-K. I live in Fountain City. If you look at the  
24 sheet here, it starts out with purpose and need. I  
25 want to talk about purpose and need. Because the

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952-922-1955

### I-055-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-055-001

I-055-001

1 700-pound gorilla in the room -- and I don't mean to  
2 degrade gorillas -- is MISO. MISO is the Midwest  
3 Independent Supplier Organization which controls the  
4 grid for the Midwest.

5 Okay. What's need? Well, there's  
6 local need. What does Xcel and Dairyland say about  
7 local need? How did they determine that. Well, I'll  
8 quote from the Appendix E summary report of the  
9 application for the Wisconsin certificate. It says,  
10 "to create a forecast to the year 2020, planning  
11 engineers apply a growth rate based on the historical  
12 peak growth rates of the distribution cooperatives."  
13 Xcel says the same things.

14 What does MISO -- and you might  
15 find it odd that I'm referring to MISO here when I  
16 think that they are a terrible entity. Well  
17 sometimes they do some things good. What do they say  
18 about this way of forecasting? They say a time  
19 trend, a time trend forecast is an extrapolation of a  
20 historical trend. This method was widely used by  
21 utilities until its drawbacks became evident in the  
22 1970s. Both Dairyland and Xcel are using an outdated  
23 forecast method for local need.

24 Okay. The local need is  
25 unacceptable. What does that leave us with? Well,

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952-922-1955

I-055-001

1 regional need. Who determines regional need? Who  
2 determines what the region is? Well MISO does. Does  
3 the Rural Utility Service question what MISO says?  
4 If MISO says it, how can you question it? Who's the  
5 expert? Who's not the expert? What kind of  
6 information does MISO supply to back up their  
7 forecast. If they have a need in Ohio, does that  
8 become a regional necessity for western Wisconsin or  
9 eastern Minnesota? How do you determine that? How  
10 do you figure those interests in?

11 Well, MISO also says that they  
12 have problems with congestion. What does congestion  
13 mean in MISO's terminology? It means some generating  
14 plant has excess capacity, and they can't get rid of  
15 it. So they are congested. Well, that means that  
16 Xcel has built a plant -- overbuilt the plant because  
17 they have excess capacity, and therefore Minnesota  
18 has congestion. So we are supposed to build a high  
19 voltage power line to come through and eliminate that  
20 kind of congestion? Because Xcel made a mistake in  
21 its forecast, we have to suffer the consequences.

22 My goodness, I said that all and I  
23 haven't hit the time limit yet. Where do I go from  
24 here? Again, MISO, MISO is a problem. The Rural  
25 Utility Service, Wisconsin PEC, the Minnesota Public

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

I-055-001

1 Utility --  
2 MS. RICHTER: I want to thank you  
3 all for your cooperation with the time limit.  
4 DAVE EBBE: I'm Dave Ebbe. I live  
5 in Mondovi, but I'm a Buffalo County supervisor,  
6 district six. I'm against the Highway 88 corridor  
7 alternative, and I'm glad they explained MISO. They  
8 have 229 projects, and of those projects they will  
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15 because they have contracted with a renewable energy  
16 contract or plan to construct a utility owned  
17 renewable energy project. This means that they are  
18 going to -- they are going to stand in the way of  
19 renewable projects.  
20 And for Dairyland -- I'm kind of  
21 skipping around here because I'm trying to cover new  
22 stuff. For Dairyland, whatever their investment is,  
23 it'll be borne by -- entirely by the retail  
24 customers. So I question the ideas behind spending  
25 all this money when they should be spending it on

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From: [sfecarotta@hidglobal.com](mailto:sfecarotta@hidglobal.com) [mailto:[sfecarotta@hidglobal.com](mailto:sfecarotta@hidglobal.com)]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 2:01 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC

Subject: NO to ATC lines

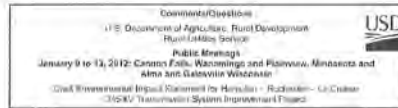
Please count this as one NO vote towards the ATC line going through the Driftless Region of Wisconsin.

Thank you ,

Sue Fecarotta

S4292 N Elk Run Rd

Viola WI 54664



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-056-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-056-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-056-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-056-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Still time to bring to the address shown on the inside. Add a return address and stamp and mail.

Forward your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/office/002/CapX2020/ResponseScholar2ndForm.doc>

### I-056-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-056-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-056-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-056-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

1       they are, those documents and as well as the statute,  
2       are important to us, and should be to everyone.

3               \* \* \* \*

I-057-001

4               **DAVID W. FETTING:** My name is  
5       David W. Fetting, State Highway 88, Cochrane,  
6       Wisconsin. And this is a reply to the USDA on 88A or  
7       88B corridor. Should I refer to page numbers and all  
8       that stuff? Page 8, HRL 345kV draft EIS, executive  
9       summary 12.8.11. Q1 line needs to be updated anyway.  
10      If this 345 line does need to be built, do it on the  
11      existing right-of-ways, not disturbing the  
12      agriculture, the conservancies, and the air strips  
13      that are currently in practice in Waumandee Valley.

I-057-002

14              Page 47, 1.1.2. Purpose of and  
15      the need. From the information of the public service  
16      docket 5-CE-136, volume one, pages 16 and 18, it is  
17      questionable if the electric demand would be large  
18      enough to justify this line. The current generation  
19      resources to meet the needs of the area appear  
20      adequate.

I-057-003

21              Page 298, 3.83. Airports and  
22      airplanes conflicts. My neighbor Fred Gleitor has an  
23      airport. This line will not give him the proper  
24      clearances for takeoff and landings.

I-057-005

25              Page 313, 3.10.1.1. EMF.

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#### I-057-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

#### I-057-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-057-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C03-Use of Existing Generation and Transmission Lines.

#### I-057-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

#### I-057-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.



I-057-005

1 Electric fields are easily shielded by solid objects,  
2 but magnetic fields are not. If a person can feel  
3 the static electricity, example, hair standing up on  
4 your head or arms, the current is strong enough to  
5 affect the electric relays on equipment from the  
6 1980s to about 2005. Newer equipment have safeguards  
7 on them. Hence driving under or along those lines  
8 could cause your equipment or tractor or vehicle to  
9 malfunction. I drive mules in the field and on the

I-057-006

10 road along this proposed line. Can you assure me  
11 that they will not be affected by the presence of EMF  
12 and cause behavioral issues while being that close to  
13 these lines?

I-057-007

14 Page 320. 3.11.2.1 environmental  
15 consequences. Property values and tourism. There  
16 will be a pole right across from my house, I think  
17 within 150 feet. This will potentially reduce the  
18 value of my property plus greatly affect the scenery

I-057-008

19 from my house window. We see many car clubs,  
20 motorcycle clubs, bicycle groups, horse riding, and  
21 driving clubs take a slow ride up and down 88 to  
22 enjoy this beautiful Waumandee Valley. This line  
23 will certainly change that scene. Thank you. David  
24 W. Fetting, S2317 State Road 88, Cochrane, Wisconsin  
25 54622. Telephone 608-626-2931.

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### I-057-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O10-Animal Health.

### I-057-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

### I-057-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

1 Crosse to Madison. They are talking about increasing  
2 the transfer capacity of 3,000 to 5,000. All of that  
3 would not be typically in this particular section,  
4 but there aren't many options going over to  
5 Wisconsin. And so when you are talking about  
6 increasing the transfer capacity by that many MVA,  
7 you are going to have a lot more amps running through  
8 it than that. This is absurd. It's ten times lower  
9 than it should be, and probably 20 times. That  
10 doesn't cut it.

11 So I want to see that corrected,  
12 independently verified, not what they say, but what  
13 the range could potentially be. It's in the record  
14 that the potential for MVA is 2015, and do you  
15 believe that? And you've got 400, and it should  
16 show that, a range of EMF levels. Thank you.

17 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Now,  
18 those are the only two that indicated tonight that  
19 they would like to speak, but would anyone else like  
20 to come forward to make some remarks or provide us  
21 with comments associated with the environmental  
22 impact statement draft? Please. Again, the  
23 three-minutes still applies, but then we'll have more  
24 time afterwards.

25 EDWARD FLIES: My name is Edward

I-058-001

1 Flies, F-L-I-E-S, I was wondering once the judge  
2 decides, how the landowner will be notified? Will it  
3 be in the paper?

4 STEPHANIE STRENGTH: What's the  
5 timetable on that, Grant? Do you know the  
6 information of how the state applies? The decision,  
7 whether it's newspapers or whether landowners receive  
8 notice?

9 GRANT STEVENSON: I know for a  
10 fact we will post it on our website, CapX2020.com.  
11 And there are certain requirements of information we  
12 have to give to landowners when we first contact  
13 them. But I don't recall that they make any  
14 mailings. I don't believe the state makes any  
15 mailings.

16 EDWARD FLIES: I was wondering if  
17 we were going to get notified in the local paper?  
18 Because this meeting -- I don't know what paper you  
19 put it in, because nobody knew about it. I found out  
20 today, and my neighbors didn't know about it. So  
21 that's why there's nobody here. So evidently there  
22 wasn't such advertising. You have to do a better job  
23 next time.

I-058-002

24 And another question is, I see  
25 it's a 345kV, is that the only one, or in the future

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### I-058-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and  
Meetings.

### I-058-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A08-Future Addition of Circuits.

I-058-002

1 are they going to hang more lines on these towers to  
2 get more power?

3 GRANT STEVENSON: I would have to  
4 defer to Stephanie.

5 MS. STRENGTH: That's something we  
6 should probably question and answer more one on one.  
7 The purpose of this part is to receive comments, and  
8 I can answer questions that are regarding process.

9 EDWARD FLIES: Okay.

10 MS. STRENGTH: But when it's  
11 actually in a format like this, it's not the correct  
12 format. But as Grant mentioned, he will be available  
13 after we finish with the direct comment. If you  
14 would like to make a comment about that or anything  
15 else, we can definitely --

16 EDWARD FLIES: No, that's all I  
17 have. Thank you.

18 MS. RICHTER: Is there anyone  
19 else, whether you signed in or not, that would like  
20 to make a comment tonight? We'll come back around.

21 CAROL OVERLAND: I would like to.

22 MS. RICHTER: Well, I think I  
23 stopped Suzanne -- I think when we stopped the three  
24 minutes, you weren't finished, and we'll come back to  
25 them. But right now we're going to work with the

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Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wadena, and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alena and Galeville, Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-059-001

I am asking that you not grant Dairyland's  
request for a loan to cover its portion of the log X  
line.

There is no substantial evidence that this line  
is now or in the foreseeable future necessary. The  
only justification for planning it through Western  
Wisconsin is that it has already been started in  
Minnesota and re-routed from Rochester to Alena.

I-059-002

It's dangerous, unwanted + unnecessary, and  
there is no safe route for it, least of all through  
Frenchville and its surrounding farms.

Give the money back to the taxpayers or help pay off  
our national debt.

Optional: Name: THOMAS E. FORGER

Address: Wj --- ELSTED COULFERN, ETRICK, WI, 54627-7817

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~February 13~~, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or clip it closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to: [Stephen@strengthen.usda.gov](mailto:Stephen@strengthen.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-Cap2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-059-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-059-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

From: alliancepropman@gmail.com [mailto:alliancepropman@gmail.com] On Behalf Of john  
 Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 8:51 AM  
 To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
 Subject: badger coulee power line

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have attached reasons why I oppose the badger coulee power line.

Please read my attachment and reply accordingly.

Yours truly,

--  
 John Fox  
 Westby, WI

Dear Ms. Strength—

**I-060-001**

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-060-002**

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-060-003**

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

**I-060-004**

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

#### **I-060-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-060-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### **I-060-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### **I-060-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

**I-061-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

**I-061-001**

1 voltage, avoid proximity of permanent stationary  
2 sources such as power lines or transformers. I mean,  
3 I think that should say enough. We both oppose it.  
4 I suppose that's all I can say.

5 MS. RICHTER: That was Machele  
6 Plank, M-A-C-H-E-L-L-E, Plank and Travis Plank, 52097  
7 South, Road 88, Alma. Okay. John is here, and then  
8 could I clarify, does Preston want to speak or not?  
9 You will. Okay. So first we have John, is it Frie?

10 **JOHN FRIE:** I spoke in the past to  
11 both Stephanie and Tom regarding this, especially  
12 Highway 88 option. And we can talk for hours on  
13 this, but I'll keep it to three minutes. My name is  
14 John Frie, F-R-I-E. I live on S2699 State Road 88.  
15 After reviewing the EIS draft in detail, one needs to  
16 question why on earth the USDA would want to be part  
17 of any electric transmission line given the past  
18 history of stray voltage issues among our farming  
19 community. With all the past stray voltage issues  
20 the USDA has been informed of, from particularly the  
21 dairy industry, one would think a better investment  
22 for RUS and USDA could make it clean up existing  
23 distribution services serving the farming segments.

24 This 345,000 volt transmission  
25 line using the Highway 88 route running clearly

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I-061-002

1 through the prime agriculture and dairy setting would  
2 do nothing to make the existing infrastructure of  
3 early electric services any cleaner, safer, or better  
4 off. In fact, the 345,000 volt line will make the  
5 rural electric system worse off. Therefore, we  
6 extremely oppose the CapX2020, in particular in  
7 Highway 88 options.

I-061-003

8 On page 292, section 3.7.2 states,  
9 "The CPCN applicants prepared a Great River Road  
10 visual impact assessment, including before and after  
11 photo simulations along -- simulations along the  
12 Great River Road. The photo simulations are included  
13 in Appendix K in the NCIS study. After reviewing the  
14 Appendix K, the photos are all of the 35 corridor  
15 from Alma to La Crosse. There were no photos of the  
16 Highway 88 corridor.

I-061-004

17 So I had a civil engineering firm  
18 impose some scale towers, 150-foot towers, on these  
19 drawings I'm showing you. And since there were none  
20 of the 88 corridor, I decided to go ahead and do  
21 that. Keep in mind, these 150-foot towers are route  
22 in 88 are slighted for 135- to 160-foot towers. So  
23 get your EIS study, and do your facts, and get your  
24 comments in. I took some before photos. There is my  
25 before, because I had my before, and here's with

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## I-061-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-061-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

## I-061-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.



I-061-004

1 150-foot towers imposed on it. This 150-foot tower  
2 is one foot shorter than the Statue of Liberty.  
3 That's not the whole thing, that's from her feet to  
4 the torso 151 foot. So this is the Statue of Liberty  
5 sitting right in front of my driveway. I'll see it  
6 right out the front of my front window.

7 This is looking south out my  
8 driveway down through Bob Kamrowski's -- you know,  
9 again, lake cabin he has down here. And here's a  
10 150-foot Statue of Liberty towers again located 25  
11 feet from his property, from that getaway. And the  
12 last drawing I have here is a little farther south --

13 MS. RICHTER: Preston is next  
14 followed by Alan Mueller and Carol Overland. Okay.  
15 Preston?

16 PRESTON: Preston Frie, F2699  
17 State Road 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629. I  
18 looked through the environmental impact study and  
19 have concerns regarding the 150-foot structures along  
20 the EMF lines which were imposed on the community.  
21 I'm not convinced the electrical needs are as large  
22 as the studies states, and I question the needs for  
23 these transmission lines. Of great concern of mine  
24 is the impact of wildlife.

25 Page 10 does not speak of the

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John  
Fenn  
stationary  
#1















1 so we have no lapse of time here. Let's quickly  
2 finish any comments you would like to get on the  
3 record. No more than three minutes each, and we'll  
4 have John first.

I-061-005

5 **JOHN FRIE:** I thought I would  
6 continue where I was because as I say a picture is  
7 worth 1,000 words. This is actually standing on  
8 Waumandee Creek Road and looking South out the  
9 valley. Beforehand picture. And this is the after  
10 picture with the 150 foot Statue of Liberty towers in  
11 there. For reference, this is Laura Schiffli's new  
12 dream home, energy efficient home right here. I'm  
13 not sure why they didn't notify her before she  
14 started building this on the proposed route.

I-061-006

15 All I wanted to come back and say  
16 is that everybody needs to get involved. I mean, you  
17 got the mailings, get on the website, get your  
18 information and go through it. I spent, I don't  
19 know, hours and hours going through this stuff, and  
20 there's so many things not even mentioned on the  
21 Highway 88 corridor. There's no mention of wildlife  
22 on there, species, Al Kube's conservancy, there's two  
23 airstrips that aren't mentioned, the CCC camp is not  
24 mentioned as stated tonight. There's so many things  
25 not mentioned. It says it will not cross any stream,

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#### I-061-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

#### I-061-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.



I-061-006

1 any trout stream. Well Waumandee is a class A trout  
2 stream. They said in Wisconsin there would be no  
3 trout streams crossed in this plan.

4 It's appalling. This whole study  
5 is, like Minnesota and down 35. There is no pictures  
6 of it here. I got pictures of 88. I mean, we need  
7 to get involved. If not, I have nine pages of stuff  
8 here I could read all night, but I'm not going to  
9 bore you. There's nine pages here. I got 65 items,  
10 65 pages, 65 sections, and they make no mention to  
11 our 88. Please read through it. If not, you are  
12 going to have a Statue of Liberty out in front of  
13 your driveway every morning when you go to work. Get  
14 involved. Get your information. Read through it.  
15 You are going to be amazed at what you find. There's  
16 like 1,200 pages, but those first three sections go  
17 through it, like 300 pages there.

I-061-007

18 I just can't say enough of this  
19 stuff that's not in there. No mention of dairy farms

I-061-008

20 at all. They veer around the stray voltage issue. I  
21 asked Stephanie and Tom on the phone, I talked to

I-061-009

22 them quite in depth, and I asked where the mailing  
23 was because I wanted more information. And I posed  
24 the question I had talked to on any commission, even  
25 Bill from PSC. Have you driven 88 lately? Yes. How

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I-061-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

I-061-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

I-061-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

I-061-009

1 long ago? About a year and a half. Is that the  
2 highway for a transmission of 345,000 volt to come  
3 down? When typically we have just right now 7,200  
4 distribution line, the poles, the transformers  
5 starting in residential areas. That's where you have  
6 every city and every house. They can't say it for  
7 the record, that it shouldn't be, but they say it's a  
8 very a picturesque scenic valley. But drive --  
9 again, I'll ask the whole table up here, drive 88  
10 again. Take a look at it.

11 These towers are half the height  
12 of our hill. These towers are a third as tall -- if  
13 you lay it down, a third as a long as the valley is  
14 wide. So please look through it again. Any  
15 questions, I hate to say it, but give me a call:

16 MS. RICHTER: Preston.

17 PRESTON FRIE: Preston Frie. I  
18 would like to continue on to the trout, how I  
19 mentioned in section 3.2.1.4 on page 187. It says no  
20 trout streams will be crossed, and there's actually  
21 nine stream crossings. And like I said before, the  
22 removal of vegetation will increase the temperature  
23 of these streams, and trout have a specific  
24 temperature they have to survive at, otherwise they  
25 will be pretty much nonexistent. And with that, the

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1           We don't need it. We don't want it.  
2       It is bad for us, bad for our kids, bad for our  
3       neighbors. And there is a lot of better ways of  
4       doing this, people. And Chuck is right, grab a pen  
5       and just write, "I don't like it" or "I don't want  
6       it," because everybody here needs to stand up when  
7       you have a chance and let your people know that are  
8       running this country or running this state or county  
9       that you don't want this and you are against it. And  
10      they have to listen; otherwise, we can throw their  
11      asses out.

12           Thank you.

13           MODERATOR RICHTER: John, is it Frie  
14      or Fry?

15           MR. FRIE: Frie.

16           MODERATOR RICHTER: I apologize  
17      because I think we met the other night. I couldn't  
18      remember. It is F-R-I-E.

19           MR. FRIE: My name is John Frie. I  
20      live at S2699 State Road 88. And the reason I came  
21      back down tonight is I am passing through, and also,  
22      we heard a lot about the Great River Road, which I  
23      know is a long corridor, but that is the reason that  
24      it affects us, is because on 88, we have a great  
25      scenic road also, it is called Highway 88, State

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## I-061-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

I-061-010

I-061-010

1 Highway 88. Currently it has no transmission lines,  
2 just distribution line, 7,200 volts. Transported by  
3 a pole, seen throughout the city. The tallest  
4 structure on that, probably 24 to 30 feet is what the  
5 cross arm is. The poles representing on our route  
6 are from 135- to 160-feet tall. You see those things  
7 outside of a 150-foot pole. That's one foot shy of  
8 the Statute of Liberty. The Statute of Liberty from  
9 the feet to the tip of the torch is 151.

10 We moved to this area and chose this  
11 spot because of the scenic beauty on Highway 88. We  
12 didn't choose to build on 35 because of the browning  
13 grass and the railroad, and just there is nothing  
14 else you can see out there. Highway 88 is more  
15 scenic than Highway 35.

16 To look out my window, you see the  
17 other side of the valley and see the Minnesota  
18 bluffs. I see the wildlife all times of day; deer,  
19 turkey, or whatever it is. I don't want to look out  
20 my window and see three big 150-foot poles every day,  
21 just like at the Statute of Liberty. When I go to  
22 work, I don't want to wave at the Statute of Liberty.  
23 I want to look at a deer.

24 You know, there is a lot of figures  
25 in there. I gave up trying to follow figures in the

I-061-011

1 book. Yeah, this study is so incomplete. The  
2 Highway 88 was thrown into the mix in June and we  
3 didn't know about it until December 21st at a town  
4 board meeting. So we have been scrambling and we  
5 have dug through over a thousands pages in that short  
6 time. If you look at for Highway 88, there is  
7 nothing in there mentioning the wildlife, the  
8 wetlands, or any detail. I feel the wetlands are a  
9 necessity. They don't list the private air strips  
10 that are in there or any bear amounts that are in  
11 there. So when I do my drive, I want to see some  
12 wildlife. When I want to go to the country and  
13 relax, I go up 88.

I-061-012

14 So, if it just has to go somewhere,  
15 I just recommend it goes along the existing corridor,  
16 where the transmission line is. Either way it goes,  
17 you know, Arcadia or whatever, it goes over my family  
18 or my friends' property. So all I say is rethink the  
19 Highway 88 route. It is not where it should go.  
20 These poles 150 feet tall would be, at some points in  
21 the valley, if you lay them down, a third of the  
22 width of the valley.

23 So please look at Highway 88 again  
24 because it is not the spot to be. Thanks.

25 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay.

#### I-061-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

#### I-061-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

1 150-foot towers imposed on it. This 150-foot tower  
2 is one foot shorter than the Statue of Liberty.  
3 That's not the whole thing, that's from her feet to  
4 the torso 151 foot. So this is the Statue of Liberty  
5 sitting right in front of my driveway. I'll see it  
6 right out the front of my front window.

7 This is looking south out my  
8 driveway down through Bob Kamrowski's -- you know,  
9 again, lake cabin he has down here. And here's a  
10 150-foot Statue of Liberty towers again located 25  
11 feet from his property, from that getaway. And the  
12 last drawing I have here is a little farther south --

13 MS. RICHTER: Preston is next  
14 followed by Alan Mueller and Carol Overland. Okay.  
15 Preston?

I-062-001

16 PRESTON: Preston Frie, F2699  
17 State Road 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629. I  
18 looked through the environmental impact study and  
19 have concerns regarding the 150-foot structures along  
20 the EMF lines which were imposed on the community.

I-062-002

21 I'm not convinced the electrical needs are as large  
22 as the studies states, and I question the needs for  
23 these transmission lines. Of great concern of mine  
24 is the impact of wildlife.

I-062-003

25 Page 10 does not speak of the

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### I-062-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

### I-062-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-062-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I01-General/Other.

I-062-004

1 Highway 88a or b corridor option for the wetlands or  
2 of the wildlife refuge the line will cross. The  
3 Highway 88 route is a sandhill crane migratory route.  
4 There are multiple active eagle nesting sites near  
5 the Kube conservancy and visible from the old CCC  
6 campsite while driving along Highway 88.

7 The eagles use the Highway 88  
8 route to go up the Valley to local chicken coops to  
9 feed. The Highway 88 route is also a migratory  
10 Canada geese flyway. Page 176, figure 3-1, slopes  
11 and prosses areas, has the hills and valleys listed  
12 at being anywhere from 58 to 100 percent sloped for  
13 the Highway 88 corridor. On page 178, figure 2-3,

I-062-005

14 the erosion potential has the Highway 88 corridor  
15 listed as low or the lowest potential risk. How can  
16 figure -- two figurative maps indicate these topics  
17 be so far off? And I have assisted in assessments of

I-062-006

18 the Waumandee Creek for wildlife. We have found the  
19 erosion has filled in many of the trout habitats.

20 I have assisted the Wisconsin DNR  
21 along with the Waumandee Rod & Gun Club in repairing  
22 the stream where the trout are thriving. We have  
23 also installed 15 luncker structures to aid in the  
24 trout colony habitat near the streams. I found no  
25 mention on the impact study which states during the

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#### I-062-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

#### I-062-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E05-Erosion and Slopes.

#### I-062-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I10-Fish.

I-062-007

1 construction how much vegetation will be removed near  
2 streams. The acres of forestland or permanent  
3 wetland impacted does not indicate the stream banks  
4 conservation process. Clearing

I-062-008

5 for the 345,000 volt transmission line requires trees  
6 to be removed in each right-of-way, and it will be.  
7 In addition, the nine additional trout stream  
8 crossings in table 2-5, page 154 for the Highway 88  
9 route. Each time you clear a path down the stream,  
10 it'll raise the trout stream water temperature. And  
11 once the trees and vegetation are removed, the sun  
12 has a direct path to the stream, and that increases  
13 the temperature. Therefore, it would raise the water  
14 temperature, which drastically has a negative impact  
15 on the homeostasis of the fragile native trout  
16 population.

17 In one of my C-FC science  
18 projects, I placed data loggers on the bottom of the  
19 local streams, including the Waumandee Creek, to  
20 monitor and record the water temperatures throughout  
21 the summer months. These readings of the Waumnandee  
22 Creek, which is classified as a class A trout stream,  
23 and has a ideal temperature readings which support  
24 the class A designation, because it has strong trout  
25 population numbers due to the ample food supply,

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### I-062-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E05-Erosion and Slopes.

### I-062-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I10-Fish.



I-062-008

1 sufficient habitat cover, and ideal temperature  
2 ranges.

3 Section 3.2.1.4, page 187  
4 states --

5 MS. RICHTER: Allan Muller  
6 followed by Carol Overland.

7 ALAN MULLER: My name is Alan  
8 Muller, and I live at 1110 West Avenue in Red Wing,  
9 Minnesota. This is a proceeding under the National  
10 Environmental Policy Act, and one of the requirements  
11 there -- one of the key requirements that is kind of  
12 generally neglected is evaluating alternatives. And  
13 this obligation is called out accurately on page 83  
14 of the draft EIS. It's section 2.1.1. And I would  
15 like to read it. "Under the CEQ regulations, RUS is  
16 required to identify and evaluate reasonable  
17 alternatives to the proposal as well as the no action  
18 alternative." And let me stop and point out that  
19 alternatives are not the same thing as a no action  
20 alternative.

21 Okay. "Reasonable alternatives  
22 are those that are, quote, practical or feasible from  
23 the technical and economic standpoint in using common  
24 sense rather than simply desirable from the  
25 standpoint of the applicants." Now let me reread

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1 long ago? About a year and a half. Is that the  
2 highway for a transmission of 345,000 volt to come  
3 down? When typically we have just right now 7,200  
4 distribution line, the poles, the transformers  
5 starting in residential areas. That's where you have  
6 every city and every house. They can't say it for  
7 the record, that it shouldn't be, but they say it's a  
8 very a picturesque scenic valley. But drive --  
9 again, I'll ask the whole table up here, drive 88  
10 again. Take a look at it.

11 These towers are half the height  
12 of our hill. These towers are a third as tall -- if  
13 you lay it down, a third as a long as the valley is  
14 wide. So please look through it again. Any  
15 questions, I hate to say it, but give me a call:

16 MS. RICHTER: Preston.

17 **PRESTON FRIE:** Preston Frie. I  
18 would like to continue on to the trout, how I  
19 mentioned in section 3.2.1.4 on page 187. It says no  
20 trout streams will be crossed, and there's actually  
21 nine stream crossings. And like I said before, the  
22 removal of vegetation will increase the temperature  
23 of these streams, and trout have a specific  
24 temperature they have to survive at, otherwise they  
25 will be pretty much nonexistent. And with that, the

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### I-062-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I10-Fish.

I-062-009

I-062-009

1 class A designation to our trout streams would  
2 strongly and rapidly decrease. And so up and coming  
3 tourist pasttime, I guess -- I know a lot of fellow  
4 community members go fishing, it's what we do. Even  
5 if you don't catch anything, it's just something fun  
6 to do, and spend time telling stories.

I-062-010

7 Someday I hope to purchase my  
8 parents' property, and due to the location and the  
9 wildlife and the scenic beauty, each year I spend  
10 about 95 days in the outdoors enjoying sights,  
11 sounds, scenery, and the sensations of the outdoors  
12 as they are in its current state. I also hope to  
13 someday build my home on the property, and continue  
14 to be a steward of the land.

15 With the proposed Highway 88 route  
16 and the 345,000 volt transmission line would diminish  
17 and dwindle my dreams to continue to enjoy all the  
18 majestic beauty that the Highway 88 corridor offers.  
19 It's not fair to take that right away from me. I  
20 strongly oppose the Highway 88 route. It needs to  
21 stay where the existing high voltage routes are  
22 located, or no option.

I-062-011

23 Another point, I worked in  
24 conjunction with the DNR and the Fishing and Wildlife  
25 Service to help biologically control invasive species

### I-062-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

### I-062-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I05-Invasive Species.

I-062-011

1 out of the marshes. And there's a couple of  
2 pinpointed spots that would be crossed with the  
3 equipment which can stay on the equipment. And when  
4 it moves to further locations, it can spread this.  
5 And right now it's spread via wind, or via wind. So  
6 it can further spread the seed, and with the seed it  
7 multiplies at an exponential rate. And if you cut  
8 the rate in half, you have two times one million.  
9 You have one million times. And it smothers out any  
10 native vegetation, it's like putting a blanket over  
11 whatever is there and growing up. It's just a  
12 ruthless invader, and it's nowhere mentioned on there  
13 that this is present. Thank you for your time. And  
14 I highly oppose this.

15 MS. RICHTER: All right.

16 CATHY SCHMIDTKNECHT: All right.

17 I'm Cathy Schmidtknecht. I've been asked to come up  
18 on top here to ask for a vote of hands for all of  
19 those in the group that are here tonight who are  
20 opposed to the CapX2020 project? Can you show your  
21 hands if you are against it going through? So I  
22 would say what, 95, 97, 99 percent. Oh, maybe 100  
23 percent, except for our board. And those that oppose  
24 the no action alternative on County Road 88. Can I  
25 have a hand for that? And I would have to probably

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1 MS. GARAVALLIA: Hi. My name is  
2 Denise Garavallia.

3 MODERATOR RICHTER: You will have to  
4 pull it closer. Thank you.

5 MS. GARAVALLIA: My name is Denise. I  
6 currently live at 1618 Northfield Road in LaCrosse,  
7 Wisconsin. This power line is prohibiting us from  
8 building.

9 Back in 2008 my husband and I bought  
10 40 acres of land to build on to move to with our two  
11 daughters. We found out only just last year, when we  
12 were starting to look into building, and we already  
13 had the building permit, and we had it permitted,  
14 that -- sorry -- that they want to take pretty much  
15 the entire property to put a line as one of the  
16 proposed lines. I really don't feel like it is  
17 necessary. I didn't think it was necessary before I  
18 found out that they wanted to take my property.

19 Even a hospital, Gundersen Luther,  
20 is planning on going energy free by 2014, off the  
21 grid. Their own way is through wind power that would  
22 provide like 1400 homes power. Organic Valley in  
23 Cashton is also doing wind power, which would power a  
24 thousand homes for a year. So I really don't see an  
25 alternative.

### I-063-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-063-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-063-001

I-063-002

I-063-002

1 I mean people say, "It has to go  
2 here, it has to go there," I don't think so. Not  
3 just for people, but for the environment as well.  
4 Everyone isn't affected. No alternative. People  
5 will build their own.

6 If we get a chance to actually build,  
7 we are going to do everything we can to be off the  
8 grid ourselves with personal windmills, with solar  
9 energy panels. They have come a long way in 30  
10 years, from just like a computer. How big was a  
11 computer 30 years ago? How big is it now? Same  
12 thing can be done. Upgrade the system, sure. You  
13 can get better cables nowadays and more efficiency  
14 that way. Not necessarily you don't have to come  
15 through and build these high-power lines.

16 I probably have more, but I'm very  
17 nervous, so thank you.

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Could we have  
19 your name for the record, Denise? It is G-A-R?

20 MS. GARAVALLA: Oh,  
21 G-A-R-A-V-A-L-I-A. Sorry.

22 MODERATOR RICHTER: No, that's  
23 alright. Thank you. Sheryl Hanson.

24 MS. HANSON: My name is Sheryl  
25 Hanson. I live at N2019 Stonecrest Road, LaCrosse,



## Progress at new Gundersen building

**Posted: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 12:15 am**

A construction worker climbs the scaffolding steps to the top of a stairwell tower being erected as part of the new building for Gundersen Lutheran's campus renewal project. The six-floor structure will add 33,000 square feet for a trauma and emergency center and urgent care space and a 40-bed, 38,000-square-foot critical care unit. There also will be centralized services for women and children, including a new neonatal intensive care unit with all private rooms. The project has an energy-efficient design to help Gundersen Lutheran achieve the goal of being 100 percent energy independent by 2014.





## Hospital gets \$140K from state

By BETSY BLOOM | [bbloom@lacsossetribune.com](mailto:bbloom@lacsossetribune.com) | Posted: Saturday, August 20, 2011 12:00 am

The state awarded Gundersen Lutheran a \$140,000 grant for a biomass boiler Friday that's expected to reduce its energy needs by nearly 40 percent.

Gov. Scott Walker made the announcement at Gundersen Lutheran after earlier in the day touring parts of northwestern Wisconsin where more than 130,000 acres of timber had been downed by storms in July.

The Gundersen Lutheran boiler will be fueled by woody biomass, which Walker called "great" because it can work in cooperation with the state's timber industry.

"That's why we're thrilled to be partnered with Gundersen Lutheran," Walker said.

Boiler construction will begin in summer 2012, and it should be operational by fall, saving Gundersen Lutheran more than \$500,000 a year, said Jeff Rich, executive director of Gundersen Lutheran's Envision initiative.

The gas-powered boilers now being used are 40 years old and must be repaired or replaced, Rich said. They account for 60 percent of Gundersen Lutheran's gas consumption.

"The best way to be green is to make green or save green," Walker said.

Gundersen Lutheran launched its Envision effort in May 2008 with the goal of becoming completely energy independent by 2014.

In addition to the biomass boiler, it has tapped into the La Crosse County landfill and City Brewery for gas-to-energy projects and established two wind farms.

### Walker: Job loss reflects 'uncertainty'

Uncertainty over the national debt situation and the wave of state recall elections can be blamed for Wisconsin's job losses in July, Gov. Scott Walker said Friday.

Walker a month ago had touted the state's net gain of 9,500 jobs in June, only to see that wiped out in July with a net loss of 8,200 jobs.

State labor officials said 12,500 private-sector jobs were lost, which was offset by a slight gain of 4,300 public-sector jobs.

The wrangling over the federal debt ceiling, followed by Standard and Poor's downgrading the U.S. credit rating and the subsequent shock waves on the financial markets all took their toll, Walker said.

In addition, the state has gone through a summer of recall elections that created further uncertainty, the governor





/11/12

Hospital gets \$140K from state

said. With the campaigns over, the focus again can be on jobs.

"Uncertainty is the biggest challenge we have right now," Walker said. "I think the sooner we get back to job creation, the better."



## Gundersen turbines up and running, despite vandalism

By Mary Juhl and Jerome Christenson | Winona Daily News | Posted: Thursday, December 15, 2011 12:00 am

Two new wind turbines just north of Lewiston are spinning after two years of preparation, two months of construction and one act of vandalism.

The \$10 million project, part of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center's efforts to offset its energy use by finding sustainable-energy projects, will create enough electricity to power about 1,400 homes each year.

"Winona County has stocks of pretty good wind," said Jeff Rich, executive director of the hospital's subsidiary that developed the project. "The more we can generate locally, the more we can keep dollars in our local economy."

The turbines were running Tuesday — after a temporary setback.

Sometime between 10 a.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Monday, someone broke into the substation by cutting a lock on the fence gate, according to the Winona County Sheriff's Department. Once inside, the perpetrator cut a single fiber-optic cable bundle that controlled the two turbines, shutting them down. Other equipment, including valuable electronics, was not removed or tampered with, according to the department.

Rich said the cable has been repaired and the damage was minimal.

"We're up and running again and trying to make sure our security measures are up to date," Rich said.





## GREEN TIER STATUS

## Green garbage: State recognizes county's landfill energy initiative

By BETSY BLOOM [bbloom@lacrosetribune.com](mailto:bbloom@lacrosetribune.com) | Posted: Thursday, June 2, 2011 6:30 am

It is "the most gorgeous landfill in the state of Wisconsin," La Crosse County Solid Waste Director Hank Koch says. He could be considered a bit biased.

But state Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp didn't disagree after seeing the site Wednesday.

"I never imagined I could be so impressed with a landfill operation," Stepp later said.

With wind ruffling the tall grass on the surrounding hillsides, Stepp on Wednesday recognized the 300-acre complex as the first publicly owned landfill admitted to the state's Green Tier program.

The ceremony also included a groundbreaking on the estimated \$4 million gas-to-energy partnership that will pipe landfill methane about 1.6 miles to provide virtually all the heat and electrical needs at Gundersen Lutheran's Onalaska clinic.

Contractor McHugh Excavating and Plumbing of Onalaska is expected to begin work next week, and the gas could begin flowing as early as October, officials said Wednesday.

"The happiest day is going to be when they turn that flare off," Koch said, referring to the flame now burning off the landfill gas.

While the gas-to-energy arrangement isn't unique, the partnership with a health care system is, said Jeff Rich, Gundersen's executive director of efficiency improvements.

"This is just a win-win-win for everybody," the entire community included, Rich said.

The county estimates it will recoup its \$1.4 million investment, including the \$500,000 pipeline, in six years. Gundersen will pay the county about \$300,000 annually for eight years, then a charge based on a three-year-rolling average. It expects to sell \$800,000 a year in electricity to Xcel Energy.

The Green Tier designation means the solid waste operation will have a single DNR contact for services, such as air and water permits, and will do a fair amount of self-inspection and compliance, Koch said.

But the county first had to demonstrate it already exceeded legal environmental standards, he said.

"It's not shortcutting," said Nick Nichols, sustainability coordinator with the solid waste department. "We're being rewarded."



Koch pointed to such efforts as the 6,000 tons of roofing shingles sent to Mathy Construction for recycling into asphalt and the clean wood waste Xcel burns to generate power. It all means less goes into the landfill.

"This is what it's all about, the ability to re-engage, reuse," Stepp said.

The solid waste department achieved first-tier status in the state program. Koch said they intend to qualify for the next level in 2012.

"Doing the right thing environmentally," he said, "is the right way to do business."



## Legislative committee suspends wind energy regulations

By STEVE CAHALAN [scahalan@lacrossetribune.com](mailto:scahalan@lacrossetribune.com) and The Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 12:05 am

MADISON — Republican lawmakers on Tuesday suspended wind turbine siting standards on the day they were set to take effect.

But a Gundersen Lutheran official said that action isn't expected to affect plans by the health care system and Organic Valley for two wind turbines near Organic Valley's Cashton distribution center.

"We're within days now of ordering our turbines" for the estimated \$11.5 million project, said Jeff Rich, Gundersen Lutheran executive director of major projects and efficiency improvement. The two organizations will split the cost of the project and hope the turbines will be producing electricity by November.

Construction will begin "within weeks" and will be far along before any new state rules take effect, Rich said.

The Public Service Commission worked through most of last year to craft uniform construction and setback standards for turbines. The rules were set to go into effect Tuesday.

Republicans took control of the Legislature in November. They say they're worried the rules would allow developers to build turbines too close to neighbors' property, driving down land values and increasing the risk of injury.

The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules voted 5-2 Tuesday to suspend the rules for 30 days.

The committee now must draft a bill supporting the suspension. The panel has drafted a measure that would require the PSC to develop new rules within six months.

The PSC rules that were suspended would have required a setback of 1,250 feet from a home. At least one home is within 1,250 feet of the Cashton site, but the project was grandfathered in under the proposed PSC rules because it already has received a conditional-use permit from the village of Cashton, Rich said.

Gov. Scott Walker has called for requiring a setback of 1,800 feet from the property line, a distance industry experts say is unheard of in other states.





## Organic Valley, Gundersen break ground on wind project

Posted: Friday, November 25, 2011 8:00 am

Organic Valley, the nation's largest cooperative of organic farmers and a leading organic brand, and Gundersen Health System announced on Nov. 14 construction has begun on the Cashton Greens Wind Farm, Wisconsin's first community wind project.

This collaborative project will feature two wind turbines expected to generate nearly 5 megawatts of energy for Cashton's power grid - enough to power 1,000 homes each year. The energy produced will more than offset electricity used at Organic Valley's Cashton Distribution Center and its La Farge headquarters facilities, and represents about 5 percent of Gundersen's energy independence goal.

"Fostering strong, sustainable rural communities is key to who we are," George Siemon, founding farmer and C-E-I-E-I-O of Organic Valley, said. "We're particularly proud to establish a long-term renewable energy source right here in the Cashton area, which is not only a sustainable solution for our community, but hopefully also an example for other communities."

The Cashton Greens Wind Farm is the first commercial scale project of its kind in Wisconsin. Wind farms typically are owned by utility or wind development companies, but as developers and owners of the Cashton Greens Wind Farm, Organic Valley and Gundersen will receive income per kilowatt hour (kWh) generated. Organic Valley will buy back its portion of energy to offset its footprint through a renewable energy contract with the villages of Cashton and La Farge.

"Gundersen Health System is pleased to be entering into this partnership with Organic Valley," Jeff Rich, executive director, GL Envision, LLC, said. "The wind farm project is a great thing for our patients and for the community. By reducing our energy costs, we can eventually pass the savings on to our patients in the form of lower healthcare costs. In addition, the project creates local construction jobs and has a positive impact on the health of the environment, too. It is a win-win all around."

Roads, foundations, the electrical collection system and an operation and maintenance facility for the Cashton Greens Wind Farm will be completed this year, and the turbines are scheduled for installation in spring 2012 by Michels Corporation, a Brownsville, Wis.-based utility, engineering, design and construction contractor.





## Winona County approves Gundersen Lutheran's two commercial wind turbines

By Mary Juhl [mary.juhl@lee.net](mailto:mary.juhl@lee.net) | Posted: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 12:00 am

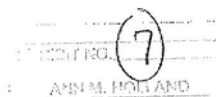
The Winona County Board of Commissioners approved plans Tuesday for Gundersen Lutheran to construct two wind turbines just north of Lewiston, Minn.

In 2010, Gundersen Lutheran sought a permit to construct three turbines as part of their "Envision," program, which works toward energy independence and green initiatives, and eventually modified the project to two turbines.

"We hope that the turbines will result in energy produced locally in our region," said Jeff Rich, executive director of G.L. Envision, the energy subsidiary for Gundersen Lutheran.

Energy generated by the turbines will go through an electrical grid that powers area homes and businesses. Rich said the turbines will provide energy for the equivalent of 1,400 homes.

Gundersen Lutheran will begin laying foundations for the turbines as early as this week. The turbines are scheduled to be delivered to the site the first week of October, and are expected to be operational by the end of November.





1 the windy city! It is Chicago! There is no  
2 solution? I mean I will pedal a bike, you know.  
3 This is just so that Xcel can make money. And I have  
4 also listened to them do their statements, and what  
5 I found is every night they revise it because they  
6 are caught in another lie, and another lie, and  
7 another lie, and it keeps going on and on, and on,  
8 and every meeting that I go to, somebody brings up  
9 another point that Xcel can't quite cover.

10 One time they even opened with the  
11 expansion in the sizes of Winona or Alma. And  
12 everybody around here knows that the small towns  
13 around here have one problem, they can't grow because  
14 they are surrounded by bluffs and the river. Where  
15 are they going to go? You can't build up the bluffs.  
16 We're not building more. We are not needing more  
17 power. Our officials are saying we aren't needing  
18 more power. I can't even understand why this is  
19 even not finished.

20 Thank you.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

22 Before I even saw your hand, I saw the gentleman's  
23 hand in the back, please. Then we will come to you  
24 next.

25 MR. GARAVALLA: My name is Gary



1 Garavalia.

2 MODERATOR RICHTER: Could you spell  
3 your last name, please.

4 MR. GARAVALLIA: G-A-R-A-V-A-L-I-A.  
5 My wife spoke a little while ago.

6 Yeah, 2008, we found what we thought  
7 was the most beautiful place. We were going to build  
8 our house. We got two beautiful young girls. And it  
9 is just sad. We can't do anything. Our hands are  
10 tied. We are currently trying to sell our home, but  
11 if we sell it, where do we go? Do we have to rent  
12 for a year and find out what is going to happen? It  
13 is sad. Since this begun, I'm on high blood pressure  
14 medication. And you can even ask my wife. I'm a  
15 real SOB most of the time. There is no need for it.  
16 We don't want it. Just tell them where they can  
17 shove it. That's the way I look at it. Thank you.

18 MS. HORTON: My name is Nancy Horton,  
19 O-N. I am from Eckridge (phonetic) Township. And  
20 I have one thing that I would like to agree with,  
21 pitting people against each other.

22 I mean I live on the edge, over by  
23 the electric line, which is the right-of-way will  
24 come into our farm, which is a second generation  
25 organic farm, so we have to deal with chemicals in

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# I-064-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-064-001

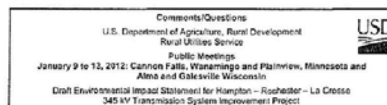
1 that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go  
2 over the school that my grandchildren are attending,  
3 so it is going to affect us all.

4 So I guess I am angry, also, that we  
5 have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in  
6 this area. And why do we have to deal with it and  
7 why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that  
8 technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind  
9 of technology into something that is already dated is  
10 not a wise thing to do.

11 We can give everybody a solar water  
12 heater for what this is going to cost. I mean it  
13 is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I  
14 really do object to the whole, "Let's put it here.  
15 Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people  
16 over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair.  
17 And there has got to be alternatives than what is  
18 in that report. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay,  
20 now I'm going to ask again, are there people here  
21 that have not spoken yet that would like to have  
22 three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay.  
23 Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

24 MR. WOLBERG: I am Ed Wolberg. I  
25 live down on Harris Road. When we first started



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-065-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-065-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-065-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-065-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature Cameron Genter Date 2/12/12

Print Name Cameron Genter

Address 27777 Newland Rd

Cashton, WI 54619

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP/CapX2020/HamptonRochesterLaCrosse.html>

### I-065-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-065-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-065-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-065-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

**I-066-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

1 say about 75, 80 percent -- yeah, about 100 percent  
2 there again, huh. Okay. And I wanted to go on  
3 record that I do also support the no action  
4 alternative. So thank you.

5 DAN JUMBECK: I just wanted to  
6 make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when  
7 they rated the Great River Road, the portion that  
8 goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard,  
9 and it was listed as poor back in '71. So if it was  
10 poor then, there's been no upgrades since 1971. If  
11 it was poor then, it's poor now, so why wreck a  
12 beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it's the  
13 nickname of Waumandee Valley, not silicone valley.  
14 Thank you.

15 MS. RICHTER: Was there one more  
16 individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

17 **FRED GLEITOR:** I'm Fred Gleitor  
18 from Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road,  
19 Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my  
20 brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation  
21 on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100  
22 percent during a national survey this fall. There  
23 are quality milk producers in this Valley. The  
24 proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house,  
25 dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle

**I-066-001**

I-066-002

1 are. We cannot support any poles and access roads in  
2 our fields. All the feed that we raise is needed for  
3 our cattle. We have to makes our living from this  
4 farm.

I-066-003

5 There is an air strip and a  
6 licensed airplane based there. Our family has been  
7 flying airplanes in Schoepps Valley since the 1940s.  
8 This proposed transmission line would interfere with  
9 the approaches. Thank you.

10 MS. RICHTER: Thank you all for  
11 coming.

12 (Whereupon the proceeding ended at  
13 approximately 8:20 p.m.)

14 \* \* \* \*

15

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## I-066-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

## I-066-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

Additional comments:

I am a major supporter of locally produced, distributed energy such as solar PV, wind biomass. These are two very different strategies for an energy future.

LA France - n° 54639

FEB. 13<sup>TH</sup>

information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.merck-meds.com/CM2010/Hampshire-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

1 We are now at the point where I have gone through the  
2 list of the original people coming in and signing it.

3 MR. GUNDERSON: I was just wondering  
4 if you were going to do any more afterwards?

5 MODERATOR RICHTER: Yes. But I first  
6 want to make sure we did not miss Wendell, if he came  
7 back to speak.

8 MR. GUNDERSON: I signed a list and  
9 didn't get my name called.

10 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Well,  
11 that's where I want to move next, so those that were  
12 missed, or alternatively, you changed your mind and  
13 would like to speak, would you please come forward.  
14 And I think you should be the next person. I  
15 apologize if I missed you on the list.

16 MR. GUNDERSON: My name is  
17 Ken Gundersen. I live in the town of  
18 Gaylesville/Trempealeau, Wisconsin. A little  
19 history. It took 400 years to get 200 million  
20 people in this country. Between 1900 and 2000 we got  
21 another 100 million. We estimate that we are going  
22 to have 400 million by 2050. Now, this, saying all  
23 of the other things that we are talking about, but we  
24 are going to have to have electricity and it is going  
25 to have to be moved somehow. Right or wrong, it is

# I-068-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-068-001

I-068-001

1 going to happen.

2 Now my thing, since this is a federal  
3 comment, I want to see the line on the existing line.  
4 I'm sure that 60 years ago, when they put this in,  
5 they sat down and had the same debate that they are  
6 having tonight, "Where do we put it?" 60 years ago  
7 they made the decision to put it where it is. I  
8 don't know what they call it. Q1 or something like  
9 that. My suggestion is that we continue to use that.  
10 But what bothers me is down by the Black River, where  
11 we have the DNR wants to reroute it to around there  
12 for some reason, I think that the federal people  
13 should look into that. Why should we have to go  
14 around that one position?

I-068-002

15 The second thing is this electricity  
16 is a flow-through type of thing. We don't need it  
17 here in western Wisconsin, but it is going to go  
18 through. My thing here is why should we, the people  
19 in western Wisconsin, have to finance the thing? Why  
20 not the people east, that are going to get the  
21 benefit of it, put the money in it? Because they are  
22 the ones that are going to go see the total benefit  
23 of it.

24 So my electric rates from 11 years  
25 ago went and increased approximately 30 percent in

## I-068-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



I-068-002

1 the last five years. I don't want to see it going up  
2 to 50 percent in the next couple of years. So my  
3 question is, for the federal, bring in some of this  
4 extra money from further east to cover the costs so  
5 that the local people here don't have to finance this  
6 thing.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Is  
9 there someone that would like to speak that has not  
10 spoken yet? You have not, okay. Anybody else? Just  
11 so I have a sense of how many people that might be?  
12 Can you raise your hands? (Reviewing.) Two. Okay.  
13 Thank you.

14 MR. HOGAN: My name is Trevor Hogan,  
15 H-O-G-A-N.

16 I have been attending these meetings  
17 up and down the river. Everywhere I go people are so  
18 against this, it is amazing. I can't even believe we  
19 are discussing this anymore. On and on we keep  
20 seeing our government officials that have done  
21 studies, and turning around and basically calling  
22 them liars, and saying, "Hey, you know, we don't need  
23 this thing." I have got a great idea. We have got a  
24 million carpenters. I, as one, are out of work in  
25 this country. Let's build them a new power station.

**I-069-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B01-General/Other.

1 writes her comments. Okay. That's it.  
2 MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Carol.  
3 Would anybody else that's come to join us tonight  
4 like to say a few words? Comments on one of the  
5 routes? Comments on the EIS aspects of it? Content?  
6 Completion of it? Concerns you may have? Concerns  
7 you may have heard from fellow residents? Neighbors?  
8 Others?  
9 STEPHEN HACKMAN: I will.  
10 MS. RICHTER: Please come forward.  
11 And if you could give us the name, that would be  
12 great.  
13 **STEPHEN HACKMAN:** My name is  
14 Stephen, S-T-P-E-P-H-E-N, Hackman, H-A-C-K-M-A-N. I  
15 live in rural route Mazeppa. And I was just looking  
16 through the document here on reliability, the first  
17 section, and I was wondering -- to me it seems like  
18 it falls a little short as far as -- reliability is  
19 not simply the number of faults, but the duration of  
20 faults. And I think our reference to how long we can  
21 get -- will it take to get the system back online if  
22 something should happen. Which to me would be a  
23 direct -- is it by a road, for example? Is it by a  
24 road? Can we get to it? And I think that -- I'm  
25 basing my -- I spent 20 years as an aircraft

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I-069-001

1 electrician, so I understand electrical systems.  
2 Maybe not the high-voltage transmission, however, I  
3 don't mean to bore you with stories about aircrafts,  
4 but it's the best way that I can maybe communicate  
5 the concept.  
6                   The last aircraft I worked on was  
7 the DC10 for Northwest Airlines, three engines, three  
8 identical systems. In other words, the load  
9 controller, the generator, all could be interchanged.  
10 If I was dispatched to the gate, say, a fully loaded  
11 aircraft ready to go, and there was a generator  
12 fault, the first -- immediately what they asked me  
13 is, "Steve, how long until we can get this back in  
14 service." First question out of my mouth, "Was it  
15 engine No. 2?" Because if it was engine No. 2, it's  
16 30 feet in the air, I can't possibly get up there. I  
17 can guarantee it will be a delay. It will be a  
18 lengthy delay. If it's one or three engine, I can  
19 change it almost immediately. With ops check, we can  
20 change a generator in four hours. If it was No. 2,  
21 that was unacceptable. It was at least a shift,  
22 possibly two, because we had to move -- first we had  
23 to take all of the people off the airplanes. Now,  
24 the price is running up rapidly. Then we have to  
25 find the ground support equipment to get up there.

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I-069-001

1                   And I think every electrical  
2                   system is the same in that regards. I think if --  
3                   first of all, it's going to be easier to find the  
4                   problem. Second, it'll be much quicker, especially  
5                   if we have four feet of snow on the ground. If it's  
6                   near a road or on a flat surface that we can go from  
7                   the road to the fault, fix it, and bring the system  
8                   back online.

9                   That's my first general comment.  
10                  And I didn't see that in here. And I just was  
11                  reading through section one on reliability. So I  
12                  think just on that -- and I noticed the purpose of,  
13                  or the mission of this process, the first two items  
14                  were reliability based.

15                  MS. RICHTER: So can I stop you  
16                  there, Steve?

17                  STEPHEN HACKMAN: You can.

18                  MS. RICHTER: First to be sure  
19                  that nobody else wants to make any comment and has  
20                  anything else to say during this initial three minute  
21                  sharing time. Anybody else? Okay. Steve, would you  
22                  like to continue then? You don't have to.

23                  STEPHEN HACKMAN: Well, maybe I'll  
24                  just stand by and stand down for a second.

25                  MS. RICHTER: Okay.

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**I-069-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B01-General/Other.

1 important eagle use areas, were the terms they use.

2 I would submit a copy of that for the record.

3 But clearly from that, in the Alma  
4 crossing, two active eagle nests on the Minnesota  
5 side, one adjacent to the existing line, and one  
6 1,800 feet from the corridor, that is a little --  
7 not quite two miles. So there's a problem there as  
8 well as with the other sites. Anywhere you cross the  
9 Mississippi River, you are going to be having these  
10 eagle problems. And that's not taken into account  
11 here. And none of these sites are in compliance with  
12 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife guidelines there. And  
13 that's it for now. Next?

14 MS. RICHTER: Okay. Steve, would  
15 you like to comment further? Your comment on  
16 reliability or something else.

**I-069-002**

17 STEPHEN HACKMAN: I thank for the  
18 time being, I've probably covered the reliability. I  
19 want to make sure -- I don't know where we left off.  
20 Maybe summarize again. In my experience, access  
21 ability means shorter duration of faults, which is  
22 cheaper. I have -- it's better for the ratepayer,  
23 and now I understand the federal taxpayer is going to  
24 be involved. And maybe that'll -- that would end the  
25 reliability comments.

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I-069-003

1 But as I came over here, as I left  
2 Mazeppa, I did make one observation, maybe I could  
3 share. Because at some level we are asking the  
4 taxpayers, the United States to fund this project at  
5 some level. And as I walked through the United  
6 States Department of Agriculture and as I drove over  
7 here, as I left my home in rural route Mazeppa, it  
8 was dark all the way over here until I hit 52, or  
9 what MnDOT calls the interregional corridor. Then  
10 there was lights. I saw car dealerships, billboards  
11 telling me what I need to buy. As I left 52 into  
12 rural territory, it got dark again. Why's that  
13 important? What's turning on those lights?  
14 Kilowatts, and a lot of them.  
15 My concern, and maybe I'm getting  
16 into -- well, I will. This is not a rural project.  
17 It's an urban project. It's in the title. Hampton,  
18 Rochester, La Crosse, so as it gets there, the  
19 corridor is well lit, they are using it too. The  
20 rural areas are not. Not to that extent. And I'm a  
21 little concerned that the U.S. Department of  
22 Agriculture would be the ones to take money out of  
23 their limited, I would assume, resources to fund an  
24 urban project.  
25 And maybe I'll just stop there and

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### I-069-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-069-003

1 leave it at that for a few minutes. But I wasn't  
2 going to say -- well, it was an observation I made  
3 coming here. And I think as you leave, do that.  
4 Look on your way. It's going to be dark all the way  
5 to the corridor. That's where this belong, so.  
6 Thank you.

7 MS. RICHTER: Okay. Well, as part  
8 of our process, we are going to remain until 8  
9 o'clock. You certainly don't have to remain with us,  
10 unless you would like to. We'll be here and can at  
11 any time take your comments.

12 (Whereupon the proceeding ended at  
13 approximately 8:00 p.m.)

14 \* \* \* \*  
15  
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25

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**I-070-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.

1       were basically the same ones that had been used.  
2                   MS. STRENGTH: When she's  
3       referring to the two different ads, the first is what  
4       you call a display ad, that's what's draws your  
5       attention to it and then leads you to the legal  
6       section where you can get more detail.  
7                   CAROL OVERLAND: Right.  
8                   MS. HAGERTY: And the map.  
9                   CAROL OVERLAND: Got it. So  
10      that's why people didn't receive notice?  
11                  MS. STRENGTH: That's not standard  
12      practice, yeah, correct.  
13                  CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. Got it.  
14      And that's it for now.  
15                  MS. STRENGTH: Okay.  
16                  MS. RICHTER: Would anybody else  
17      like to make any comments? Yes, please.  
18                  STEPHEN HACKMAN: My name is  
19      Stephen Hackman, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, H-A-C-K-M-A-N. I  
20      just have one area, page 84, you are talking of use  
21      of existing generation and new generation. One of  
22      the items I noticed is there's not a lot of  
23      discussion about gas, gas fired generation. It does  
24      talk a little bit about the ramp-up times for the  
25      coal units. And it's my understanding there was an

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**I-070-001**



I-070-001

1 article in maybe the Star Tribune or the Post  
2 Bulletin, about conversion of coal units to natural  
3 gas. And I think possibly -- well, you should  
4 explore that a little bit further. Because later on  
5 on page 85 you say that new transmission -- or new  
6 generation, I'm sorry, would be counterproductive --  
7 let me read it exactly. Because it doesn't meet the  
8 renewable energy. However, renewable energy, the  
9 limitation is as the wind dies down or the sun sets,  
10 there's no way to store it. A gas fired unit may  
11 have a quicker response time, so it could be brought  
12 online as a renewable, that the power from the  
13 renewables decays, the gas powered plant, either  
14 converted coal or a new one, may be able to fill that  
15 gap. And I think you should at least address the  
16 issue of gas.

17 I also understand that gas is  
18 actually starting to move at a national level from  
19 east to west when it was traditionally west to east.  
20 So perhaps there would be an opportunity in either  
21 conversion or new generation to utilize that. You  
22 know, that's what I would like to suggest or ask you  
23 to consider.

24 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. As I  
25 mentioned earlier, we will be here until 8:00, and we

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From: les haney [mailto:[les.haney@yahoo.com](mailto:les.haney@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 2:09 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Draft EIS

Stephanie:

I-071-001

We own a farm located between segment 2E2 and 2F. The land is located in the Township of Milton. The land is looked at as very prime real estate. Bordering both East and West sides of Highway 35 Great River Road. It has a scenic easement of 350' on both sides of the highway. I am allowed to use my scenic easement land for agriculture or single family housing only. Any land outside of the easement can be for agriculture, housing or rezoned for manufacturing or other special use permit approved by county board only.

I-071-002

As you look at the map to the north border of my farm you will see existing homes built over the past years and new homes being built at the present. To the north of that you will see a 3K-12 school. Cochrano-Fountain City School has been at this location many years and this takes large taxes dollars to support. Residents from the area are very, very concerned as to why this unnecessary massive power line has to be routed this direction. Keeping it on the Minnesota side to La Crosse and on seems a much better way. It will have a negative impact on any land sales for housing because of the size and unknown health affects etc. Alma Wisconsin power plant

I-071-003

is so close that we do not need more power poles and lines running across our beautiful area with no purpose for our residents.

I-071-004

Our family is very opposed to this power line project. After many years of hard work we presently are semi-retired and lease the farm land for supplemented retirement income and have prospective buyers on the table for home building lots and a commercial possibility. And I am sure that their final plans and options awaits where this project goes.

Please take into consideration our comments and concerns. This power line will be a great burden on our family and area residents.

Leslie J. Haney  
Lorraine H. Haney  
S2966 ST, HWY. 35  
Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629

#### I-071-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-071-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

#### I-071-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

#### I-071-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

1 the last 20 years. And whatever underlying causes  
2 that there may be for that, I just hope that we err  
3 on the side of caution and the best information that  
4 we have to do that.

5 I also have concerns, like many of  
6 you said, about property value. That basically is  
7 my retirement. The health issues and whether or  
8 not that is the best route. I think you have a  
9 right-of-way already going down the river bottoms  
10 that is already supporting a transmission. I talked  
11 with a gentleman from Xcel that said that one of the  
12 DNR's biggest issues was birds. I think I have birds  
13 in my area, too, and I think they are just as  
14 important.

15 So I just hope that everybody takes  
16 a good strong look at this and factors in especially  
17 the needs of the children. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Charles.  
19 And then he will be followed by David and Beverly  
20 Brady. Did both of you want to speak?

21 MR. BRADY: No. Just David. David  
22 will speak.

23 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, fine. You  
24 will follow Charles then. Thank you.

25 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. My name is

I-072-001

## I-072-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-072-001

1 Charles Hansen and I live at N2019 LaCrosse,  
2 Wisconsin. I live in the town of Shelby.

3 I want to thank everybody for just  
4 being here tonight and I have learned a lot just  
5 tonight from everyone about what you said or had to  
6 say about what I think is a very, very bad idea for  
7 our area.

8 This is what democracy is supposed  
9 to be about. We come out and urge one another. But  
10 I would urge you tonight not to just be content with  
11 what is said tonight. There were some of these  
12 sheets that you were handed when you walked through  
13 the door that you could put your own comment on,  
14 which many of you didn't. Even if you said you don't  
15 like the idea, even if you didn't, just put your  
16 thoughts down, even if it is being recorded. You  
17 all have federal senators. You have got state  
18 representatives, in this assembly and in the state  
19 senate. You should call them and you should write  
20 them and let them know. Make your voices heard.  
21 Because if you don't make your voices heard, then  
22 these big companies making their big profits will  
23 run right over you.

I-072-002

24 The project that is proposed will do  
25 no good for western Wisconsin. Our natural resource,

I-072-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

I-072-002

1 folks, is the natural beauty of this area. No one is  
2 talking about what is one of our major industries.  
3 What is that? Tourism. That's what is going to  
4 jobs. If you think the tourists are going to come to  
5 watch 150-foot electric towers, then you are crazy.  
6 If you want to start protecting jobs, then let's  
7 start protecting the jobs. We came to this area,  
8 our families came to this area because of the beauty  
9 of this area and the major attraction of this area  
10 is our beauty. This line being put through this area  
11 will permanently scar it. We are not talking about  
12 just personal damage. We are talking about the  
13 livelihood of western Wisconsin.

14 If you don't stand up for it now,  
15 then you have nobody to blame but yourselves if it  
16 goes through.

17 This line is not needed. It will  
18 cost jobs and tourism. It will lower your property  
19 values. And to boot, they want us to pay for it. Do  
20 they think we are really that crazy?

21 Thanks for your support in helping to  
22 defeat this.

23 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.  
24 David. And then the last name I have on my list is  
25 John Frie or Fry.

### I-072-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

### I-072-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-072-003

I-072-004

1 I mean people say, "It has to go  
2 here, it has to go there," I don't think so. Not  
3 just for people, but for the environment as well.  
4 Everyone isn't affected. No alternative. People  
5 will build their own.

6 If we get a chance to actually build,  
7 we are going to do everything we can to be off the  
8 grid ourselves with personal windmills, with solar  
9 energy panels. They have come a long way in 30  
10 years, from just like a computer. How big was a  
11 computer 30 years ago? How big is it now? Same  
12 thing can be done. Upgrade the system, sure. You  
13 can get better cables nowadays and more efficiency  
14 that way. Not necessarily you don't have to come  
15 through and build these high-power lines.

16 I probably have more, but I'm very  
17 nervous, so thank you.

18 MODERATOR RICHTER: Could we have  
19 your name for the record, Denise? It is G-A-R?

20 MS. GARAVALLA: Oh,  
21 G-A-R-A-V-A-L-I-A. Sorry.

22 MODERATOR RICHTER: No, that's  
23 alright. Thank you. Sheryl Hanson.

24 MS. HANSON: My name is Sheryl  
25 Hanson. I live at N2019 Stonecrest Road, LaCrosse,

# I-073-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-073-001

I-073-001

1 Wisconsin. I don't have prepared remarks, but I do  
2 know that from what I have read and certainly from  
3 testimony of people tonight there has not been  
4 presented a clear and convincing need for this  
5 project. Nor would anybody argue that this kind of  
6 a project is setting us on the way towards the sort  
7 of energy sustainable use that we all need in the  
8 future.

I-073-002

9 One of the potential lines cuts  
10 across the property that my husband and I live on,  
11 so obviously from a personal standpoint, we are  
12 adamantly opposed to this. But I am no different  
13 from anyone in this room who loves living there.  
14 This is beautiful, just a blessedly beautiful part  
15 of the country, and I can't even say how strongly I  
16 oppose this.

17 So, I do appreciate the opportunity  
18 to come and state my opposition and I urge you to  
19 listen to the will of the people which is being  
20 stated so clearly tonight.

21 Thank you.

22 MODERATOR RICHTER: Mary. Mary,  
23 could you spell your name for the record, too?  
24 Because I have a feeling I didn't pronounce it  
25 correctly.

## I-073-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

W1733 Indian Point Ln  
Cochrane, WI 54622

1/29/2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

THIS IS A PAPER COPY  
OF THE FILE E-MAILED  
TO YOUR OFFICE  
ON 1/30/2012.

THANKS

E-mail attachment or FAX to all.  
Mailed original to Stephanie Strength  
(Others may be copied as needed.)

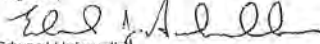
Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – LaCrosse  
345kV Transmission System Improvement Project (a.k.a. CapX2020)

Ms. Strength:

- I-074-001** | I am opposed to the CapX2020 project in western Wisconsin, specifically the proposed route through the Mississippi River Valley:
- It will obviously harm migratory birds in the famous Mississippi Flyway and adjacent Upper Mississippi & Trempealeau Wildlife Refuges.
- I-074-002** |
- Significant effort and facilities are dedicated to tourism and recreation on and along the Mississippi River. No one, visitors or residents, wants to look at towers and cables that are a full one-third the height of the bluffs and would be clearly visible from both land and river.
- I-074-003** |
- Relevant to the above, the road through the valley is a federally designated scenic byway, the Great River Road. The intended travelling experience will be degraded by looming towers and cables in the sight line to surrounding bluffs.
- Note that power lines of this size are not found in either the Lower Columbia or Hudson River valleys, areas of comparable scenic beauty and tourism.
- I-074-004** | Beyond the above reasons, the possibility of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding is inappropriate because:
- The primary partner is Excel Energy, a publicly traded company. Government funding would essentially be the corporate welfare that so many oppose and can ill be afforded.
- I-074-005** |
- The speculative "need" put forth by project advocates is almost exclusively for urban areas.
- I-074-006** |
- In this county (Buffalo) and most other rural areas this project will do far more harm than good. Tourism, wildlife, recreation, and scenery would all be negatively impacted.
- Reinforcing this is the fact that multiple county and township governments have written letters and resolutions in opposition to the project.
- I-074-007** |
- And finally, given the 'Law of unintended consequences', a point was made at a town board meeting that the project could actually eliminate some of the best local jobs. This would happen if mine-mouth coal-generated power from the Dakotas, travelling down the CapX line, undercuts that from cooperative supplier Dairyland Power at plants in Alma and Genoa, Wisconsin.

Summarizing: A project of CapX2020's magnitude has absolutely no place in the Mississippi River Valley.

Regards,

  
Edward Helmueller

#### I-074-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

#### I-074-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

#### I-074-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K02-Great River Road, Wisconsin.

#### I-074-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

#### I-074-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### I-074-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

#### I-074-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.



**I-075-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

From: Ed or Mary Helmueller [mailto:edmary@mw.t.net]  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 2:42 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Cc: john\_medinger@kohl.senate.gov; ron.kind@mail.house.gov  
Subject: Comments to USDA regarding CapX2020

Ms. Strength:

**I-075-001**

My comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project (CapX2020) are on the attached Word document.

While I go into some detail, it can be summarized by stating that a project of CapX2020's magnitude has no place in the Mississippi River Valley.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Edward Helmueller  
Cochrane, WI

W1733 Indian Point Ln  
Cochrane, WI 54622

1/29/2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Strength.

cc: Representative Ron Kind  
Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator Ron Johnson

*E-mail attachment or FAX to all.  
Mailed original to Stephanie*

*(Others may be copied as needed.)*

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – LaCrosse  
345kV Transmission System Improvement Project (a.k.a. CapX2020)

Ms. Strength:

I-075-002

I am opposed to the CapX2020 project in western Wisconsin, specifically the proposed route through the Mississippi River Valley:

I-075-003

- It will obviously harm migratory birds in the famous Mississippi Flyway and adjacent Upper Mississippi & Trempealeau Wildlife Refuges.
- Significant effort and facilities are dedicated to tourism and recreation on and along the Mississippi River. No one, visitors or residents, wants to look at towers and cables that are a full one-third the height of the bluffs and would be clearly visible from both land and river.

I-075-004

- Relevant to the above, the road through the valley is a federally designated scenic byway, the Great River Road. The intended travelling experience will be degraded by looming towers and cables in the sight line to surrounding bluffs.

Note that power lines of this size are not found in either the Lower Columbia or Hudson River valleys, areas of comparable scenic beauty and tourism.

I-075-005

Beyond the above reasons, the possibility of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding is inappropriate because:

I-075-006

- The primary partner is Excel Energy, a publicly traded company. Government funding would essentially be the corporate welfare that so many oppose and can ill be afforded.
  - The speculative "need" put forth by project advocates is almost exclusively for urban areas.
  - In this county (Buffalo) and most other rural areas this project will do far more harm than good. Tourism, wildlife, recreation, and scenery would all be negatively impacted.
- Reinforcing this is the fact that multiple county and township governments have written letters and resolutions in opposition to the project.
- And finally, given the 'Law of unintended consequences', a point was made at a town board meeting that the project could actually eliminate some of the best local jobs. This would happen if mine-mouth coal-generated power from the Dakotas, travelling down the CapX line, undercuts that from cooperative supplier Dairyland Power at plants in Alma and Genoa, Wisconsin.

Summarizing: A project of CapX2020's magnitude has absolutely no place in the Mississippi River Valley.

Regards,  
Edward Helmueller

## I-075-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

## I-075-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

## I-075-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K02-Great River Road, Wisconsin.

## I-075-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

## I-075-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

1 as health risks, environmental impact, and personal  
2 financial burdens may be seen by many people as  
3 monetary issues only. But more importantly they are  
4 negatively life changing.

5 I hope the business of putting  
6 this together, putting this project together, will  
7 see that people's lives and livelihoods are more  
8 important than the money made by this project. Thank  
9 you.

10 MS. RICHTER: Okay. That is all  
11 of the names that have been provided to me of  
12 individuals that wanted to speak. I believe we have  
13 about time for three more people that maybe didn't  
14 get their name on a list and would like to speak. I  
15 would like to first ask if somebody who did not speak  
16 prior would like to speak if we missed getting their  
17 name, and then if we still have time, we could allow  
18 three minutes for another person. Thank you.

19 **THERESA HENDERSON:** Hello, my name  
20 Theresa Henderson, H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I live at  
21 W1158 Henderson Road just off of 88. And I just  
22 would like to say I'm against the 88 corridor, and  
23 personally I don't like the idea of mass amounts of  
24 energy come from one source and getting distributed  
25 to another area because I just feel like the local

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952-922-1955

# **I-076-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

**I-076-001**

I-076-001

1 communities or else the communities closer should  
2 find a way to make their own energy. And that's all.  
3 Oh, I think it's great that North Dakota has all this  
4 coal, but maybe they should assign someone else  
5 closer to sell it. Maybe Canada. Thank you.

6 MS. RICHTER: Is there anyone else  
7 that did not get an opportunity to speak before?  
8 Yes, please.

9 TREVOR HOGAN: My name at Trevor  
10 Hogan, we live in Trempealeau. We've attended  
11 several of these meetings, and what we are finding  
12 out is that -- I mean, I'm listening to all you  
13 folks tonight, and it's all the same story every  
14 place we go. We don't seem to have a problem getting  
15 a bill in the mail for electric, but we do seem to  
16 have a problem getting informed about this thing.  
17 And that's all I wanted to say.

18 MS. RICHTER: Anyone else that  
19 wanted an opportunity?

20 GEORGE NYGARD: My name is George  
21 Nygard. I wasn't going to say anything tonight, and  
22 I was going to wait until Friday. I just want to  
23 make it really short. I'm so impressed by the  
24 statements you people made, and I want to remind  
25 people that with the PSC statements, that for their

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952-922-1955

1 section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section  
2 organic farming was not even identified at all. This  
3 line would compromise our right to farm in a matter  
4 for good business properties and economic practices.

5 We are also very concerned about  
6 the effect of any or all stray voltage from the  
7 proposed line on people and animals. If we are not  
8 careful in the future, stray voltage will put us  
9 humans as the No. 1 thing on the list of endangered  
10 species. Our family is working towards a century  
11 farm status, and we are very distressed about the  
12 proposal of this line to come through, and that on  
13 top of all our efforts lose the value that we are now  
14 trying to build.

15 We do not agree with the proposed  
16 line that is supposed to come through on 88. My  
17 husband and I would definitely vote no on this  
18 project. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: Gary?

20 GARY BRONE: It's all been  
21 covered. But I strongly feel the no action  
22 alternative is the way to go. Thank you.

23 MS. RICHTER: David Herzberg, and  
24 he will be followed by Kay Lockinstein.

25 DAVID HERZBERG: David Herzberg,

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952-922-1955

I-077-001

1 H-E-R-Z-B-E-R-G, and now I was going to start from  
2 the top, but kind of listening here, I might start  
3 from the bottom. And they say about this research  
4 and stuff -- I was electrocuted to the silo, a big  
5 silo. The electrician come down, I was having  
6 problems with it. I touched the silo, I was stuck  
7 onto the silo from this electricity. If nobody would  
8 have been there, that would have been it. So I just  
9 thought that was really important and to bring that  
10 up. There is things that do go wrong that you  
11 probably don't anticipate. No way did I think that  
12 silo was going to leave me there. So okay.

13 I'm concerned about my cattle. I  
14 farm. It's a family farm. I'm concerned about the  
15 cattle and all this here. And I'll just kind of skip  
16 through this here and try to get into -- farming is  
17 my life. The farm has been in the Herzberg name for  
18 119 years. My uncle, Dad's brother, started a family  
19 reunion picnic, and it's going -- I don't -- we tried  
20 to find out how many years it was in process. It had  
21 to be a long time because when he come out, he come  
22 out with beer in a wash tub. So this has got to be,  
23 you know. And I'm keeping that going.

24 And we got a pumpkin patch for the  
25 kids. We got a hayride. And we started a tractor

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### I-077-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

**I-077-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

**I-077-002**

1 ride. And it's the first Sunday in October, and that  
2 is kind of a scenic view, supposed to be anyway if  
3 the leaves cooperate with me. But it's always the  
4 first Sunday in October. And it's supposed to be --  
5 when they come out, the old farm, that's what my  
6 uncle wanted, come out and see the old farm every  
7 year. And it's supposed to be a scenic ride out  
8 there. And we got, you know, a really a nice time  
9 out at the farm. And I hope, you know, that your  
10 concerns are kind of about us.

11 And I just kind of slipped through  
12 this here, and I think I will -- and I oppose the  
13 line.

14 MS. RICHTER: Kay will be followed  
15 by Susan Pronschinske. Okay. Susan will do online.  
16 So then it's Christine Jumbeck. Okay. You'll  
17 follow.

18 KATHY MOCKINGTON. My name is  
19 Kathy Mockington. I'm from Arcadia, Wisconsin. I  
20 have to address the people at the table. Why have  
21 you not had a meeting in Arcadia? Are the hills too  
22 steep to get over? And I guess the thing I want them  
23 to do is also to drive Thompson Valley Road, which is  
24 an extremely narrow valley, and that is where they  
25 are thinking -- after finding that out several

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952-922-1955

1 of what this and related transmission projects would  
2 do to the economic viability of our community.

3 Second, I would like to ask if RUS or  
4 the USDA would allow funding for projects in  
5 economically deprived areas.

6 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Are  
7 you finished or would you like to submit your  
8 comments?

9 MS. KENT: I will submit them.

10 (Off the record.)

11 MODERATOR RICHTER: Victoria will be  
12 followed by Peggy Paskert (phonetic) and then Chris  
13 Stark. And to get a sense of how we are doing this  
14 evening, following those three individuals, we still  
15 have seven others that have indicated that they would  
16 like to speak.

17 So Victoria. Thank you.

18 **MS. HIRSCHBOECK:** My name is Victoria  
19 Hirschboeck. H-I-R-S-C-H-B-O-E-C-K. I live at  
20 N15094 Delaney Road in Trempealeau and I am speaking  
21 as a private citizen here tonight.

22 I have read the Draft EIS and I will  
23 speak specifically to the Draft EIS, and I will  
24 submit complete comments in writing.

25 One comment that I would like to

## I-078-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C11-Reasonable Alternatives.

I-078-001



I-078-001

1 make here tonight is that I found that the draft is  
2 deficient in one very important aspect that is  
3 required by the National Environmental Protection  
4 Act. It is that it fails to provide you with  
5 reasonable and prudent alternatives. There are more  
6 alternatives than two. What has come about is that  
7 the preferred alternative, the Q1 route, has been  
8 put up against the Arcadia/Gaylesville route. So if  
9 you are the applicant, if you want to run your line  
10 down the Mississippi River, what is the best way of  
11 doing that? So, propose a second route to compare it  
12 to that impacts the most residences that you can  
13 find, and that's what happened.

14 This document pits people's interest  
15 against the interests of our scenic byway, our  
16 wildlife resources and the treasure of the  
17 Mississippi River.

I-078-002

18 There is another alternative that I  
19 have asked specifically in scoping to have evaluated,  
20 which has not been evaluated, it was eliminated based  
21 on it being longer, which is not the decision now,  
22 with the addition of the Arcadia line, and that is  
23 the Blair/Atric (phonetic) line. That line does not  
24 go through Blair/Atric. It goes around. I challenge  
25 all of you to go Google it yourself, look at that

## I-078-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C12-Blair Route.

I-078-002

1 existing line. It is called the Trempealeau line.  
2 It is owned by Xcel. It crosses very few residences.  
3 It takes that line out of the Mississippi River  
4 Valley. It is a win-win for both the environmental  
5 concerns and for people.

6 Now, no, personally I am not in favor  
7 of this project at all, but if the project is going  
8 to be built and the RUS is going to fund it, they  
9 must comply with the regulations as put forth under  
10 NEPA.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

13 Excuse me. Peggy.

14 THE SPEAKER: Peggy Paskert  
15 (phonetic). I am from Lafarge (phonetic), Wisconsin,  
16 which is Vernon County. I am happy to see this many  
17 people here tonight. It has been 15 months since I  
18 have been asked to participate in the Stark Planning  
19 Energy Committee. And the more I read, the more  
20 frustrated I get. There is a lot of information out  
21 there. I think the lady that just spoke probably  
22 represents 90 percent of the people that are involved  
23 in this process.

24 The companies that are building these  
25 transmission lines want to pit each of us against



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-079-001

Build the power station where they are going to  
use the power

Encourage alternative and more local solutions to  
future problems as they manifest

Become totally Transparent in the reasons  
and causes of your actions!!

I-079-002

I had a town board rep tell me there was \$500,000  
purpose for my township x \$20 + thousand each  
year after to account for decrease in land values  
and taxes! What about my land values?

I am totally apposed to this projection

Optional: Name: Joy Hittner

Address: S2968 Hwy G Fountain City, WI 54629

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13~~, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB 13TH

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

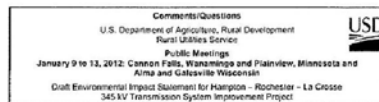
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-079-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

**I-079-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-080-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-080-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-080-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-080-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Jim Huel Date 2/13/12  
Print Name GIL HUEL  
Address 30503 OPUS RD.  
ONTARIO, WI 54651

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/2012CapX2020ManagementPlanandEIS.html>

### I-080-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-080-002

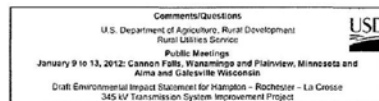
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-080-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-080-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

**I-081-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-081-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-081-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

**I-081-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Julia V. Hoel Date 2/13/12  
Print Name Julia V. Hoel  
Address 30503 Opus Rd.  
Ontario, WI 54651

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Attach no tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.nad.usda.gov/ITDP/CapX2020/Alternative%20Action%20Plan.html>

## I-081-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-081-002

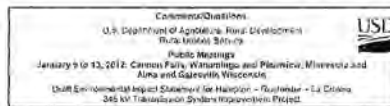
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-081-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-081-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2044  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-082-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-082-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-082-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I I and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-082-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP I I investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Duane Hoff Date 1-3-12

Print Name

Address



If you would like to take this form with you, please mail it to the address on the back of this form. Please have it ready to the address appears on the outside of the envelope with a stamp and mail.

For: 1374

Or email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/energy/2012/01/03/USDA-Response-to-Public-Feedback>

## I-082-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-082-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-082-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-082-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

From: June Hofschulte [mailto:ljune@myclearwave.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:09 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Cap X  
Importance: High

I-083-001

To whom it may concern,  
On Wednesday, Feb 8, my wife and I went on a nature hike on our tree farm on the Zumbro River "North Route River crossing"  
We observed several eagles young & old enjoying the day. We believe to be a golden eagle. The day was cool and pleasant and the eagles seemed to take a great interest on our presence as we in theirs.  
We were all one- We –The trees- The river- The eagles and the land free of a huge power line.  
Sincerely,  
LaVerne S Hofschulte

#### I-083-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

1 communities or else the communities closer should  
2 find a way to make their own energy. And that's all.  
3 Oh, I think it's great that North Dakota has all this  
4 coal, but maybe they should assign someone else  
5 closer to sell it. Maybe Canada. Thank you.

6 MS. RICHTER: Is there anyone else  
7 that did not get an opportunity to speak before?  
8 Yes, please.

9 TREVOR HOGAN: My name at Trevor  
10 Hogan, we live in Trempealeau. We've attended  
11 several of these meetings, and what we are finding  
12 out is that -- I mean, I'm listening to all you  
13 folks tonight, and it's all the same story every  
14 place we go. We don't seem to have a problem getting  
15 a bill in the mail for electric, but we do seem to  
16 have a problem getting informed about this thing.  
17 And that's all I wanted to say.

18 MS. RICHTER: Anyone else that  
19 wanted an opportunity?

20 GEORGE NYGARD: My name is George  
21 Nygard. I wasn't going to say anything tonight, and  
22 I was going to wait until Friday. I just want to  
23 make it really short. I'm so impressed by the  
24 statements you people made, and I want to remind  
25 people that with the PSC statements, that for their

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#### I-084-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and  
Meetings.

I-084-001



B2

1 the last five years. I don't want to see it going up  
2 to 50 percent in the next couple of years. So my  
3 question is, for the federal, bring in some of this  
4 extra money from further east to cover the costs so  
5 that the local people here don't have to finance this  
6 thing.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Is  
9 there someone that would like to speak that has not  
10 spoken yet? You have not, okay. Anybody else? Just  
11 so I have a sense of how many people that might be?  
12 Can you raise your hands? (Reviewing.) Two. Okay.  
13 Thank you.

14 MR. HOGAN: My name is Trevor Hogan,  
15 H-O-G-A-N.

16 I have been attending these meetings  
17 up and down the river. Everywhere I go people are so  
18 against this, it is amazing. I can't even believe we  
19 are discussing this anymore. On and on we keep  
20 seeing our government officials that have done  
21 studies, and turning around and basically calling  
22 them liars, and saying, "Hey, you know, we don't need  
23 this thing." I have got a great idea. We have got a  
24 million carpenters. I, as one, are out of work in  
25 this country. Let's build them a new power station.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

## I-085-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-085-001

I-085-001

1 I would love to build them a new power station in  
2 Chicago. Don't take our property. Don't take our  
3 homes. I can run coal down there all night long, if  
4 that's what you got to do.

5 I am not here to make light of this  
6 either. I am also not here to push this onto  
7 somebody else. I don't think that is right either.  
8 My property is no less beautiful than your property.  
9 I am going to tell you this right now, I represent  
10 the people that live underneath QAL. One of the dots  
11 on that map, you can't even see it because they are  
12 lying about it. Right across the top of my house.  
13 I see the neighbors out here. They are all out here  
14 and concerned about it. And I hear this, the refuge  
15 with the snakes, but there are people down there,  
16 too, just as beautiful as your property and just as  
17 beautiful as your family. And you wouldn't believe  
18 my deer. But I got to tell you, it is just sad how  
19 we are trying to push this all over the place. Push  
20 it onto this guy or that guy. And it makes me want  
21 to cry. And I am a really hard person to make cry.

22 I just want to say that I am firmly  
23 opposed to this. I just got to say I think it is  
24 ignorant to run a power line halfway across the  
25 United States. They don't have water there? It is

I-085-001

1 the windy city! It is Chicago! There is no  
2 solution? I mean I will pedal a bike, you know.  
3 This is just so that Xcel can make money. And I have  
4 also listened to them do their statements, and what  
5 I found is every night they revise it because they  
6 are caught in another lie, and another lie, and  
7 another lie, and it keeps going on and on, and on,  
8 and every meeting that I go to, somebody brings up  
9 another point that Xcel can't quite cover.

10 One time they even opened with the  
11 expansion in the sizes of Winona or Alma. And  
12 everybody around here knows that the small towns  
13 around here have one problem, they can't grow because  
14 they are surrounded by bluffs and the river. Where  
15 are they going to go? You can't build up the bluffs.  
16 We're not building more. We are not needing more  
17 power. Our officials are saying we aren't needing  
18 more power. I can't even understand why this is  
19 even not finished.

20 Thank you.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

22 Before I even saw your hand, I saw the gentleman's  
23 hand in the back, please. Then we will come to you  
24 next.

25 MR. GARAVALLA: My name is Gary

Trevor Hogan  
W25222 Williamson Ln.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661

February 11, 2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 202050-1570

Re: CapX2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence:

I-086-001

I attended several meetings on the CapX2020 project. By attending multiple meetings, I was able to hear people express their disgust with the potential for this power line project to go through and disrupt and destroy their homes, lives, and livelihood.

I'm appalled at what we have found. The power companies want to bulldoze over homes and destroy the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge, which I live right next to.

We also listened to Xcel Energy representatives say one thing at one meeting, have their false statements called out and at the next meeting say the opposite. These lies hide possible profits for them and profit sharers, at our expense. The citizens of Minnesota and Wisconsin will pay 80% as rate-payers. They will also pay again if you approve federal funding. If that is not enough, those who live along the transmission line will also pay through losing homes and property, plunging home values, loss of industry such as farming and tourism, loss of jobs, and an increase in health problems. So, the individuals who live close to the transmission line could pay over and over and over, even exponentially. This can't happen. What an injustice. This is an example of one of the biggest problems in this world, GREED.

Xcel Energy has claimed that the power transmitted on these lines will largely come from wind and yet at other meetings, when confronted, they back down stating that they never made such aggressive claims. Let's say they will load a sufficient amount of wind on these lines, does it not seem ridiculous to transport wind power to "The Windy City." That seems similar to the absurd idea of transporting salt water from the west to the east coast.

I-086-002

Xcel has also attempted to persuade us by stating the power on these lines is for the very citizens that will have this line in close proximity. This is a lie. This is a transmission line with one destination in mind, to meet up with the Badger Coulee project and transmit coal energy from the Dakotas to Madison, Chicago, Ohio and further east. It seems that the citizens of Minnesota and Wisconsin will pay for this power line for the

I-086-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-086-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

**I-086-002**

rest of their lives and receive absolutely no benefit. The benefit will only include profits for power companies and locations Far East of the areas destroyed.

**I-086-003**

I believe there are other alternatives to Madison, Chicago, Ohio and further east obtaining energy. More locally produced electricity helps local people in many ways such as job creation for carpenters, engineers, maintenance, etc. A centrally located power source and a transmission line that is completely dependent upon each and every one of the 150-170 foot poles invites disaster (e.g. terrorist strikes). It seems locally produced energy creates the opportunity for better efficiency and conservation efforts. The above will also drive down the cost of energy in the future.

**I-086-004**

I am a simple carpenter and do not make much money. Everything I have is in my health, the health of my family and the security of my home. This power line that will potentially be constructed within 100 feet of my home, just outside the right of way, threatens all that I have!

I plead with you to help fight this corporate invasion of our rights as American citizens.

Sincerely,

Trevor Hogan  
W25222 Williamson Ln.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661

**I-086-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

**I-086-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

1 that the proposed lines will be in my yard. I'm  
2 petrified for my family, my neighbors, and my  
3 community.

4 I leave you with this question, do  
5 the so-called benefits that the power companies claim  
6 outweigh the devastating and irreversible  
7 consequences to our land, our property values, our  
8 natural resources, our agriculture, our tourism, our  
9 health, and our wallets, and on the future of  
10 renewable and environmentally friendly energy?

11 \* \* \* \*

I-087-001

12 GRACE HOHMAN: I'm a property  
13 owner on Highway 88 and Highway E, and my property  
14 has been in my family since 1854, and it is  
15 actually -- I've put a conservation easement on it to  
16 maintain its natural state. And I'm not in favor of  
17 the power line, either alternative A or B of the two  
18 alternatives. I think it's just plain insane to put  
19 this major power line down a valley when there are  
20 other existing routes that are already there where  
21 they already have the right-of-way. And to tear up  
22 what is a scenic natural valley for this power line  
23 is just sinful.

I-087-002

24 And I also -- the effect on my  
25 property values, on the neighbors' property values,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-087-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.

### I-087-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-087-002

1 the loss of cropland, the -- you know, the health  
2 dangers, and all the other issues, I'm very opposed  
3 and I'm not sure that the power line is necessary at  
4 all. But if it has to be that, it should go down  
5 existing corridors where the right-of-way -- either  
6 the Highway 35 or the overland route where they  
7 already have the right-of-ways.

8 CINDY KAZMIERSZAK: All I wanted  
9 to say is I'm against building a brand-new  
10 infrastructure of power lines when one already exists  
11 along Highway 35. I don't understand the economic  
12 reasoning behind wanting to build a brand-new route  
13 when we currently have power line routes. And I also  
14 want proof that there is a need for more power in the  
15 state of Wisconsin.

16 I, as a taxpayer and landowner in  
17 the proposed route, don't think this is going to  
18 benefit me in any way, and I'm going to lose property  
19 value. There's no benefit to me.

20 \* \* \* \*

21 IRENE DITTRICH: My main concern  
22 is the high voltage near my house. The health hazard  
23 problem. And I already have a high line near my  
24 house on my property. It will decrease the value of  
25 my house for resale. And it should follow the route

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

From: Jeff Hohman [mailto:hohma002@umn.edu]  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 7:53 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Comments on the Alma-LaCrosse 345kV Transmission Project

I-088-001

I am a property owner on the STH 88 alternative route for the CAPX2020 transmission line. My property has been in my family since 1854 and is covered by a conservation easement with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. I am opposed to using either of the STH 88 alternative routes. A transmission line will be created where none now exists. According to the final EIS, routes using the STH 88 alternatives A or B cross the most farmland, require more new ROW, affect the most new wooded wetland acres, and clear the most new upland forest area. Why would the Rural Utilities Service support this project that is detrimental to this rural area of Wisconsin and the livelihood of its residents?

I-088-002

I-088-003

The EIS also questions the need for additional electrical capacity since the area in Wisconsin affected by the transmission line is not growing nor is demand. I also oppose the Alma-LaCrosse 345 kV transmission line since I believe the claims of need for it are overstated. Other ways of updating lines and meeting demand should be explored. Why tear up Wisconsin's natural and agricultural resources for a project that has limited benefits and will result in higher costs for the residents of Wisconsin?

Grace Henry Hohman  
637 Kenwood Pkwy  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-374-3307

#### I-088-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.

#### I-088-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

#### I-088-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



1 Garavalia.

2 MODERATOR RICHTER: Could you spell  
3 your last name, please.

4 MR. GARAVALLIA: G-A-R-A-V-A-L-I-A.  
5 My wife spoke a little while ago.

6 Yeah, 2008, we found what we thought  
7 was the most beautiful place. We were going to build  
8 our house. We got two beautiful young girls. And it  
9 is just sad. We can't do anything. Our hands are  
10 tied. We are currently trying to sell our home, but  
11 if we sell it, where do we go? Do we have to rent  
12 for a year and find out what is going to happen? It  
13 is sad. Since this begun, I'm on high blood pressure  
14 medication. And you can even ask my wife. I'm a  
15 real SOB most of the time. There is no need for it.  
16 We don't want it. Just tell them where they can  
17 shove it. That's the way I look at it. Thank you.

18 ME. HORTON: My name is Nancy Horton,  
19 O-N. I am from Eckridge (phonetic) Township. And  
20 I have one thing that I would like to agree with,  
21 pitting people against each other.

22 I mean I live on the edge, over by  
23 the electric line, which is the right-of-way will  
24 come into our farm, which is a second generation  
25 organic farm, so we have to deal with chemicals in

## I-089-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

I-089-001

I-089-001

1 that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go  
2 over the school that my grandchildren are attending,  
3 so it is going to affect us all.

I-089-002

4 So I guess I am angry, also, that we  
5 have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in  
6 this area. And why do we have to deal with it and  
7 why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that  
8 technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind  
9 of technology into something that is already dated is  
10 not a wise thing to do.

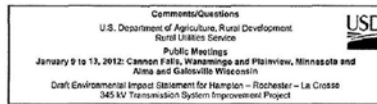
11 We can give everybody a solar water  
12 heater for what this is going to cost. I mean it  
13 is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I  
14 really do object to the whole, "Let's put it here.  
15 Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people  
16 over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair.  
17 And there has got to be alternatives than what is  
18 in that report. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay,  
20 now I'm going to ask again, are there people here  
21 that have not spoken yet that would like to have  
22 three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay.  
23 Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

24 MR. WOLBERG: I am Ed Wolberg. I  
25 live down on Harris Road. When we first started

## I-089-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

I-090-001

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

I-090-002

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

I-090-003

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

I-090-004

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:


Sincerely,  
Ron Johnson

(Optional)

Signature  Date 2-12-12

Print Name Ronald M. Johnson

Address

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by  2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail. FEB. 13<sup>TH</sup>  
Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

#### I-090-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-090-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-090-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### I-090-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

1 is a sand mine. And if you know anything about the  
2 sand mine in Trempealeau County, it is exploding. I  
3 don't know if you want to put the lines up and then  
4 take them down again. It doesn't really matter to  
5 me.

6 The other thing is Arcadia is  
7 being hemmed in by the east portion because of this  
8 transmission line, and they are looking at annexing a  
9 sand mine to the city. And I really don't think that  
10 your congestion problems in Minnesota should become  
11 our congestion problems in this part of Wisconsin.  
12 Thank you.

13 MS. RICHTER: And Christine will  
14 be followed by Gene and Cheryl Baker. And could you  
15 spell your last name for the record, please?

16 CHRIS JUMBECK: Chris Jumbeck. I  
17 live a mile off of Highway 88. And I'm also a  
18 schoolteacher at Cochrane-Fountain City High School.  
19 I teach high school agriculture and natural  
20 resources. And I strongly support a no action  
21 alternative. We've heard a lot of discussion  
22 tonight, and a lot of those things were things I was  
23 going to say. However, I wanted to first applaud our  
24 community and applaud our kids. Preston Jordon,  
25 Corlen and Barbara for having the courage to come up

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

# I-091-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-091-001

I-091-001

1 here and be passionate about such an issue. It takes  
2 a lot of courage to speak in front of your community.

I-091-002

3 And I applaud the community and  
4 the entire agriculture community too. We are very  
5 distressed. A lot of this has been just dumped on us  
6 in the last few days and few weeks. And people have  
7 legitimate concerns. And I think we really need to  
8 look at that. The USDA is supposed to help us. It  
9 is supposed to be promoting agriculture. And I  
10 really have a hard time seeing how giving a loan to  
11 this CapX2020 project is promoting real agriculture.  
12 We have to feed a growing population. We are 20 --  
13 by 2050, our population is going to double, and if we  
14 keep losing farms and we are not concerned about  
15 that, we are all going to go hungry. We are all  
16 going to be lacking in clothing, et cetera, et  
17 cetera.

I-091-003

18 The main thing I'm concerned about  
19 that nobody has brought up today is how will this  
20 affect our high school, our elementary school, our  
21 kids. I look out my window and the substation is a  
22 quarter mile from my classroom. I already have  
23 issues with my television being kind of crazy, just  
24 turning on for no reason. And we joke about it in  
25 the classroom, that it's Herby, the janitor that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

## I-091-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

## I-091-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O08-Electronic Equipment.

I-091-003

1 passed away many years ago is causing it. When I  
2 really know deep down what's causing this issue.  
3 I've had computers for the last two years that fail  
4 to work properly, and I have to ask myself what's  
5 causing that. We haven't come to a conclusion with  
6 that.

I-091-004

7 So we have to look and we have to  
8 think about the kids and the substation that's going  
9 to be a quarter mile from our classroom and from our  
10 school and how that's going to affect the health and  
11 the well-being of our kids. And we just need to

I-091-005

12 think about what we teach our kids today. We are  
13 teaching our kids about alternative energy systems,  
14 we are teaching about being green, and here we are  
15 leading by examples is what we are supposed to do,  
16 and we want to put up a huge power line right down on  
17 a national wildlife refuge, a flyway, it's just  
18 ridiculous. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: Gene and Cheryl  
20 Baker. Do you both want to speak or just Cheryl.  
21 Cheryl will speak on behalf of them. Thank you.

22 CHERYL BAKER: I'm Cheryl Baker.  
23 I live on Highway 88. Our address is W1166 Meyer  
24 Road. We were informed just a couple of weeks ago by  
25 Susan Suhr, who was a neighbor of ours, of the

#### I-091-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

#### I-091-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-092-001

1 say about 75, 80 percent -- yeah, about 100 percent  
2 there again, huh. Okay. And I wanted to go on  
3 record that I do also support the no action  
4 alternative. So thank you.

5 **DAN JUMBECK:** I just wanted to  
6 make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when  
7 they rated the Great River Road, the portion that  
8 goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard,  
9 and it was listed as poor back in '71. So if it was  
10 poor then, there's been no upgrades since 1971. If  
11 it was poor then, it's poor now, so why wreck a  
12 beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it's the  
13 nickname of Waumandee Valley, not silicone valley.  
14 Thank you.

15 **MS. RICHTER:** Was there one more  
16 individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

17 **FRED GLEITOR:** I'm Fred Gleitor  
18 from Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road,  
19 Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my  
20 brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation  
21 on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100  
22 percent during a national survey this fall. There  
23 are quality milk producers in this Valley. The  
24 proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house,  
25 dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle

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### I-092-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

1 and individuals, organizations, who spent  
2 considerable efforts working to protect the bluffs of  
3 this area from construction of highly unsightly  
4 buildings on bluff sides and ridge lines which can  
5 cause erosion, landslides, damage to the visual  
6 beauty to the community and contaminate water  
7 supplies. The proposed power line would severely  
8 detract from the efforts of both private and public  
9 organizations to preserve these visual and natural  
10 resources and water quality, which are important  
11 esthetic and economic benefits to southeast Minnesota  
12 and western Wisconsin.

13 The power lines create an  
14 unnecessary decrease in property values for many of  
15 the landowners in this area. And I would like to  
16 just make a mention that earlier one of the needs  
17 that was mentioned was was reliability -- I guess  
18 that's it. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: The next person is  
20 Robert Miller followed by Robert Kamrowski. And I  
21 want to apologize up front for not pronouncing names  
22 correctly. Bob Miller left. So are Robert  
23 Kamrowski, and then he would be followed by David  
24 Fetting.

25 ROBERT KAMROWSKI: My name is



**I-093-001**

1 Robert Kamrowski. I reside at S2759 State Road 88 in  
2 Fountain City. I strongly oppose the CapX2020  
3 project on Highway 88. President Obama has called  
4 for 80 percent of American's electricity to come from  
5 clean resources by 2035. USDA should be at the  
6 forefront of establishing this goal, not supporting  
7 dirty coal and the coal produced energy and then  
8 setting 100 miles of massive zig zag transmission  
9 lines that create havoc on our land, our property  
10 values, natural resources, agriculture, tourism,  
11 health, and the pocketbook.

**I-093-002**

12 In my view, for transmission  
13 lines, it should follow the Interstate Highway  
14 System. Also, it should be unlawful, I would think,  
15 to put transmission lines on electric right-of-ways  
16 that were intended for local distribution lines.

**I-093-003**

17 Page 110 2.4.2.1, transmission lines reduces the  
18 impact of farming operations. The proposed 88 route  
19 will go through my property, throughout multiple  
20 fields leaving it dangerous to navigate with the  
21 various machinery I utilize. This is absolutely  
22 unacceptable to me.

**I-093-004**

23 Page 189 3.2.2.1. There is an  
24 adverse impact of waterfowl, from discharges  
25 associated with construction and the operation of

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**I-093-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A10-Transmission of Electricity Generated by Burning  
Coal.

**I-093-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

**I-093-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

**I-093-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water  
Resources, F01-General/Other.

I-093-004

1 power lines. The farm would be greatly affected by  
2 water quality.

I-093-005

3 3.9.2.4, Wisconsin segment four.  
4 Potential archeological sites. The Wisconsin 88  
5 option 8 corridor Page 310. The drains are located  
6 on one of our farms, which would require compliance  
7 not only with the National and Wisconsin Historic  
8 Preservation Act, but also with the Wisconsin  
9 Dairyland Site Preservation Act. There's also Indian  
10 Mounds, I think, that comes under the same thing.

I-093-006

11 Alternatives evaluated in detail on page 10 through  
12 13. I do not believe this route was evaluated in  
13 detail. The Highway 88 corridor is a migratory home  
14 for nesting grounds for sandhill cranes as well as  
15 nesting sites for several eagles. It is common to  
16 see up to 100 bald eagles surrounding the wetlands on  
17 my property in the spring. This 88 corridor is a  
18 migratory Canadian geese flyway and it becomes a  
19 refuge for hundreds of geese and ducks and sightings  
20 of all kind of wildlife have been seen on the  
21 property.

22 I own two farming properties on  
23 the State Highway 88 with cattle and an already  
24 milking operating facility. I utilize best farming  
25 practices as I have --

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### I-093-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M02-Archaeological.

### I-093-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

1 adverse effect would be great with regard to safety  
2 and health, and as well as esthetics. These effects  
3 will be noticed by any future prospective buyers for  
4 this property for residential use with devaluations  
5 possible. I thank you for your consideration.

6 \* \* \* \*

I-094-001

7 **SANDY KAMROWSKI:** Okay. My name  
8 is a Sandy Kamrowski, my husband and I live at S2759  
9 Highway 88, and also adjoining farm at S2730 Highway  
10 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin. I would like to start  
11 my comments with 2.1.1 NEPA, evaluation process and  
12 criteria. It would be more practical from the  
13 technical standpoint and just plain old common sense  
14 to go the no action alternative. There is no need  
15 for these transmission lines in our area.

I-094-002

16 Referring to page 67, 1.4.1  
17 scoping period. As a homeowner of two farms, I was  
18 notified by the USDA only two days prior to this  
19 meeting. Having been forced to read through as much  
20 of the USDA's Web site as I could prepare for today's  
21 meeting, I feel as though I wasn't inadvertently left  
22 off the mailing list, I feel as though someone is  
23 trying to hide something.

I-094-003

24 Referring to page 313, 3.10.1.1,  
25 EMFs. More research needs to be conducted regarding

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#### I-094-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-094-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for Highway 88 Alternatives.

#### I-094-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-094-003

1 the impact on our health. General studies in some  
2 areas show hypersensitivity, depression, insomnia,  
3 Alzheimer's, cardiovascular disorders, and disorders  
4 in human reproduction and immune systems. These  
5 studies are inconclusive but point directly to  
6 cellular damage. This concerns me as I have children  
7 and grandchildren who are active in and around the  
8 farm who would be constantly in direct contact with  
9 these EMFs. Furthermore, my farms are right next to  
10 Cochrane Fountain City schools, which should alarm  
11 everyone in our area.

I-094-004

12 Referring to page 313 3.10.2.3,  
13 induced and stray voltage. Stray voltage would be at  
14 our expense, and stray voltage is a proven fact.  
15 There would be no way for us to have our fields  
16 planted, maintained, and harvested as the machinery  
17 needed would be difficult to get around and under  
18 these lines and poles. Electronics in our tractors  
19 and machinery would be in constant jeopardy of the  
20 EMF. I would think that the USDA would support the  
21 opposition of CapX2020 and pose as an advocate for  
22 agriculture and not the utilities.

I-094-005

23 Referring to page 321 through 325,  
24 3.11.2.1, property values, housing, loans, and  
25 tourism. Both of our properties' values would

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#### I-094-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

#### I-094-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-094-005

1 decrease significantly as the proposed lines and  
2 poles slice directly through both farms. The

I-094-006

3 insurance rates or the refusal of obtaining insurance  
4 also concerns me. We have many friends and family  
5 that frequently stay at our farms for hunting and  
6 recreational purposes. Our farms are our life  
7 savings.

I-094-007

8 Highway 88 would be greatly  
9 impacted in a negative way. It sports challenging  
10 twists and turns, hills and valleys, and is a scenic  
11 road of grazing animals, woodlands, sceneries,  
12 beautiful running creeks, and various trees. I ask  
13 you to support a rural community lifestyle and  
14 protect our children, businesses, farms, tourism, and  
15 wildlife. I oppose the CapX2020 on Highway 88.

16 \* \* \* \*

17 RON KAZMIERCZAK: Well, my major  
18 concern is that we already have an existing route  
19 that goes parallel to Highway 35, the towers are  
20 there, the right-of-ways are there, now I understand  
21 that this will call for taller towers. But the  
22 right-of-ways is there, the damage is already done.  
23 It's the shortest, most cost-efficient, most  
24 cost-effective route to use. Why not use that  
25 existing route? To put this little jaunt to go down

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#### I-094-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O11-Insurance.

#### I-094-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

1 Black Hill Road and then come down Highway 88 seems  
2 kind of ludicrous to me because you are going way out  
3 of your way. Additional miles, the right-of-ways  
4 that are going to have to be acquired, additional  
5 towers are going to have to be put in. Additional  
6 expense for wiring, maintenance, and everything else.  
7 To me it just does not make sense to go that way.

8 Now, I understand the scenic road  
9 issue and all that, but frankly, those towers are  
10 there now, if they go another 50 or 70 feet taller,  
11 what's the difference. I mean, you can replace a  
12 dual post tower with a single post tower, and I  
13 believe that would be about 50 feet taller. So place  
14 the towers where they belong, where they already are.  
15 It's not a big deal.

16 \* \* \* \*

I-095-001

17 VICKY KAMROWSKI: Well, I'm Vicky  
18 Kamrowski, and my parents are Robert and Sandy  
19 Kamrowski. And I built a house on my parents' land,  
20 so these lines go right through my home, my farmland.  
21 So -- okay. I would first like to voice my  
22 frustration and ask the question as to why I and  
23 everyone else on Highway 88 was omitted from the  
24 USDA's involvement in the funding of the CapX2020  
25 proposed Highway 88 route until two days prior to

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### I-095-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for  
Highway 88 Alternatives.

I-095-001

1           this meeting.  
2                           It furthermore frustrates me that  
3           you people hold these meetings at a time when most  
4           farmers are unable to attend and voice their concerns  
5           and comments on such short notice. Quite a few  
6           people don't have access to computers or the Internet  
7           to have their voices heard. Then top this off with a  
8           two-day notice.

I-095-002

9                           So I'm referring to 1.4.1 as a  
10          scoping period as I ask the question, were we  
11          inadvertently left off the mailing list or  
12          intentionally left off the mailing list. 2.3.2, the  
13          Wisconsin changes from the final macrocorridors to  
14          the final CPCN routes. A study was done stating that  
15          the northern parts of the original Q1 route is not  
16          scenic. Not scenic, and the Q1 route is used already  
17          for transmission lines. Therefore, Highway 88 should  
18          be removed from an alternative route and be kept as  
19          the beautiful scenic highway that it is.

20                          2.5.2, Wisconsin segment four  
21          regarding Wisconsin 88 AB corridor, which is five  
22          miles longer than the original Q1 route. Longer and  
23          more costly due to the hills, valleys, and the  
24          winding twisting road that follows Waumandee Creek.  
25          Common sense says upgrade what exists on the Q1 route

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## I-095-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-095-002

1 rather than cause havoc and devastation to the  
2 beautiful scenic 88 highway.

I-095-003

3 3.10.1.1, referring to EMFs. I  
4 would like to know more specifics on the health  
5 effects, and studies to date are inconclusive.

I-095-004

6 Referring to the PSC overview, it states that moving  
7 away from a source is a standard response to the  
8 effects of exposure to EMI. Patients can shield  
9 themselves from EMI with car, building, or the  
10 enclosed cab of a truck. I have two mechanical heart  
11 valves, and this concerns me as I am outdoors daily.  
12 I wouldn't be protected from the voltage these lines  
13 would emit because I would be continually in and  
14 under and around these lines with daily farming  
15 outdoor life, walking, gardening, field work, four  
16 wheeling, et cetera.

I-095-005

17 3.10.2.3, induced and stray  
18 voltage. I grew up and continue to live on what will  
19 be a four-generation family farm. My boys and I are  
20 very proud of our parents and grandparents, with  
21 everything that they have done and continue to do to  
22 conserve soil, electricity, and our rural way of  
23 life. And I would hope that the USDA involvement for  
24 active farms would be an advocate for the agriculture  
25 and not the proposed CapX2020 project.

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### I-095-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

### I-095-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N03-EMF Effects on Medical Devices.

### I-095-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.



I-095-006

1 I've just started to touch on a  
2 few things that I feel strongly about, and I know  
3 that I am definitely opposed to the CapX2020 proposed  
4 Highway 88 route as well as any other route that is  
5 being considered.

6 \* \* \* \*

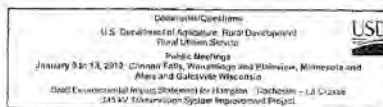
7 LAURA SCHIFFLI: My name is Laura  
8 Schiffli. I reside at S2758 State Road 88, Fountain  
9 City, Wisconsin. I'm here to go on record to say no  
10 to CapX2020 on Highway 88, and we recommend to  
11 abandon the proposed 345xV transmission line and  
12 pursue more cost-effective and environmentally  
13 sensitive solutions. My husband and I just finished  
14 building our energy efficient dream house. My  
15 husband, Steve, has not even been able to actually  
16 live in our new home because he is currently on  
17 military assignment overseas, serving our nation in  
18 war efforts in the Middle East. Little did he know  
19 when he left that we would have our own war here on  
20 the home front. A war against those who propose  
21 sending energy through gigantic transmission lines  
22 hundreds and hundreds of miles through wetlands,  
23 farmlands, bluff lands, and small rural communities  
24 to markets east of here.

25 There will be no benefit to us

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I-095-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-096-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-096-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-096-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-096-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/24/12  
Print Name: Mark Kastel  
Address: PO Box 2  
LaFarge, WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13th to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape closed. Add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.usda.gov/2012/02/09/2012-Rural-Development-Public-Meeting

## I-096-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-096-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-096-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-096-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

1 the loss of cropland, the -- you know, the health  
2 dangers, and all the other issues, I'm very opposed  
3 and I'm not sure that the power line is necessary at  
4 all. But if it has to be that, it should go down  
5 existing corridors where the right-of-way -- either  
6 the Highway 35 or the overland route where they  
7 already have the right-of-ways.

I-097-001

8 CINDY KAZMIERSZAK: All I wanted  
9 to say is I'm against building a brand-new  
10 infrastructure of power lines when one already exists  
11 along Highway 35. I don't understand the economic  
12 reasoning behind wanting to build a brand-new route  
13 when we currently have power line routes. And I also  
14 want proof that there is a need for more power in the  
15 state of Wisconsin.

I-097-002

16 I, as a taxpayer and landowner in  
17 the proposed route, don't think this is going to  
18 benefit me in any way, and I'm going to lose property  
19 value. There's no benefit to me.

20 \* \* \* \*

21 IRENE DITTRICH: My main concern  
22 is the high voltage near my house. The health hazard  
23 problem. And I already have a high line near my  
24 house on my property. It will decrease the value of  
25 my house for resale. And it should follow the route

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#### I-097-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

#### I-097-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

1 decrease significantly as the proposed lines and  
2 poles slice directly through both farms. The  
3 insurance rates or the refusal of obtaining insurance  
4 also concerns me. We have many friends and family  
5 that frequently stay at our farms for hunting and  
6 recreational purposes. Our farms are our life  
7 savings.

8 Highway 88 would be greatly  
9 impacted in a negative way. It sports challenging  
10 twists and turns, hills and valleys, and is a scenic  
11 road of grazing animals, woodlands, sceneries,  
12 beautiful running creeks, and various trees. I ask  
13 you to support a rural community lifestyle and  
14 protect our children, businesses, farms, tourism, and  
15 wildlife. I oppose the CapX2020 on Highway 88.

16 \* \* \* \*

I-098-001

17 **RON KAZMIERCZAK:** Well, my major  
18 concern is that we already have an existing route  
19 that goes parallel to Highway 35, the towers are  
20 there, the right-of-ways are there, now I understand  
21 that this will call for taller towers. But the  
22 right-of-ways is there, the damage is already done.  
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24 cost-effective route to use. Why not use that  
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### I-098-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-098-001

1 Black Hill Road and then come down Highway 88 seems  
2 kind of ludicrous to me because you are going way out  
3 of your way. Additional miles, the right-of-ways  
4 that are going to have to be acquired, additional  
5 towers are going to have to be put in. Additional  
6 expense for wiring, maintenance, and everything else.  
7 To me it just does not make sense to go that way.

8 Now, I understand the scenic road  
9 issue and all that, but frankly, those towers are  
10 there now, if they go another 50 or 70 feet taller,  
11 what's the difference. I mean, you can replace a  
12 dual post tower with a single post tower, and I  
13 believe that would be about 50 feet taller. So place  
14 the towers where they belong, where they already are.  
15 It's not a big deal.

16 \* \* \* \*

17 VICKY KAMROWSKI: Well, I'm Vicky  
18 Kamrowski, and my parents are Robert and Sandy  
19 Kamrowski. And I built a house on my parents' land,  
20 so these lines go right through my home, my farmland.  
21 So -- okay. I would first like to voice my  
22 frustration and ask the question as to why I and  
23 everyone else on Highway 88 was omitted from the  
24 USDA's involvement in the funding of the CapX2020  
25 proposed Highway 88 route until two days prior to

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1 raised the other day. And I have with me for the  
2 record a copy of an affidavit of Bruce McKay, who is  
3 a professional engineer. And in the EIS, around Page  
4 315, there is a section on EMFs. It reports that the  
5 amp levels to be 106 to 140 or 322 to 415 for double  
6 circuit. But the testimony of Larry Schedin,  
7 Attachment J, from the Minnesota Certificate of Need,  
8 that says that, "Twin bundled 954 kcm ACSS, 345 kv  
9 have a capacity rating of 3700. 3700. That is a  
10 little different than 322 to 415.

11 We need to show in this EIS for the  
12 potential range for EMFs. And going up to that,  
13 those limits, yes, that's a very real potential, and  
14 they can run up to that for a half-hour before they  
15 have to ramp it down, under the rules.

16 So that needs to be done. That needs  
17 to be corrected here. It is ten times off, make it  
18 20 times off, by that factor. There are many. So,  
19 I urge you to do some independent verification.

20 Thank you.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: And Joan will be  
22 followed by Victoria Hirschboeck.

23 MS. KENT: My name is Joan Kent. I  
24 am a resident of Lafarge (phonetic), which is in  
25 Vernon County. The Wisconsin Public Service

### I-099-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-099-001

I-099-001

1 Commission has determined that the developer has not  
2 provided evidence that the CAPX 2020 high-voltage  
3 line is needed in the areas of Wisconsin where it is  
4 proposed.

I-099-002

5 The fact is that Wisconsin does not  
6 need this line nor the Badger-Coulee or the other  
7 transmission lines planned by the Midwest Independent  
8 Transmission System Operator; MISO. The U.S.

I-099-003

9 Department of Energy has predicted that the rate of  
10 growth in energy needs will remain at historically  
11 low rates. Significantly less than one percent in  
12 the next 25 years. In Wisconsin rate payers have  
13 already invested in high-voltage lines. As a result,  
14 there are no weaknesses in Wisconsin's grid that  
15 could only be answered with more 345 kv lines. But  
16 those of us watching this scenario expect that the  
17 developer will now ask that the final draft instead  
18 consider the CAPX with several other transmission  
19 line proposals on the basis of regional need within  
20 MISO. If approved, that would mean that all of the  
21 rate payers in the MISO region, including us that  
22 would not benefit from the lines, would pay for them  
23 under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
24 policy.

25 Before asking rate payers to incur

I-099-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B01-General/Other.

I-099-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-099-003

1 payment on the borrowing of millions to build these  
2 lines, those making the decision must study the cost  
3 benefit comparisons between this option and versus  
4 the options of repairing existing low-voltage lines  
5 as needed and employing energy efficient measures.

I-099-004

6 In addition, I ask that RUS consider  
7 that the developer to our knowledge has not agreed to  
8 a minimum percentage of coal on the lines. Being  
9 that coal is generally cheaper than wind energy,  
10 there will be little incentive for utility companies  
11 to choose green wind energy. Indeed, the addition of  
12 the high-voltage lines could be incentive to use more  
13 instead of less energy.

I-099-005

I-099-006

I-099-007

14 I have two specific concerns about  
15 the USDA helping to finance Dairyland's cost to  
16 belong to MISO.

17 First, Dairyland is a co-op, which I  
18 think means that the members should be privy to and  
19 ideally involved in major decisions. Like most  
20 people here, Dairyland is my wholesale energy  
21 provider. But Dairyland did not inform me, nor any  
22 other rate payers that I know, that it intended and  
23 eventually did join MISO. I ask if this is an  
24 acceptable practice for a co-op? And I wonder how  
25 many of Dairyland's members actually know and approve

#### I-099-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A10-Transmission of Electricity Generated by Burning  
Coal.

#### I-099-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### I-099-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

#### I-099-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.



I-099-007

1 of what this and related transmission projects would  
2 do to the economic viability of our community.

I-099-008

3 Second, I would like to ask if RUS or  
4 the USDA would allow funding for projects in  
5 economically deprived areas.

6 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Are  
7 you finished or would you like to submit your  
8 comments?

9 MS. KENT: I will submit them.

10 (Off the record.)

11 MODERATOR RICHTER: Victoria will be  
12 followed by Peggy Paskert (phonetic) and then Chris  
13 Stark. And to get a sense of how we are doing this  
14 evening, following those three individuals, we still  
15 have seven others that have indicated that they would  
16 like to speak.

17 So Victoria. Thank you.

18 MS. HIRSCHBOECK: My name is Victoria  
19 Hirschboeck. H-I-R-S-C-H-B-O-E-C-K. I live at  
20 N15094 Dalaney Road in Trempealeau and I am speaking  
21 as a private citizen here tonight.

22 I have read the Draft EIS and I will  
23 speak specifically to the Draft EIS, and I will  
24 submit complete comments in writing.

25 One comment that I would like to

## I-099-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

JOAN  
KENT

I-099-009

Wisconsin's Public Service Commission has determined the developer has not provided evidence that the CapX2020 high voltage line is needed in the area of Wisconsin where it is proposed. The fact is Wisconsin does not need this or the Badger Coulee or the other transmission lines planned by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO).

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has predicted the rate of growth in energy need will remain at historically low rates—significantly less than 1% for the next 25 years, and Wisconsin ratepayers have already invested in high voltage lines. As a result, there are no weaknesses in Wisconsin's grid that could only be addressed with more 345 KV lines.

But those of us watching this scenario expect the developer will now ask that the final draft instead consider the CAPX and several other transmission line proposals in the hopper on the basis of regional need within (MISO). If approved, that would mean all the ratepayers in the MISO region, including those of us who would not benefit from them, would pay for the lines under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) policy.

Before asking ratepayers to incur payment on the borrowing of billions to build these lines, citizens and those making the decisions must study cost/benefit comparisons between this option versus the options of repairing existing low voltage lines as needed and employing energy efficiency measures.

I-099-010

Vermont, in its Aggressive Energy Efficiency program, has lowered its energy use by using a monthly \$3 charge on ratepayers to help home, business and farm owners install equipment to decrease the state's energy usage. In addition to decreasing use, this provides ongoing jobs for people who install insulation energy-saving equipment such as solar panels and new refrigeration equipment in groceries.

Through Focus on Energy, Wisconsin has made a start in this direction. I believe most Wisconsin ratepayers consider this a much better way to spend our money than on building expensive, invasive transmission lines.

In addition, RUS should consider that the developer, to my knowledge, has not agreed to a minimum percentage of coal on the lines. Being as coal is generally cheaper than wind energy, there will be little incentive for utility companies to choose "green" wind energy. Indeed, the addition of high voltage lines could be incentive to use more, rather than less, energy.

I-099-011

I have two specific concerns about the USDA financing Dairyland's cost to belong to MISO.

First, Dairyland is a co-op, which I think means the members should be privy to, and ideally involved in, major decisions. Like most people here, Dairyland is my wholesale energy provider. But Dairyland did not inform me or any other ratepayers that I know that it intended and then did actually join MISO. I ask if this is acceptable practice for a co-op. And I wonder how many of Dairyland's members know and approve of what this and related transmission projects would do to the economic viability of our communities.

I-099-012

Second, I would like to ask if RUS or USDA regulations allow funding of projects in economically-deprived areas, if the projects would further harm the areas' economic health. Some of the communities along the CapX2020 route are already having financial difficulties, and we know, from appraisers in other areas where transmission lines have been built, that they result in decreased property values, which means a smaller tax base for the entire community.

Joan Kent  
E 13332 State Rd 82  
La Farge WI



I-099-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-099-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-099-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

I-099-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O01-General/Other.

From: Joan Kent [mailto:donjoan@mwmt.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: comments re CapX2020 EIS & Dairyland fund request

RUS COMMENT

Stephanie Strength, project manager  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs

- I-100-001** | I am writing to urge Rural Utilities Services not to grant Dairyland Power Cooperative funding to pay a portion of the co-op's fee to join the Midwest Independent System Operators (MISO). This would be an inappropriate, wasteful use of taxpayer money for three reasons.
- I-100-002** | First, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission has said, in the final Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed CapX2020 project, that the developer has not proven that Wisconsin needs this transmission line. The PSC has said the projected rate of growth in energy use (significantly less than 1%) and the projected increase in peak demand do not substantiate need for a 345kV line.
- I-100-003** | As a member of the Town of Stark's ad hoc Energy Planning & Information Committee, which has studied the proposed Badger Coulee line for more than a year, I believe Wisconsin's future energy needs can be much better met by a combination of repairs as needed to low-voltage transmission lines and an aggressive energy efficiency program such as that used in Vermont. As the energy companies have refused to commit to carbon reduction percentages, and because coal is cheaper than "green" energy, I do not believe the transmission lines would reduce the carbon footprint, and indeed, could instead lead to more carbon emissions.
- I-100-004** | Second, as a co-op, Dairyland should have gotten members' input on the decision to join MISO. But from what I can understand, most members knew little about the decision, and as they are learning about it, from the media, not from Dairyland, opposition among members is growing. In addition, joining MISO puts Dairyland in violation of its bylaws which say it will only sell energy to its members.
- I-100-004** | And third, helping fund Dairyland's membership in MISO is glaringly contrary to RUS's goal of aiding rural development. Instead, these transmission lines would harm the tax base, tourism and perhaps agriculture in rural Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering my request to think this decision through very carefully,

Joan Kent

**I-100-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

**I-100-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

**I-100-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

**I-100-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wausau and Plainville, Minnesota and  
Alma and Hudsonville, Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hamlet - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 KV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-101-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-101-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-101-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-101-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-101-005** I think you should look for single alternatives that do not destroy and harm the environment. Withdraw the substation and this project will be dead and economically not viable. The companies behind it are taking advantage of tax money pocketing the substation as profit and then will leave us with disturbed and harmed environment.

(Optional)  
Signature Mo Kharbush Date 2/13/12  
Print Name Muhammad Kharbush  
Address 21424 Beet Jack Rd  
Wauwatosa, WI 53968

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed. Add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/EFIP/CapX2020/Hamlet-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

## I-101-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-101-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-101-003

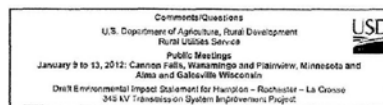
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-101-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-101-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-102-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-102-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-102-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-102-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature [Signature] Date 2/12/12

Print Name Daphne Kingsley

Address 27777 Newland Rd

Cashan, WI 54619

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1117/CapX2020/Stephanie-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-102-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-102-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-102-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-102-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Waseo and Plainville, Minnesota and  
Mendota and Glenview, Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-103-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-103-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-103-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-103-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-103-005** I am an organic grass-based dairy farmer. aerial spray above these 130 ft towers could drift several 100 ft either way and threaten my organic status. There are hundreds of Amish and some English farmers who are dependent on herbicide-free vegetables for market and home use. There is also a beautiful tree covered vacation area. These ugly towers and the swath of tree and vegetation destruction beneath them would be an environmental disaster and a blight on all of our community. In addition it is not necessary, and if it were it should follow existing
- I-103-006** Corridors, such as I-90 & I-94. I have suffered damage to my nervous system 40 years from herbicide exposure.
- I-103-007** (Optional)
- I-103-008** Signature John T. Usman Date 2-13-12
- I-103-009** Print Name JOHN T. USMAN

Address E 27th Hwy  
LAVALLE, WI 53941

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP/CapX2020/Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-103-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-103-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-103-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-103-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-103-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

### I-103-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

### I-103-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

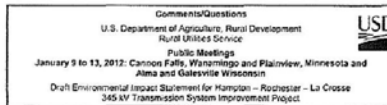
### I-103-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

**I-103-009**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-104-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-104-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-104-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-104-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-104-005** This is a huge & costly endeavor. The builder of these transmission lines is doing the selling of it to us... and they stand to make billions in profit. I question their statistics, assurances and motives. This will cost us plenty, well into the future. And our electricity usage is almost stable from year to year. We need to expend one-tenth of this \$ for efficiency & conservation.
- I-104-006** Lines might go through LaVale & Reedsburg - past our <sup>existing</sup> farm and also past our business in downtown Reedsburg <sup>very bad</sup> <sup>for property</sup> <sup>value!</sup> (Optional) Please don't approve these transmission lines.  
Signature Mary Kinsman-Kurbush Date 2-10-12  
Print Name Mary Kinsman-Kurbush  
Address E 1424 Boat Jack Rd, Waseo  
and 266 E. Main St. Reedsburg, <sup>53968</sup>  
5395a

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
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#### I-104-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-104-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-104-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### I-104-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

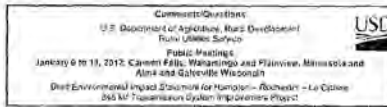
#### I-104-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-104-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-105-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-105-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-105-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-105-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature [Signature] Date 2/9/12

Print Name Ryan Kacian

Address 325 W. South St.

Viroqua, WI 54665

If you would like to take this comment you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold this form in half so the address appears on the outside. Staple or glue closed. Add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/USDA-RD/Programs/Utilities/Comments/>

## I-105-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-105-002

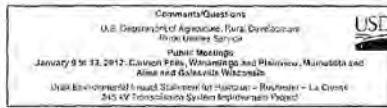
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-105-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-105-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-106-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-106-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-106-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-106-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-106-005** *I strongly agree with the above comments! Please produce the requested information.*

(Optional)  
Signature Janet Kruek Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Janet Kruek  
Address 3303 Green Hollow  
La Farge, WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13th 2012 to the address on the back of this form. For the form to be used, the address appears on the back, typed on both sides, with a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1-WP4-and-2012-2018-Rural-Electricity-Access-Full-Report.html

## I-106-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-106-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-106-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-106-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-106-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-107-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-107-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-107-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-107-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-107-005** SURE, BUILDING THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF TRANSMISSION TOWERS WILL CREATE A FEW (TEMPORARY) JOBS, BUT HOW MANY OTHER JOBS WILL BE LOST BECAUSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION? HOW MANY HUNTERS OR SIGHTSEERS WILL WANT TO PURSUE THESE ACTIVITIES IN A LANDSCAPE THAT LOOKS LIKE THAT AROUND GARY INDIANA?

(Optional)  
Signature: Carl Krumhardt Date: 2/5/12  
Print Name: CARL KRUMHARDT  
Address: W2896 WEELS RD  
MAILSTON WI 53948

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail it by Feb. 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. For the form to be valid, the address must be printed on the back of the form. Add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.usda.gov/2012/2012RuralDevelopment/2012CapX2020

## I-107-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-107-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-107-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-107-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-107-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

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Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-108-001

Airstrips effected by Option A  
and Option B along highway 88  
Corridor.

The powerlines would negatively  
effect all entrance & exits for  
aircraft.

I-108-002

See attached maps of Gene Baker  
and Fred Gleiter properties

Optional: Name: Kelli Krzyszton

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

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 30~~, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail. **FEB. 13**

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-108-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L04-Other Airport/Strip.

**I-108-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L:  
Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

**I-108-004**



**I-108-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L04-Other Airport/Strip.

**I-108-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.





**I-109-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

1 surrogate habitat for area wildlife. The Waumandee  
2 Creek meanders across both tracts and is an important  
3 component of the watershed.

4 The property contains a wide  
5 variety of native vegetation typical of the natural  
6 communities listed above. Populations of rare and  
7 protected species can be found on the property,  
8 including the state special concern plants,  
9 Muhlenberg's cacalia, and American Ginseng, (Panax  
10 quinquefolius).

11 The baseline documentation report  
12 identified the presence of 161 species of native  
13 trees, plants, and grasses on the Kube-Waumandee  
14 Tract. Thank you for your consideration.

15 \* \* \* \*

**I-109-001**

16 **ALAN KUBE:** My name is Alan Kube.  
17 I am opposed to the construction of the transmission  
18 lines in the Q1 State Highway 88 corridor, including  
19 all Q1 State Highway 88 options. The people living  
20 in the Highway 88 Waumandee Creek watershed take  
21 great pride in the land and natural resources  
22 entrusted to them. Many families have lived along  
23 Highway 88 for generations and wish to see future  
24 generations have the same high quality environment as  
25 is presently along Highway 88.

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952-922-1955

I-109-001

1 The proposed transmission lines  
2 would cause a fragmentation of our environment and  
3 productive agricultural areas leading to a breakdown  
4 in the conservation values and heritage along Highway  
5 88.

I-109-002

6 Okay. On the Kube-Waumandee  
7 Tract, because of the conservation easement  
8 requirements of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy,  
9 there are no nonpoint sources of pollution from  
10 livestock. Extensive restoration work that was  
11 completed under the Wisconsin Nonpoint Source  
12 Pollution Abatement Program and the Conservancy's  
13 Kube-Waumandee Tract all but eliminated the nonpoint  
14 pollution.

15 The Waumandee Creek, as it passes  
16 through this conservative tract, has been reclaimed  
17 and stabilized with stream bank improvement projects  
18 and is in a natural state. Any clearing of woodlands  
19 or vegetation for a transmission line will seriously  
20 impact the cool water fishery and will lead to  
21 infiltration of the sediments.

I-109-003

22 These are by no means small or  
23 insignificant wetlands. The conservation easement  
24 baseline documentation report states Waumandee Creek  
25 meanders across the Kube-Waumandee Tract and is an

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952-922-1955

### I-109-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water Resources, F02-Surface Water.

### I-109-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.



I-109-003

1 important component of the watershed.  
2 With regard to community impact  
3 and esthetics and visual impacts -- I'll start over.  
4 The conservation easement baseline documentation  
5 report for the Conservancy's Kube-Waumandee Tract  
6 states, the property is very scenic from within and  
7 from without. Scenic views of the property can be  
8 enjoyed by the public from State Highway 88 and from  
9 adjoining or nearby properties. It's views from  
10 ridgetop trails and overlooks are expansive and  
11 breathtaking. Open valley views surrounded by state  
12 bluffs slopes are also very pleasing to the eye.

I-109-004

13  
14 With regard to electric and  
15 magnetic fields. The residents within the  
16 conservancy's Kube-Waumandee Tract will be very close  
17 to the proposed transmission lines, probably within  
18 150 feet. This is a deep concern for health and  
19 safety reasons. The agricultural zones of the  
20 Kube-Waumandee Tract would certainly be adversely  
21 affected by having transmission poles in the crop  
22 fields.

I-109-005

I-109-006

23 With regard to land use  
24 compatibility, the adverse effects of the proposed  
25 transmission line on residents is understated. The

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952-922-1955

#### I-109-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-109-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

#### I-109-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-109-006

1 adverse effect would be great with regard to safety  
2 and health, and as well as esthetics. These effects  
3 will be noticed by any future prospective buyers for  
4 this property for residential use with devaluations  
5 possible. I thank you for your consideration.

6 \* \* \* \*

7 SANDY KAMROWSKI: Okay. My name  
8 is a Sandy Kamrowski, my husband and I live at S2759  
9 Highway 88, and also adjoining farm at S2730 Highway  
10 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin. I would like to start  
11 my comments with 2.1.1 NEPA, evaluation process and  
12 criteria. It would be more practical from the  
13 technical standpoint and just plain old common sense  
14 to go the no action alternative. There is no need  
15 for these transmission lines in our area.

16 Referring to page 67, 1.4.1  
17 scoping period. As a homeowner of two farms, I was  
18 notified by the USDA only two days prior to this  
19 meeting. Having been forced to read through as much  
20 of the USDA's Web site as I could prepare for today's  
21 meeting, I feel as though I wasn't inadvertently left  
22 off the mailing list, I feel as though someone is  
23 trying to hide something.

24 Referring to page 313, 3.10.1.1,  
25 EMFs. More research needs to be conducted regarding

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952-922-1955



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-110-001

I am opposed to the transmission lines  
being constructed in the Q-1 Hwy 88  
Corridor or any of the options for  
Q-1-88

I recommend the lines be  
constructed on an established ROW  
preferable the Original Q-1-Route

Optional: Name: Allen Skube

Address: 5235 State Hwy 88 Cochrane WI 54622

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 10~~ FEB. 13, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-110-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-111-001

I-111-002

1 \* \* \* \*

2 CAROL KUBE: My name is a Carol

3 Kube, and I wish to express my opposition to the

4 connector alternative Q1 State Highway 88 route,

5 including all potential options for this route. A

6 case can be made that the Highway 88 route is even

7 more scenic and certainly in a far more natural state

8 than the GRR, Great River Road. It is likely that as

9 many or more people take Highway 88 route for nature

10 viewing and scenic panorama than the GRR. The

11 conservation easement registered as document No.

12 233311 with Buffalo County Wisconsin Register of

13 Deeds between Alan and Carol Kube and the Mississippi

14 Valley Conservancy, hereinafter the "conservation

15 easement."

16 The conservation easement states,

17 "The property in its present state has significant

18 natural, ecological, habitat, agriculture, and scenic

19 values of more than to the landowner, conservancy and

20 the people of Wisconsin. The property is valued as a

21 relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and

22 plants with similar ecosystem as that phrase is used

23 in section 170(H)(4)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue

24 Code.

25 The property is very scenic from

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952-922-1955

#### I-111-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

#### I-111-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.

I-111-002

1 within and from without. Scenic views of the  
2 property can be enjoyed by the public from State  
3 Highway 88 and from adjoining or nearby properties.  
4 The views from ridgetop trail to overlooks are  
5 expansive and breathtaking. Open Valley views  
6 surrounded by steep bluff slopes are also very  
7 pleasing to the eye.

8 The property is an important part  
9 of the Waumandee Creek watershed with all of the  
10 property eventually draining into Waumandee Creek.  
11 Landowners have completed several land conservation  
12 projects, dikes and ponds, to prevent soil erosion  
13 and improve water quality.

I-111-003

14 The impact of the transmission  
15 lines on forestland would be catastrophic.  
16 Presently, forests within the conservancy's  
17 Kube-Waumandee Tract covers one and a half lineal  
18 miles east and west with forestlands continuing on  
19 for a combined 20 plus miles east and west. It is  
20 well documented that this type of contiguous forest  
21 habitat is crucial for wildlife, especially declining  
22 bird species.

I-111-004

23 Although the WDNR may not consider  
24 this portion of the Waumandee Creek to be a class one  
25 trout stream, it is a dynamic fishery. Any

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952-922-1955

### I-111-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I07-Forests.

### I-111-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I10-Fish.

I-111-004

I-111-005

1 disturbance of the wooded wetlands will adversely  
2 affect water temperatures and the life cycle of  
3 numerous species of fish and amphibians. It is  
4 possible that forest clearing could impact the  
5 managed forest law contract for the conservancy's,  
6 Kube-Waumandee Tract. The conservation easement  
7 states, in particular the property is located  
8 adjacent to the Waumandee Creek Valley and contains  
9 forested bluff land. The following natural  
10 communities exist on the property: southern  
11 dry-mesic and mesic forests. The forestlands contain  
12 a wide variety of native trees, vegetation, and  
13 wildlife. The forest has been selectively logged and  
14 is currently enrolled in Wisconsin managed forest law  
15 programs. The Waumandee Tract offers continuous  
16 large tracts of high-quality wildlife habitat, ideal  
17 for bird and wildlife conservation. These properties  
18 are especially important for their proximity to the  
19 Mississippi River corridor.

20 The following natural communities  
21 are important conservation values of the land. The  
22 southern dry-mesic and mesic forest, dry prairie  
23 cliffs complex, floodplain forests, sedge meadows,  
24 and emergent aquatic wetlands. Rich and productive  
25 soils within the agricultural fields also provide

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-111-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.

I-111-005

1 surrogate habitat for area wildlife. The Waumandee  
2 Creek meanders across both tracts and is an important  
3 component of the watershed.

4 The property contains a wide  
5 variety of native vegetation typical of the natural  
6 communities listed above. Populations of rare and  
7 protected species can be found on the property,  
8 including the state special concern plants,  
9 Muhlenberg's cacalia, and American Ginseng, (Panax  
10 quinquefolius).

11 The baseline documentation report  
12 identified the presence of 161 species of native  
13 trees, plants, and grasses on the Kube-Waumandee  
14 Tract. Thank you for your consideration.

15 \* \* \* \*

16 ALAN KUBE: My name is Alan Kube.  
17 I am opposed to the construction of the transmission  
18 lines in the Q1 State Highway 88 corridor, including  
19 all Q1 State Highway 88 options. The people living  
20 in the Highway 88 Waumandee Creek watershed take  
21 great pride in the land and natural resources  
22 entrusted to them. Many families have lived along  
23 Highway 88 for generations and wish to see future  
24 generations have the same high quality environment as  
25 is presently along Highway 88.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-112-001

*I am opposed to the Connector Alternative  
Q1- STH88 Route including all potential options  
for this Route.*

*I suggest the lines be constructed  
on an established route. I recommend you  
follow the Original Q-1 Route.*

Optional: Name: Carol Kube

Address: 52334 State Hwy 88 - Cochrane, WI 54622.

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 30~~, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

*FEB. 13*

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-112-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-113-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-113-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-113-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-113-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-113-005** Furthermore I object to the proposed route following Hwy 33 thru the Kickapoo Valley. The scenic beauty + treasures, natural resources & much more would be spoiled by this project

Optional)

Signature

Print Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Country

Phone

Fax

Email

Comments

Date

1-23-2012

12651 St. Hwy 33

Cashon, WI 54619

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

## I-113-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-113-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-113-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-113-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-113-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

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Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-114-001 | I am opposed to the Q-1 Highway 88 Transmission Line Connector  
Alternative. U.S.D.A. should not be funding this project  
which will adversely affect the environment and the rural  
I-114-002 | economy. I am deeply concerned about health and safety issues  
for humans and livestock caused by electro magnetic field and  
I-114-003 | stray voltage. There are presently no transmission lines, only  
I-114-004 | distribution lines in the Q1 Hwy 88 route. Therefore, I  
recomment utilization of existing R.O.W. preferably the original  
Q-1 R.O.W.

Optional: Name: Dan Kuri *Dan Kuri*

Address: S2241 Co. Rd E - Cochrane, WI 54622

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by January 30, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
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**I-114-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

**I-114-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

**I-114-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

**I-114-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

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Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

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345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-115-001 | I am opposed to the Q-1 Highway 88 Transmission Line  
Connector Alternative. U.S.D.A. should not be funding  
this project which will adversely affect the environment and  
I-115-002 | the rural economy. Also, I am deeply concerned about health  
I-115-003 | and safety issues for humans and livestock caused by electro  
magnetic field and stray voltage. There are presently no  
I-115-004 | transmission lines, only distribution lines in the Q-1  
Hwy 88 route. Therefore, I recommend utilization of existing  
R.O.W. preferably the original Q-1 R.O.W.

Optional: Name: Jesse Kuri *Jesse Kuri*

Address: S2232 Co. Rd E, Cochrane, WI 54622

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by January 30, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
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**I-115-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

**I-115-002**

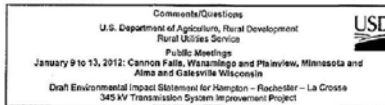
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

**I-115-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

**I-115-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-116-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-116-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-116-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-116-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-116-005** Please listen and be responsive to the citizens who live in SW Wisconsin! We must start living sustainably now for the future of our children. "More + Bigger" is not always the right answer. Thank you, Elizabeth Lange

(Optional)  
Signature Elizabeth Lange Date 2-13-12  
Print Name Elizabeth Lange  
Address 53020 Nustad Rd.  
Westby, WI 54667

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/CWT-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

## I-116-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-116-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-116-003

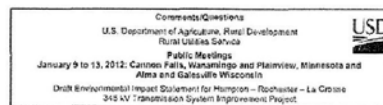
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-116-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-116-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-117-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-117-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-117-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-117-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- I-117-005** Additional comments:  
*potential*  
The financial gain for energy brokers and other for-profit entities should not outweigh other potential benefits to ratepayers!

(Optional)

Signature Samantha Laskowski Date 2/11/12  
Print Name SAMANTHA LASKOWSKI  
Address 54794 LIEURANCE RD  
LA FARGE WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1177-CapX2020-Muncipal-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-117-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-117-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-117-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-117-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-117-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1576, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1576

Dear Ms. Strength—

**I-118-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-118-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-118-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

**I-118-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

**I-118-005** *It seems shortsighted and wasteful to develop this power line. Put the money into renewable*

(Optional)

Signature *Christine Leinberger* Date *2/12/12*

Print Name *Christine Leinberger*

Address *53147 Prairie Edge Rd.*

*Westby, WI 54667*

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by *Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>* 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/CEP/CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-118-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-118-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-118-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-118-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-118-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-119-001

1 followed by Roger Bechly.

2 **GARY LEMASTERS:** Hi, good evening.

3 My name is a Gary LeMasters. I want to thank the  
4 people here tonight for all the effort they spent  
5 putting this whole thing together. It's an awful lot  
6 of work. My wife and I live at W1194 Yaeger Valley  
7 Road. We enjoy sitting on our deck during much of  
8 the year and looking at the view down our valley  
9 right towards Highway 88. We call it our  
10 high-definition television set. We look forward to  
11 adding 345kV transmission line to our vista,  
12 comfortable with the knowledge of doing our part to  
13 provide electricity to urban areas to the east so  
14 they can sit indoors and watch their HDTV sets.

I-119-002

15 We also derive comfort in knowing,  
16 as stated on page 347, that the 150-foot transmission  
17 lines are an incremental visual impact. I have a lot  
18 of other comments I've already submitted, but there's

I-119-003

19 several points I want to make. People here used  
20 Wisconsin Public Service Commission and environmental  
21 impact statement, and you said that you verified and  
22 used information. Did you find any mistakes in the  
23 Wisconsin draft EIS? I haven't seen any submittals  
24 from the PSC about any mistakes. So if you reviewed  
25 and independently verified it, there are no mistakes

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-119-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

### I-119-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

### I-119-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A05-Reliance on Minnesota and/or Wisconsin EIS.

I-119-003

1 in the Wisconsin docket, which is really surprising  
2 to me. I can't really believe that.

I-119-004

3 And tomorrow on your way to the  
4 next hearing, drive down Highway 88 and tell me that  
5 these poles wouldn't create an incremental  
6 detrimental impact, okay? I really would like you to  
7 do that.

I-119-005

8 Figures on 1.4.1 and 1-5 show  
9 congestion through 2014. In both of these maps, the  
10 service area appears mostly yellow, or reliable for  
11 most of the time. Yet, throughout the EIS you  
12 mention the spectrum of blackouts and brownouts  
13 effecting us. I don't understand how -- these two  
14 things are not compatible. You are talking about  
15 brownouts in urban areas. I do not see why the RUS  
16 is involved in this. The USDA is authorized and  
17 empowered to make loans for rural implications and  
18 nonprofit organizations and others, quote "for the  
19 purpose of financing and construction and operation  
20 of generating plants, electric transmission and  
21 distribution lines, or assistance to servicing and  
22 the benefit of improving persons in rural areas."  
23 This is not about providing power to persons in rural  
24 areas. I don't believe that your agency has any  
25 reason to be involved in this. Thank you.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

#### I-119-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

#### I-119-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.



<b>I-120-001</b>	Good evening. My name is Gary LeMasters. My wife, Ruth Ann, and I live at W1194 Yaeger Valley Road, about ¼ mile from its intersection with Hwy 88. We enjoy sitting on our deck during much of the year and enjoying the view. We call it our High Definition Television Set. We look forward to adding the 345 kV transmission line to our vista, comfortable in the knowledge that we are doing our part to provide electricity to urban areas to the east so they can sit indoors and watch their HDTV sets. We will also derive comfort from knowing, as stated on Page 347, that the 150 foot transmission lines are an incremental visual impact.
<b>I-120-002</b>	My comments reference the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Financing Assistance for the Proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project. The DEIS was prepared by URS Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri and is dated December 2011.
<b>I-120-003</b>	Comments on the Abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First paragraph, project purpose.</li> </ul> <p>The DEIS does not present any hard data to support the statement that the transmission system reliability is deficient. These data may be buried somewhere in an appendix, but I could not find them in the DEIS itself. It is obvious to me that the primary reason for the project is item 3 in Paragraph 1, "improve generation outlet capacity". In other words, sell electricity generated around here and further west to urban areas further east. I see no reason for the Rural Utilities Service to provide low interest loans to support this project.</p>
<b>I-120-004</b>	
<b>I-120-005</b>	
<b>I-120-006</b>	Executive Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 4 second paragraph: Delete "As such"</li> </ul> <p>Delete this unnecessary phrase wherever it appears in the document.</p>
<b>I-120-007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 5, first paragraph: "RUS has verified and used information directly from the Minnesota EIS and the Wisconsin Draft EIS ..."</li> </ul> <p>Am I to believe that RUS did not find a single mistake in either of these documents? If you did find mistakes, where are they identified? The Wisconsin Draft EIS completely ignored several hundred acres in the Western Wisconsin Land Trust directly along the Hwy 88 Option A route. It also ignored a private airport on the Hwy 88 Option B route.</p>
<b>I-120-008</b>	
<b>I-120-009</b>	
<b>I-120-010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 8, first paragraph: "...resulting in lower cost energy to consumers."</li> </ul> <p>This is pure fantasy directly from the electricity utility industry. Where is the financial analysis to demonstrate this statement? I have no choice where to buy my electricity. It is not a free market. Our rates are largely determined by the cost of coal.</p>

#### **I-120-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

#### **I-120-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

#### **I-120-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-120-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### **I-120-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

#### **I-120-006**

Comment noted.

#### **I-120-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A05-Reliance on Minnesota and/or Wisconsin EIS.

#### **I-120-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J02-Land Use and Zoning.

**I-120-011** Introduction

- Page 53. The Dairyland service area is shown in Figure 1-4. Figures 1-5 and 1-6 show congestion-based zones modeled in 2010 and 2014. In both figures, the Dairyland service area appears to be mostly yellow, or "reliably served most of the time." Why is RUS considering providing low-cost funding for this project? It would not seem to have any affect on electricity reliability in the Dairyland service area.

**I-120-012** Section 1.2.1

- The USDA is authorized and empowered to make loans for rural electrification to nonprofit cooperatives and others *"for the purpose of financing the construction and operation of generating plants, electric transmission and distribution lines or systems for the furnishing and improving of electric service to persons in rural areas."*

Nothing I have read in the Draft EIS leads me to believe that the proposed project meets this test.

**I-120-013** Section 1.3.2

- "Much of the content of the WI DEIS was incorporated into this Draft EIS, after independent verification of the content."

How many hours were devoted to "independent verification of the content"? By whom? No errors were found? If they were, did RUS submit comments to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission about these errors? If it did, may I see a copy of the submittal? If RUS did not submit comments, am I to infer that none were found by the "independent verification"? Did anybody working on the RUS DEIS take the time to drive down Hwy 88?

**I-120-014**

**I-120-015** Section 2.4.1, Page 107.

- "However, because the Proposal would not be constructed in this scenario, the reliability of the transmission network would likely be negatively impacted. The no action alternative may result in brownouts, blackouts, and/or higher electricity rates for consumers."

Figures 1-5 and 1-6 show the Dairyland service area to be reliably served. Where is the justification for this statement? These are scare tactics pure and simple.

- "As discussed in Section 1.1.2.3, the efficiency of the transmission system within the Midwest ISO would also be impacted, resulting in energy losses."

## I-120-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

## I-120-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

## I-120-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

## I-120-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

## I-120-013

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A05-Reliance on Minnesota and/or Wisconsin EIS.

## I-120-014

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

## I-120-015

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

<b>I-120-015</b>	OK, this is the meat of the matter. I see no reason for RUS to loan money to Dairyland to provide energy more efficiently to customers outside their service area, in predominantly urban areas.
<b>I-120-016</b>	<p>Section 3.7.1, Page 267.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"There would however be opportunities to construct the transmission line in areas that lessen the potential visual impacts. Moreover, these areas are already characterized by a relatively high proportion of visible human-made landscape elements."</li> </ul> <p>This is somewhat true for the Hwy 35 route, with the existing transmission lines. But this statement is absurd when applied to the Hwy 88 alternative. There are no "human-made landscape elements" that remotely compare to the proposed transmission lines.</p>
<b>I-120-017</b>	<p>Section 3.8.3, Airports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no mention of the private airstrip on the Hwy 88 Option B route. I would think that this error would have been identified by RUS in its "independent verification" of the Wisconsin Draft EIS.</li> </ul>
<b>I-120-018</b>	<p>Figure 3-17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Josh Wolfe is an organic dairy farmer, certified by MOSA. He rents farmland at the intersection of Hwy 88 and Yaeger Valley Road, directly along the Hwy 88 Option A route.</li> </ul>
<b>I-120-019</b>	<p>Page 325, Tourism, including Agrotourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"While the intrusion of transmission lines could potentially adversely affect agrotourism, no information is available to assess this potential impact."</li> </ul> <p>Heather Smith owns and operates Smith Gardens. Tim Salwey is constructing three cabins on his property along Hwy 88 to rent out for ecotourism. One cabin is nearly complete and is very close to the Hwy 88 Option A route. This information could be readily obtained by visiting the area and talking with the people.</p>
<b>I-120-020</b>	<p>3.11.2.6 Impacts of the No Action Alternative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The no action alternative would result in no impacts to the environment at the Proposal area. The Proposal would not be constructed or operated, and therefore, there would be no direct socioeconomic impacts. However, because the Proposal would not be constructed, the reliability of the transmission network would likely be impacted. The result may be brownouts, blackouts, and/or higher electricity rates for consumers. Reduced electrical system reliability can have impacts on socioeconomics and environmental justice."</li> </ul>

#### **I-120-016**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

#### **I-120-017**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L03-Gleiter Airstrip.

#### **I-120-018**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

#### **I-120-019**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

#### **I-120-020**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

Gary LeMesters  
Comments on the USDA-RUS Draft EIS dated December 2011 for the 345 kV transmission line  
January 9, 2012  
Page 4

I-120-020

I don't see any basis for this statement as it applies to the residents along the proposed rights-of-way. You are merely perpetuating the utility industry scare tactics.

I-120-021

Page 347.

**"4.4.2.6 Visual Resources**

- The Proposal contributes to the visual intrusion of buildings, highways, other structures, wind farms, transmission lines and communication towers. This increase in constructed visual elements is expected to increase. The impacts are generally incremental, as few areas have no visual intrusion of man-made structures."

The word "incremental" is inappropriate when used to describe to degree to which the proposed transmissionline would impact the visual resources along Hwy 88. More appropriate words are "catastrophic", "unacceptable", "obscene", or "revolting".

**I-120-021**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.



Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-121-001

I was at your meeting in Centerville on Jan  
13. When I got home I checked my dictionary to  
see if common sense and optimism was still  
there.

My things go to you at the head table; how  
do you stay awake? I am sure most of the same  
speakers are at every meeting. Those people need  
to get a life.

We need this, we want this and we will  
help pay for it. As one person said I don't see  
any horses and buggy outside. My guess is the best  
route is along the present right away.

Optional: Name:

Richard Lettner  
W28133 Whistler Pass Rd  
Trompsdale WI 54661

Address:

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-121-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

**I-122-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

**I-122-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

**I-122-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

**I-122-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

<p>Comments/Questions: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Rural Utilities Service Public Meetings January 9 to 15, 2012: Cassin Falls, Marshfield, and Platteville, Minnesota and Alma and Galesville, Wisconsin (DEIS Emission/Impact Statement for Highway - Rochester - La Crosse 345 MW Transmission System Improvement Project)</p>	 <p>MAIL TO: Stephanie A. Strength USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs 1400 Independence Avenue SW Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244 Washington, D.C. 20250-1570</p>
---	---

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-122-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-122-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-122-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-122-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Karen L. Levy Date 1-31-12  
Print Name KAREN L. LEVY  
Address 53298 S. Jug Creek Rd  
LaFarge, WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to your address on the back of this form. Fold the form in three so the address appears on the outside. Staple at four corners; put a string with knot.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and questions for the following web site:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/DEIS/345MW/345MWDEIS.htm

1 ride. And it's the first Sunday in October, and that  
2 is kind of a scenic view, supposed to be anyway if  
3 the leaves cooperate with me. But it's always the  
4 first Sunday in October. And it's supposed to be --  
5 when they come out, the old farm, that's what my  
6 uncle wanted, come out and see the old farm every  
7 year. And it's supposed to be a scenic ride out  
8 there. And we got, you know, a really a nice time  
9 out at the farm. And I hope, you know, that your  
10 concerns are kind of about us.

11 And I just kind of slipped through  
12 this here, and I think I will -- and I oppose the  
13 line.

14 MS. RICHTER: Kay will be followed  
15 by Susan Pronschinske. Okay. Susan will do online.  
16 So then it's Christine Jumbeck. Okay. You'll  
17 follow.

18 KATHY MOCKINGTON. My name is  
19 Kathy Mockington. I'm from Arcadia, Wisconsin. I  
20 have to address the people at the table. Why have  
21 you not had a meeting in Arcadia? Are the hills too  
22 steep to get over? And I guess the thing I want them  
23 to do is also to drive Thompson Valley Road, which is  
24 an extremely narrow valley, and that is where they  
25 are thinking -- after finding that out several

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-123-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and  
Meetings.

I-123-001

I-123-001

1 meetings later -- about putting the transmission  
2 lines. Personally, I will be looking directly at the  
3 transmission line out my patio door, that did not  
4 have a transmission line or pole at any point in its  
5 life.

6 So I will encourage this group to  
7 please have a meeting in Arcadia. I think the area,  
8 that group over there has no idea what's going on. I  
9 found out about this meeting by a friend from  
10 church -- well, it was at church, and I was appalled  
11 that nobody I talked to knew about this meeting or  
12 the one coming up in Centerville on Friday night.

I-123-002

13 The point I would like to make is  
14 this. There was an article in the La Crosse Tribune,  
15 it's also in the St. Cloud paper concerning the  
16 congestion in Minnesota. And that is why -- and this  
17 windmill farm northeast of Minneapolis, which needs a  
18 lot of energy, is not -- their energy is not being  
19 purchased by any electric company, which to me seems  
20 very odd that this renewable source could not be  
21 used.

I-123-003

22 The other thing that and I'm also  
23 kind of surprised, I found out at a couple of  
24 meetings, nobody knew about the transmission line  
25 that they were proposing near Arcadia is on land that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-123-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C03-Use of Existing Generation and Transmission Lines.

### I-123-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E06-Planned Sand Quarries.



I-123-003

1 is a sand mine. And if you know anything about the  
2 sand mine in Trempealeau County, it is exploding. I  
3 don't know if you want to put the lines up and then  
4 take them down again. It doesn't really matter to  
5 me.

I-123-004

6 The other thing is Arcadia is  
7 being hemmed in by the east portion because of this  
8 transmission line, and they are looking at annexing a  
9 sand mine to the city. And I really don't think that  
10 your congestion problems in Minnesota should become  
11 our congestion problems in this part of Wisconsin.  
12 Thank you.

13 MS. RICHTER: And Christine will  
14 be followed by Gene and Cheryl Baker. And could you  
15 spell your last name for the record, please?

16 CHRIS JUMBECK: Chris Jumbeck. I  
17 live a mile off of Highway 88. And I'm also a  
18 schoolteacher at Cochrane-Fountain City High School.  
19 I teach high school agriculture and natural  
20 resources. And I strongly support a no action  
21 alternative. We've heard a lot of discussion  
22 tonight, and a lot of those things were things I was  
23 going to say. However, I wanted to first applaud our  
24 community and applaud our kids. Preston Jordon,  
25 Corlen and Barbara for having the courage to come up

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

#### I-123-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-124-001

Please read the article on wind power  
not being purchased by utilities. This  
wind power generates electricity for the Minneapolis  
area.  
"Wind farm falls behind schedule" Paynesville,  
Minn.  
LaCrosse Tribune

Optional: Name: Kathleen Lockington

Address: N26980 State Rd 93, Arcadia, WI 54612

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13~~ **FEB. 13**, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-124-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C03-Use of Existing Generation and Transmission Lines.

**DAYNESVILLE, Minn.**—(AP)—A permit that was to be the first such large-scale operation in central Minnesota is about a year behind schedule.

Edina-based Genorimo Wind Energy has the necessary permits to build the 95-megawatt wind farm. But the company hasn't been able to find a utility company willing to buy its energy. Genorimo spokesman Chaille Daum attributes the delay to a "rice market."

"That's really the only thing that's holding us back right now," Daum said, adding that the situation was "not as much a market concern as much as a frustration."

By now, as many as 400 turbines, each about 400 feet high, were supposed to be scattered across fields north of Daynesville, producing electricity and income for local farmers, according to a story in the St. Cloud Times. Genorimo planned to put up the turbines in two years, expected to be completed by the end of the century.

But progress stalled as September approached, and the company failed to find a buyer for the power.

Genorimo has sought buyers inside and outside Minnesota, and Daum said it was surprising that utilities didn't seem eager to lock in long-term contracts to secure power at today's low prices.

Some reports have suggested the young wind industry is losing momentum. Turbine manufacturing is down 10 percent, and 100 jobs at a Wisconsin factory were lost last year, and other companies have had difficulty securing credit.

**DAYNESVILLE, Minn.** (AP) — A farm that was to be the first such large-scale operation in central Minnesota is about a year behind schedule.

Edina-based Genorimo Wind Energy has the necessary permits to build the 95-megawatt wind farm. But the company hasn't been able to find a utility company willing to buy its energy, Genorimo spokesman Chaille Daum attributes the delay to a "rice market."

"That's really the only thing that's holding us back right now," Daum said, adding that the situation was "not as much a market concern as much as a frustration."

By now, as many as 400 turbines, each about 400 feet high, were supposed to be scattered across fields north of Daynesville, producing electricity and income for local farmers, according to a story in the St. Cloud Times. Genorimo planned to put up the turbines in two years, expected to be completed by the end of the general election, roughly between July and September.

But progress stalled as the company failed to find a buyer for the power.

Genorimo has sought buyers inside and outside Minnesota, and Daum said it was surprising that utilities didn't seem eager to lock in long-term contracts to secure power at today's low prices.

Some reports have suggested the young wind industry is losing momentum. Turbine manufacturing is down 10 percent since 2003, and 30 percent since 2006, according to a Washington state report. And other companies have had difficulty securing credit.

K Lockington Alma #2



**Julie Montee (Age 48)**  
 "I have lost 45 lbs and dropped  
 3 off my blood sugar. I don't go  
 to my doctor and my cholesterol  
 is good. I feel my heart and  
 lungs are in great form."  
 Julie

• You've tried to exercise and diet but the pounds are not going away.  
 • You might be wondering if this is so possible in either situation you've been so changes to your health and fitness and you

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**Important Changes To This**  
New class offerings: Classes will now be offered in  
centric Core Europe into you  
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Registration begins December 20th. This  
Don't Wait! Register TODAY to take  
**Remember- New members receive two (2)**  
**Questions call 792-4006**



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-124-002

*We need a meeting in Arcadia on  
this project. Why hasn't there been  
a meeting in a town that provides  
10,000+ jobs for this area? (Triomp & Buff. Cty.)*

I-124-003

*This project will limit the industrial  
park annexation which is almost  
complete. A sand mine sits under*

I-124-004

*this transmission line. (Your cost  
to buy the land will cost more than just  
an acre of farmland. Check the last  
two farmland sales.)*

Optional: Name: K. Lockington

Address: N26980 State Rd 93, Arcadia, WI 54612

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 10~~ **FEB. 13**, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-124-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and  
Meetings.

**I-124-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J:  
Land Resources, J02-Land Use and Zoning.

**I-124-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E02-Mines/Quarries, General.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-124-005

To whom it may concern:  
Please do not place the transmission  
lines <sup>using</sup> ~~through~~ the ARCADIA route to the  
Halmen substation.

I-124-006

1) Tremp. Cty & Buffalo Cty  
are approving sand mines (Many)  
2) The proposed route runs  
over & in sand mines along that route.

I-124-007

3) Keep it simple and use the  
least amount of new land as  
possible.

4) City of ARCADIA is annexing &  
expanding east to allow for industrial  
growth & sand mining  
Optional: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: K. Lockington, N26980 State Road 93  
Sheffield, WI 54612

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by January 30, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-124-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E02-Mines/Quarries, General.

**I-124-006**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

**I-124-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J:  
Land Resources, J02-Land Use and Zoning.



I-125-001

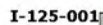
1 going to leave it at that.  
2 \* \* \* \*  
3 JOE LOPEZ: 5908 330 Street Way,  
4 Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our  
5 alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit  
6 A1. And no property -- no housing would be affected  
7 if you use this route. It already goes through this  
8 property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is  
9 over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if  
10 we turned it right there -- I know that's still your  
11 property down there, right? And then turned it, and  
12 then it would be way away from your house. That's  
13 the only other route I can think of that wouldn't  
14 affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.  
15 \* \* \* \*  
16 MICHELLE SANDSTROM. 30127 59th  
17 Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit A1, to  
18 minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we  
19 would prefer the power line pole go through the  
20 middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield  
21 addition. See Exhibit A1.  
22 \* \* \* \*  
23 MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have  
24 tables here in front. We thought it would be a  
25 little more cozy if you all would gather up to the

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-125-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

**I-125-001**



Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wausau and Plainville, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-126-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-126-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-126-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-126-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-126-005** *I have written ATC about my concerns; but, received a grossly inadequate response. They are "selling" this to WI utilities clients as an effort to supply "green sourced" energy. But, when questioned directly cannot even point to 3% of the electricity being sourced from renewables. ATC is misrepresenting MANY facets of their proposal... nearly criminal misrepresentations. Please disallow this CapX2020 proposal. PLEASE.*

(Optional)

Signature *Tom Lukens* Date *2/13/12*

Print Name *Tom Lukens*

Address *54692 County Rd 5*

*Viroqua, WI 54665*

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **FEB 13 2012** to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ERP/4CapX2020Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

## I-126-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-126-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-126-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

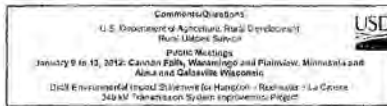
## I-126-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-126-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-127-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-127-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-127-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-127-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- I-127-005** Additional comments: *High voltage lines are not the long term answer to meeting our energy needs, so the expense and injustice that results from their construction is a tragic folly!*

(Optional)  
Signature Don Lund Date 11/31/12  
Print Name Don Lund  
Address 51162 Tunnelville Rd.  
LaFarge WI 54609

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by 12/10/2012 to the address on the back of this form. For the form to serve as the address record on the CAP-400, please include a return address and date.  
FEB 13 74  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/2012/02/09/la-crosse-345-kv-transmission-system-improvements-project/

### I-127-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-127-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-127-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-127-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-127-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strough  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Feb. 8, 2012

Dear Ms. Strough—

**I-128-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-128-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DES is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-128-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

**I-128-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

**I-128-005** *In addition to the concerns enumerated above, I wonder how many family-supporting jobs for Wisconsinites will be created if this high voltage line goes through our state.*

*J. Madey  
Wisconsin taxpayers  
and voter*

The Madeys  
15765 W. Burlington Blvd.  
Brookfield, WI 53005

## I-128-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-128-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-128-003

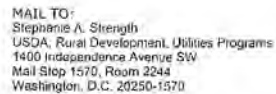
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-128-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-128-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



<b>I-129-001</b>	In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
<b>I-129-002</b>	The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
<b>I-129-003</b>	The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
<b>I-129-004</b>	In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

(Optional) Signature Charles M. Malay Jr. Date 2-3-17  
Print Name Charles Malay Jr.  
Address 15170 GREEN COLLIER RD  
OWASCO WI 54901

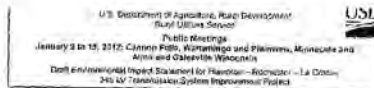
If you would like to take this time with your precious pup to ~~share~~ **share** 2014 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in a way so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.usda.gov/animal-welfare/Pet/AnimalWelfareResources/Adopting-a-Pet.aspx

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



STEPHANIE A. STRENGTH  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-130-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-130-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-130-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-130-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)  
Signature Robin K. Rindler Date 2-3-15  
Print Name Robin K. Rindler  
Address 15140 Lorenz Circle Rd  
Dalton, WI 54600

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds as the address appears on the outside strips or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/NE/CapX2020/NE/Response/Feedback-2015.aspx>

### I-130-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-130-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-130-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-130-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

<b>I-131-001</b>	In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
<b>I-131-002</b>	The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
<b>I-131-003</b>	The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I I and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
<b>I-131-004</b>	In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP I I investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

[illegible]

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

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(Off the record.)

MODERATOR RICHTER: Tim will be followed by Joe Morris.

MR. MEDIGER: Good evening, Tim Metinger. M-E-T-I-N-G-E-R. N7150 Elizabeth Drive, Holmen.

I would especially like to welcome the folks here from the USDA who are here for this hearing. I hope that you enjoyed a beautiful ride in what we call God's Country, between the river and the bluffs. Now, imagine that same ride with 170-foot poles wrecking that scenic landscape as you drove into the valley this evening.

I am with the Holmen School District, president of the Holmen School Board, and we passed a resolution opposing the CAPX 2020. I think my sense is it is very unfortunate and I think we are just pawns in a bigger game here about getting power from North Dakota to Chicago and other points east, and it's unfortunate that that's certainly where we are at.

The need obviously for it to be located here is debatable and to be heard, but I'm particularly concerned about the location of the

### I-132-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-132-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-132-001

I-132-002

I-132-002

1 Briggs Substation. You know, it may have made some  
2 sense when the original Q1 was on the table, which  
3 went through some of the bottom line, but it appears  
4 that since that has been off the table, that location  
5 really does not make sense anymore, especially in  
6 conjunction, because it really doesn't work with the  
7 ATC project. To come through a residential corridor,  
8 over the schools, over the high schools, where little  
9 kids are on a regular basis, and through an urban  
10 area where houses are makes even less sense than the  
11 project itself.

I-132-003

12 The second concern with the Briggs  
13 Substation is that it truly does not work with the  
14 ATC project and the Badger line which connects to it.  
15 So, again, coming into this area, shouldn't these  
16 projects work together?

17 Third, if you understand the area,  
18 Corridor Highway 53 is really the growth area for  
19 LaCrosse County. There is schools and there's  
20 business districts. To come into that substation,  
21 again, will really affect the tax base, the revenue,  
22 and the future growth of this area, which again,  
23 there is really not a need for it. And really to  
24 address the claims that LaCrosse needs it, again,  
25 which is debatable, you know, that substation is not

### I-132-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-132-004

1 necessary, if it is truly part of this Badger project  
2 getting energy out east, and then the energy can  
3 always be brought into LaCrosse on the existing  
4 lines, on the 161K, and we are not going to need  
5 these behemoth poles with this high energy.

6 So certainly, again, you know, the  
7 entire project of getting energy out east through  
8 us as pawns, and through this beautiful valley,  
9 and affecting all of these people here is truly  
10 concerning. And the type of planning that has gone  
11 into even thinking about a Briggs Substation across  
12 schools and across an urban area is enough to make  
13 me question the entire project, if that's the type  
14 of planning that has gone into it.

15 So, thank you for your time.

16 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Joe  
17 Morris, who will be followed by Joe Nygaard.

18 MR. MORRIS: I think I will stand,  
19 too, if that's alright.

20 MODERATOR RICHTER: Yes. Take the  
21 mic and speak directly into the mic and that should  
22 be fine. Thank you.

23 MR. MORRIS: Thank you very much.  
24 My name is Joe Morris. I live in Winona County,  
25 Wilson Township, just south of Winona.

## I-132-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.





Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-133-001

I would urge you to look at the  
alternatives to the CapX2020 project.  
I am opposed to the building of the  
transmission lines anywhere in  
Trempealeau County. The 130-170'  
towers would upset the scenic  
beauty of this area. In addition,  
it would be close enough to my

I-133-002

residence that I would have to order  
the towers. I am retired and my  
home is a big part of my retirement  
future and the resale value would be  
affected.

Optional: Name: Bill Meyer

Address: N13372 Grana Lane Trempealeau WI

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by FEB. 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-133-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

I-133-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

36885 County 24 Blvd.  
Dennison, MN 55018  
January 10, 2012

MS Stephanie A. Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
Rural Utilities Service  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Mail Stop 1571, Room 2242  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear MS Strength:

Re: Comments on the RUS - Draft Environmental Statement

I-134-001

I want to thank you and your staff for the fine work on the RUS – DEIS. I believe this statement provided a better discussion of the attributes and the problems of the various alternatives than the Minnesota DEIS. The RUS – DEIS clearly points out that the preferred location is the IP route along Highway 52. The alternatives IP – 009 and IB – 005 clearly have too many problems and obstructions to be a selected route in addition these routes are much longer resulting in a more costly route.

I-134-002

One natural resource that was not included in the RUS – DEIS is the Wangs fossil site which exists within the right-of-way along Highway 56. The alternate routes IP – 009 and IB – 005 would adversely impact this site. One fourth mile north of the Wangs corner; intersection of County road #9 and Highway 56, is the location of the Wangs fossil site. The fossils are found on the east cut slope within the highway right-of-way. Numerous times during the year buses of students from Carlton, and St. Olaf Colleges, Wayzata Public Schools, and the University of Minnesota come to the site with their instructor to pick fossils and hold their lab sessions. Numerous other private individuals come throughout the summer season to pick fossils for their private collections. The fossils found are from the Ordovician period, which includes brachiopods, trilobites, crinoids and etc. Additional information can be found when you Google “Wangs fossil site”.

Institution contacts:

St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN- Physics Department, Chair - Robert Jacobi, tel-507-786-2222  
Ext. 3120

Carlton College, Northfield, MN - Geology Department, Chair - Cam Davidson, tel - 507-222-7144, ext - 4407 email - cdavidso@carlton.edu

University of Minnesota, Mpls, MN - Geology and Geophysics Department, Department Head - David Fox, tel - 612-624-6361

Wayzata Public Schools, Wayzata West Middle School, Wayzata, Minnesota, - Dan Roberts, tel – 763-745-6480.

I-134-003

Attached are two documents I have prepared to address the proposed routes from Hampton to Rochester.

1. Comments on the Preferred Route – IP
2. My documentation why routes IP – 009 and IB – 005 should not be the selected routes based upon the information provided in the RUS – DEIS.

I-134-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

I-134-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E:  
Geology and Soils, E04-Fossil Sites.

I-134-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

If you or your consultant has any questions on these documents, you can reach me at 507-789-6765.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard C. Midje". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howard C. Midje  
MN State Design Engineer – Retired  
Soil Conservation Service, USDA – (NRCS, Natural Resource Conservation Service)

#### I-134-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

Evaluation of the Proposed Routes Based on the  
RUS Draft Environmental Statement  
January 7, 2012

By: Howard C. Midje  
Telephone - 597-789-6765  
Farm owner - Warsaw Township, Goodhue County  
MN State Design Engineer - Retired  
Soil Conservation Service, USDA - (NRCS, Natural Resource Conservation Service)

I-134-004

Comments on the Preferred Route - Route 1P

The Rural Utilities Service, (RUS), DEIS on page 16 states: "comparative analysis shows that most of these alternative routes do not meet the Minnesota siting criteria as well as Route P does and/or they have more impact than the sections of Route P or A they would replace".

I believe the preferred route along Highway 52 is the best location for the transmission line from Hampton to the substation between Zumbrota and Pine Island. This route has the least impact on the rural landscape and farming communities. This route will greatly reduce the concern of following farm boundary lines and consequently cutting across farms. This route is the least environmentally damaging and has the least environmental impact to wildlife, fauna, and flora; because a four lane road presently exists along this corridor. Both the Goodhue and Dakota County commissioners have endorsed the Highway 52 route. Table R - 5, Additional Comparisons, Segment I, RUS - DEIS supports the 52 route.

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. The route from Hampton to Rochester along Highway 52 is the closest to a straight line. I am sure the cost of the line is in direct relationship to its length. The preferred route along Highway 52 would be the most economical to construct as the RUS - DEIS stated on page 15.

The Highway 52 corridor has already been preparing for the upgrade of the highway to a freeway. Most of the existing farmsteads have been vacated, moved further from the existing road right-of-way, or been put up for sale in anticipation of the construction of the freeway and associated service roads. Because of this fact, this corridor is the logical location for all of the public utilities, which will include the freeway, transmission lines, and any future mass transit facilities, which will minimize corridor proliferation. Light rail line proposals from the Twin Cities to Rochester have already been discussed, which someday will likely become a reality. MNDOT has already allocated funds to the city of Rochester to explore possible depot sites in the city for the light rail. The RUS - DEIS states that 82 percent of 1P follows a transmission line or roadway and that roadway is a major highway US 52.

I-134-004

Xcel Energy has constructed the Invenenergy peak plant in Cannon Falls which already has 16 miles of a 69 KV transmission line along US 52. Any connection to the transmission line would be a short distance to the preferred line along Highway 52. Invenenergy has already donated funds to the Cannon Falls School District and other community organizations in Cannon Falls, as a “good neighbor”.

As quoted in section 8.1.4.4 of the MN – DEIS, “Areas along 52 are already extensively impacted by human modifications to the landscape and the marginal impact of the proposed project is not expected to fundamentally change the visual character of the corridor”.

Documentation Why Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 SHOULDN'T be the Selected Route

I-134-005

Property Values

The Minnesota DEIS states that the primary strategy to mitigate impacts to property values is to avoid residences as much as possible during route selection. Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 have the largest number of homes within 75 feet of the proposed route. Route 1P-009 has the greatest number of homes within 150 feet.

I believe agricultural land values will also be impacted by the location of the transmission lines. As agricultural is relying more on the use of GPS for controlling farm equipment for many farming operations the electromagnetic interference from the transmission line will affect the value of the agricultural land. It will also affect the rent larger farmers are willing to pay for such land. Presently GPS is used for tractor guidance, planter control for point rows, fertilizer and lime application rates, harvest yield by the combine during harvest, sprayer operation for weed and insect control, and additional application as this technology explodes.

I-134-006

It is important to keep all public utilities, roads, light rail and transmission lines within a shared right-of-way. This will minimize dissecting prime farm land which is one of Minnesota's and USA's most important resources.

Human Settlement

Route 1P-009 has twice as many churches located within 1000 feet of the transmission line. The Stanton Airport needs the east-west runway clear of conflicts, see page 136, RUS – DEIS.

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 have the most homes within 75 feet and route 1P-009 has the most homes with 150 feet. The largest number of pinch points occurs along routes 1P-009 and 1B-005.

I-134-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-134-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

I-134-006

Land Use Compatibility

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 are adjacent to or near the boundary of the Nansen Historical District. This district is designated by the federal and state government as a unique rural resource in which the main attribute promotes the rural vistas. These vistas will be destroyed by seeing power poles along the district's borders.

The footprint of the power poles or even the construction of such may only affect a small area but the electromagnetic fields generated by the transmission line will affect the use of GPS along the entire length of the line. Refer back to 8.1.4.2.

There are several walnut tree plantations and considerable native prairie along the 1P-009 and 1B-005 routes that would be affected by the pole construction and placement.

I-134-007

Many cattle passes are located under Highway 56, if the transmission line is parallel to 56 it will make it much more difficult to get range cattle to pass under the road. I reference a study done in Germany by a team directed by Hynek Burda and Sabine Begall.

Land Based Economics

I-134-008

Larger farmers using GPS guidance systems will not pay as high a rent price when the land is near a transmission line. The GPS systems are becoming a necessity to obtain maximum yield and efficiency.

I-134-009

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 have the most aggregate mines with the 1000 foot route limit.

Rare and Unique Resources

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 pass the Wangs fossil site just north of the Highway 56 and County 9 intersection. The site is located within the right-of-way of Highway 56. The site is used by Carlton and St. Olaf colleges, University of Minnesota, Wayzata Public Schools, MN Science Museum, and many private citizens.

MN – DEIS states route 1P-009 has the highest native plant community and route 1B-005 has the third highest native plant community.

Flora and Fauna

The RUS – DEIS on page 243 states many zoological and ecological problems are associated with 1P – 009 and 1B – 005.

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 along Highway 56 pass through a farm in section 8 of Warsaw Township that has been purchased by Pheasants Forever. The land is on both sides of the highway.

**I-134-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

**I-134-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

**I-134-009**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

I-134-009

Water Resources

MN -- DEIS states route 1B-005 has the most wetlands within the 150 foot right-of-way and route 1P-009 has the third most. Both routes have wetlands wider than 1000 feet within the 150 foot right-of-way and have the greatest number of acres of wetland within the 1000 foot route width. Existing forested wetlands along these routes would be changed to non-forested wet lands if the transmission line was constructed along either route. Choosing any other route alternative could minimize these impacts.

I-134-010

Electronic Interference

The RUS -- DEIS states that it is unlikely that GPS guidance systems would be affected by the EMF of an electronic transmission line because it receives its signals from several satellites. In recent farm magazine articles it points out that several of the US satellites are now dysfunctional and the GPS industry has been more reliant on foreign satellites. The John Deere Corporation has now requested permission to launch their own satellites. This indicates that existing satellites are not that plentiful, so the signal could be blocked by power poles. This industry has greatly expanded in the last two years and become a very important tool to provide efficiency in the agricultural industry.

In section 7.9.5 of the MN - DEIS it states, "On rare occasions, a transmission line structure may cause a drop in accuracy within a GPS device due to blocking a view of a satellite, but this would only occur if the receiver, tower, and satellite are in a line, which is rare. Typically, if there is an EMI present, proper GPS function is usually restored in minutes (IEEE, 2002 as cited in Minnkota Power Cooperation, Inc., n.d)."

If GPS is restored within a minute, this can be a major problem for a farmer. When one is traveling across a field at from 5 to 7 miles per hour with a tractor pulling an implement 40 feet or greater in width controlled by GPS, this will be very damaging to crop production. One minute can be an eternity for the farming operation, whether it is cultivation, fertilizer application controlled by GPS, or harvest yield determined by the combine as the crop is harvested.

I-134-011

Cultural resources

The 1P-009 and the route 1B-005 routes would affect the Nansen Historical District. The principal resource of the district is the visual attributes of the rural vistas. This district in one of three such districts established in the USA. One of the others is located on the east coast and the other on the west coast. Both the state and federal government have established this as a rural historic landscape district. At the state level it is the Historic Preservation Office which is part of the Minnesota Historical society. At the federal level it is under the Department of Interior, Department of Parks. The Nansen Historical District would be greatly affected by both routes 1P -- 009 and 1B -- 005. 1P -- 009 would be less than ½ mile from the north boundary line of the District and 1B -- 005 would be along the west boundary.

As quoted in the MN - DEIS, "Of all the route alternatives considered, route 1B-005 would have the highest potential impacts on historic resources, passing near 64 sites". Minnesota highway 56 was designated by the MN highway signs as "The Capital Highway" with an insignia of the capital on each sign. This was in the pre 1950 era. The 64 sites are not considering the Nansen

**I-134-010**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O08-Electronic Equipment.

**I-134-011**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

Historical District where this route would follow the district's west boundary. This should be included in the final MN - DEIS.

Transportation and Public Services.

The route 1P-009 and 1B-005 are too close to the Stanton Airport. The historic airfield is home to airplanes and gliders. The MN - DEIS states, "Due to proximity of 1B-005 and 1P-009 to the airfield, it is unlikely that modification transmission line structures could be used to meet height requirements for structures near the airfield". The RUS - DEIS states on page 299, "Routes 1P-009 and 1B - 005 may have a conflict with the Stanton Airport and may not be feasible".

The RUS - DEIS also states, " A high speed rail line between Rochester and the Twin Cities is in initial planning. This complies with the concept of keeping all utilities along the same corridor and preserving as much of the rural visual attributes as possible.

Recreation Resources

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 are located within the 1000 feet of the Warsaw Management Area and divides the Pheasants Forever property in section 8 of Warsaw Township.

Routes 1P-009 and 1B-005 also have the most snowmobile crossings of all the alternate routes.



I-135-001

1 up here and sit, if you would like us to take a  
2 moment while you take a seat, if that would be  
3 helpful.

4 **MR. MILLER:** It is Dwain Miller.  
5 That is spelled D-W-A-I-N. I don't have enough  
6 information yet to formulate an opinion either way,  
7 but what information I have collected, I want those  
8 people that are going to make the final decision on  
9 where and if this line goes up, that it is going to  
10 be the least restrictive and the least harmful to  
11 people and their property.

12 I don't necessarily have a problem  
13 with it going through a land where the habitat, like  
14 my wife mentioned, snakes. They will find a place  
15 to go. You know, if it means that the lines go  
16 there rather than people losing their homes or their  
17 property, or their property values go home, so be it.  
18 Let the snakes find another place to go. They are  
19 pretty hardy creatures. They will find a place.

20 So I just want to voice my concern  
21 that I feel that people need to be more of a priority  
22 than snakes, as far as I'm concerned.

23 So that's all I really wanted to say  
24 tonight. So thanks.

25 **MODERATOR RICHTER:** Next, after Al,

### I-135-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

1 of this line.

2 The question then is what is this  
3 line about? It is about overcapacity and  
4 overbuilding in the Dakotas. They will speak of  
5 congestion of capacity because of overbuilding. With  
6 the plan being that power will be exported for  
7 profit, even against popular opposition, to Michigan,  
8 Ohio and Indiana.

9 There is a type of anger that arises  
10 from injustice that gives people the energy to  
11 correct that injustice. The name of that -- that  
12 name is righteous indignation. People, including  
13 myself, are indignant. What I would encourage people  
14 to do is to use that energy to speak to your state  
15 representative, state and local representatives to  
16 give testimony before the PSC on March 13th and 14th  
17 in opposition to a line that is not needed and not  
18 wanted. This is flyover country for energy in  
19 Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Sally  
22 Miller will be followed by Dwayne Miller.

23 ME, MILLER: My name is Sally Miller.  
24 Town of Gaylesville. I don't have an opinion either  
25 way on this, other than to say that my concern is

### I-136-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-136-001

I-136-001

1 that we aren't taking into account the greatest  
2 asset that we have, and that would be our health,  
3 our children's health. I really don't care if the  
4 rattle snakes get disturbed in their habitat; I care  
5 if the children are.

6 High exposure to EMFs has been linked  
7 to several issues, several problems. Autism is one  
8 of them. As a mother of an autistic son, I really  
9 don't know that I would wish that on anybody. It is  
10 a hard life. And I think we need to be looking at  
11 how these things impact our children.

12 As a newspaper reporter covering  
13 these kinds of issues in several states over the last  
14 20 years, I have seen a lot of meetings like this.  
15 I have seen a lot of people speak heartfelt concerns.  
16 Sometimes they feel like they are not being heard,  
17 sometimes they feel like the decision has already  
18 been made. I certainly hope that is not the case  
19 here. Although I am no longer the editor of the  
20 Gaylesville Newspaper, in some part that's why I  
21 decided to run for the County Board because I have  
22 heard a lot of opposition, and a small amount of  
23 support for this project, but for the most part it  
24 is a lot of confusion. The main concern I hear from  
25 everybody is how is this going to affect our

I-136-001

1 children, how is it going to affect our health.

2 Yes, property value is important, but overwhelmingly,  
3 and even tonight, when I have talked to a lot of you,  
4 overwhelmingly it is about safety, children's safety.

5 The information is out there and I  
6 encourage you to find it on the impact of EMFs. If  
7 it can be registered on an electronic device, if an  
8 EMF can be registered, then it has an impact. If it  
9 is going to disturb the rattlesnakes and their  
10 habitat, then it is going to disturb the people and  
11 our lives. I want to make sure that this is  
12 something that is factored in, right up there with  
13 the baby rattlesnakes and all of the other wildlife,  
14 that the children, that the elderly people, that the  
15 people that will be impacted that live near these are  
16 taken into account. That their voices and that their  
17 concerns are the greatest, the single greatest  
18 decision making information piece. I want to make  
19 sure that whoever makes this decision in the end has  
20 taken into account life, safety and quality of life.

21 Thank you.

22 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Dwain  
23 Miller, who will be followed by Al Lorenz.

24 Could I indicate, again, we do have  
25 seats, if you just arrived, you are welcome to come



Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galenville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-137-001

I am confident that the CapX2020 Project is needed now and in the future to efficiently transmit electric power from generation to end use. No matter which optional route is chosen, sacrifices to personal, cultural, and environmental values will be made. My evaluation of the routes focused on the Alma - North La Crosse routes. My opinion is that the Q1 route is the most prudent. The cost savings of this project, in addition to the savings from needed rebuilding of the existing transmission line, make this route more affordable. Those savings can be used to mitigate sacrifices made. Also, the scenic value along any of the Arcadia routes is just as valuable even if it holds no official moniker.

Optional: Name: Howard Aisch

Address: 52393 Belvidere Ridge Rd Cochrane, WI 54622

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 17, 2012~~ 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UEP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-137-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

I-138-001

1 Miller will follow him. Let's start with Joe. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. MORSE: Thanks for the  
4 opportunity to speak here tonight. My name is Joe  
5 Morse, M-O-R-S-E. I live south of Winona, Minnesota,  
6 in Wilson Township. I've been participating in  
7 information meetings, public forums, and public  
8 meetings, about this proposed power line organized by  
9 CapX, and also meetings by the Minnesota Department  
10 of Commerce, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission,  
11 administrative law judges, legislative town boards,  
12 and other community organizations for the last  
13 three-and-a-half years. The more I learn about it,  
14 the more I become concerned.

15 I don't believe that the CapX  
16 project is a good investment or a sound project. I  
17 recommend the no action alternative. I don't think  
18 taxpayers should finance any portion of the CapX  
19 power line through USDA Rural Utility Service funds.  
20 We would be paying as ratepayers to the utilities,  
21 and we would be paying doubly as taxpayers to the  
22 federal government.

I-138-002

23 Some of the reasons I think this  
24 project is ill-advised are as follows. No. 1, in an  
25 era when major goals are being set by many states and

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### I-138-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-138-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A10-Transmission of Electricity Generated by Burning  
Coal.

**I-138-002**

1 the federal government to prevent catastrophic global  
2 warming, many want to increase wind and solar power  
3 to use as an alternative to dirty coal power. CapX  
4 utilities have made no commitment to any amount of  
5 wind power on these, and did in fact try to remove  
6 the wind power ordered by the Minnesota Public  
7 Utilities Commission on April 6th, 2009, when they  
8 approved the Minnesota certificate of need for the  
9 Brooking segment of the CapX power line.

**I-138-003**

10 The concept of generating large  
11 quantities of electricity in locations far from its  
12 end use and sending it to its customers by high  
13 voltage power lines is outdated and dangerous. Large  
14 amounts of electricity are wasted in this  
15 transmission process, thousands of huge unsightly  
16 power towers are necessary which consume enormous  
17 amounts of energy to make and install. And those of

**I-138-004**

18 us who live and attend school, work within 165 feet  
19 of these high voltage power lines are subject to the  
20 effects of electromegnetic fields, increasing the  
21 number of children contracting leukemia and adults  
22 being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. There are  
23 many ecological studies which make these risks very  
24 clear.

25 There are many people in this area

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**I-138-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

**I-138-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-138-005

1 and individuals, organizations, who spent  
2 considerable efforts working to protect the bluffs of  
3 this area from construction of highly unsightly  
4 buildings on bluff sides and ridge lines which can  
5 cause erosion, landslides, damage to the visual  
6 beauty to the community and contaminate water  
7 supplies. The proposed power line would severely  
8 detract from the efforts of both private and public  
9 organizations to preserve these visual and natural  
10 resources and water quality, which are important  
11 esthetic and economic benefits to southeast Minnesota  
12 and western Wisconsin.

I-138-006

I-138-007

13 The power lines create an  
14 unnecessary decrease in property values for many of  
15 the landowners in this area. And I would like to  
16 just make a mention that earlier one of the needs  
17 that was mentioned was was reliability -- I guess  
18 that's it. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: The next person is  
20 Robert Miller followed by Robert Kamrowski. And I  
21 want to apologize up front for not pronouncing names  
22 correctly. Bob Miller left. So are Robert  
23 Kamrowski, and then he would be followed by David  
24 Fetting.

25 ROBERT KAMROWSKI: My name is

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### I-138-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-138-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water  
Resources, F01-General/Other.

### I-138-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.



**I-139-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

From: onthewater@sleepyeyetel.net [mailto:onthewater@sleepyeyetel.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:54 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: CAPX RUS DEIS

Dear Ms. Strength,

**I-139-001**

I am writing you in regards to the CAPX2020 HVTL project. My name is Paul Mulholland and I am a home owner located directly on the west side of the Zumbro River at the North Alternate 3A crossing of the Zumbro River. I have talked to Brian Bub from Stantec Consulting who called to discuss Bald Eagle activity here, but I am not clear exactly what his role is or how/if our discussion may have been relayed on to you. I apologize in advance if my comments to you here on the RUS DEIS is duplicated from what you might have learned from Brian already.

I would like to make you aware of the eagle activity here. The river seems to be a prime fishing route for the eagles as we see them daily fishing the river here. There are favorite tree perches right here at the proposed crossing where you will see them roosting after feeding. The amount of activity along here is really quite amazing. There are also two spots, one almost on the proposed line crossing and one just south from there, where the river bends sharply. The outer curve of the river channel is cut deeply and the inner curve is left shallow. We see eagles land on the shallow beach side and go to the river to drink. As spring approaches we are now watching them just starting to perform their courtship rituals on occasion, soaring extremely high, then locking together and tumbling toward the ground. This should become more common soon over the next weeks. I have invited Brian to possibly make a field trip here sometime if he can make it to observe all of this eagle activity.

An item that I'd also like to mention is the fact that the river here, down stream from the dam, is used year round by the eagles. In the winter the lake side of the Zumbro River, on the other proposed route, freezes solid. However, the river side will always have open water and the eagles use the open water to fish. Even during winters when we get those long stretches of sub-zero weather for days and even weeks there is always open water along the river right here at my location that they continue to use.

My wife and I are hopeful that we may have a nesting pair this year. There is a large tree just about on our north line about half way up the bluff that is being regularly visited. We haven't seen any nest

I-139-001

building actually start yet, but the nearest established nest we've seen is a fair ways down river toward Zumbro Falls. This is far enough away that I'm sure we'll see a nest somewhere in our area here soon. There was a nest built a number of years ago directly on the other side of the river on Laverne Hofschulte's side but was abandoned. I'm hopeful that a new pair will nest here, possibly this year and maybe on our side of the river!

I could go on too long if I'm not careful. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Paul Mulholland

**I-140-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

**I-140-001**

1 sufficient habitat cover, and ideal temperature  
2 ranges.  
3 Section 3.2.1.4, page 187  
4 states --  
5 MS. RICHTER: Allan Muller  
6 followed by Carol Overland.  
7 **ALAN MULLER:** My name is Alan  
8 Muller, and I live at 1110 West Avenue in Red Wing,  
9 Minnesota. This is a proceeding under the National  
10 Environmental Policy Act, and one of the requirements  
11 there -- one of the key requirements that is kind of  
12 generally neglected is evaluating alternatives. And  
13 this obligation is called out accurately on page 83  
14 of the draft EIS. It's section 2.1.1. And I would  
15 like to read it. "Under the CEQ regulations, RUS is  
16 required to identify and evaluate reasonable  
17 alternatives to the proposal as well as the no action  
18 alternative." And let me stop and point out that  
19 alternatives are not the same thing as a no action  
20 alternative.  
21 Okay. "Reasonable alternatives  
22 are those that are, quote, practical or feasible from  
23 the technical and economic standpoint in using common  
24 sense rather than simply desirable from the  
25 standpoint of the applicants." Now let me reread

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I-140-001

1           that last little section. "Rather than simply  
2           desirable from the standpoint of the applicant." And  
3           that means that alternatives can't, under the law, be  
4           blown off just because they aren't part of the  
5           applicant's business plan, okay? And what that means  
6           is of course our friends in the electricity business  
7           want to sell more electricity, and they want more  
8           transmission lines to move that electricity around,  
9           but that doesn't mean that under the law alternatives  
10          such as investment in conservation and efficiency can  
11          be ignored. Unfortunately, they are for all  
12          practical purposes in these documents.

13                         Now, you know I think this is  
14          particularly important, the issue of alternatives  
15          when we are talking about transmission lines, because  
16          we all know that lines have all sorts of negative  
17          consequences. And there are alternatives such as  
18          investment in conservation and efficiency that are  
19          almost entirely positive. So let's see what we  
20          actually get here. On page 84 at 2.2.1, demand site  
21          management and energy efficiency are measures that  
22          are already incorporated into utilities projections  
23          and therefore are not available to further reduce  
24          load. Now, obviously that can only be true if it was  
25          showing that the utilities were in fact already doing

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I-140-001

1 all the cost-effective load management and efficiency  
2 that could be done. Is that shown anywhere? Well,  
3 certainly not in that statement. So let's go to the  
4 alternative study and see what we get here. At  
5 3.2.1.2 title conservation -- can I finish my  
6 statement?

7 MS. RICHTER: Sure.

8 ALAN MULLER: Okay. Let me read  
9 this. "Because the effect of conservation will not  
10 appreciably reduce the projected growth and peak  
11 electric demand, this alternative would need to --  
12 this alternative is not feasible because it is  
13 unreasonable to assume that all utilities would be  
14 able to exceed the statutory requirements" and so on.  
15 There's absolutely no factor in this information here  
16 to substantiate that.

17 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Carol?  
18 And Carol will be followed by Billy Dietrich. Billy  
19 is here? Okay. Thank you.

20 CAROL OVERLAND: Hello, I'm Carol  
21 Overland. Wwv.Nocapx2020.Info for more information.  
22 1110 West Avenue. First, I have a number of things  
23 over the next week, but first we'll start off,  
24 Dairyland is shutting down three units at the Alma  
25 plant. This is an article dated December 6th, 2011,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

**Alan Muller**

1110 West Avenue  
Red Wing, Minnesota, USA  
55066  
302.299.6783  
amuller@dca.net

January 12, 2012

Ms. Stephanie Strength, Project Manager  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2244  
Mailstop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

RE: Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse transmission line proposal:  
DEIS comments and FOLA request

Dear Ms. Strength:

I-141-001

I attended a January 9, 2012, "public meeting" in Alma, Wisconsin, on a segment of the CapX2020 transmission line expansion scheme, for which an intent to seek Federal assistance has triggered a NEPA proceeding.

Apparently you, (or perhaps the applicants?) hired Trudy Richter, Richardson, Richter & Associates, to run the meeting.

*"Ms. Richter has extensive experience working with government clients in conducting public involvement processes that increase the probability of successful, supported projects. She facilitates public meetings, provides legislative testimony and manages citizen committees and task forces working closely with community leaders and agencies."*

([http://www.richardsonrichter.com/Trudy\\_Richter.html](http://www.richardsonrichter.com/Trudy_Richter.html))

Before public testimony began Ms. Richter threatened to cut the meeting short if people did not behave as she wished them to.

People were given only three minutes to speak and I observed that almost every person was cut off. The meat of the conclusions and import of peoples' testimony was often not presented.

Ms. Richter said "good" when people cut short their testimony or decided not to speak.

Now, of course, Ms. Richter is an expert at controlling and manipulating "public participation" processes on behalf of applicants, and a bullying demeanor is part of her approach.

But I OBJECT VERY STRONGLY to encountering this nasty and discourteous stuff at a meeting sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. Perhaps I am naïve, but as I see it,

**I-141-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D01-General/Other.

**I-141-001** | you and your consultants are supposed to be working for the people, not the other way around. I expect people to be treated with courtesy and respect.

RUS is supposed to be evaluating the proposal, not promoting it.

**I-141-002** | More broadly, at the previous scoping meetings on this project I expressed my concerns to you that the Department of agriculture was essentially just putting its stamp on materials prepared by the applicants and/or their consultants. This appears to me to be a continuing pattern.

**I-141-003** | For example, in the DEIS presented, the discussion and evaluation of alternatives, required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is inadequate when not absent. Similarly, the DEIS misrepresents the fact that the proposal is a “connected action,” obviously part of a larger transmission expansion plan with goals unrelated to local needs and, as alleged by at least one party, outside the legitimate scope of activities of the (presumed) applicant, the Dairyland generation cooperative.

**I-141-004** | Please, in the future, conduct your meetings in a neutral and respectful manner.

**I-141-005** | Please present a DEIS that complies with, rather than mocks, the NEPA.

**I-141-006** | The purpose, as I understand it, of the RUS is to promote electrification that contributes to agricultural productivity and improvements in rural quality of life. None of the record in this matter suggests any existing inadequacy in the availability or reliability of electricity in rural areas. Rather, the record documents significant negative impacts on land-in-production, aesthetics, human and animal health, and quality-of-life.

A key purpose of the line is to accommodate urban and suburban growth in the Rochester, Minnesota area. Regardless of the general merits of this, facilitating sprawl development in and around Rochester can only have a negative impact on agriculture, and as such is not an appropriate use of USDA resources. If RUS has excess funds it does not know what to do with, I will be happy to offer some suggestions.

**I-141-007** | Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request a summary of government expenditures on this project. I also request copies of all correspondence or other documentation regarding the retention of Trudy Richter.

If these requests raise any questions please feel free to contact me.

Yours very truly,

Alan Muller

Copy: Hon.Tom Vilsack, Secretary, USDA

**I-141-008** |

#### **I-141-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

#### **I-141-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### **I-141-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

#### **I-141-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D01-General/Other.

#### **I-141-006**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

#### **I-141-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

#### **I-141-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

<b>I-142-001</b>	In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
<b>I-142-002</b>	The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP. I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
<b>I-142-003</b>	The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
<b>I-142-004</b>	In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

1-142-005

Dear Ms. Strangth-

Until there is a solar hot water heater installed on every rooftop in America and houses are insulated and weatherized there is no need to expand electrical capacity.

Let's head in the other direction and conserve rather than build more capacity.

(Optional) Signature [Signature] Date 2/7/12  
Print Name Eric H. Newman  
Address 321 Willow St.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail to: Stephanie Strength 2512 S.W. 18th Avenue on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Write or hand record, add a stamp and mail. FEB. 13th

Fill in the year, date, time, etc. Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.usda.gov/pressroom/2002/02/02/020202a.htm#story01 (see a link)

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).



## December Focus on Energy audit proves program's value

By Keith Reepalle, Senior Policy Director

Focus on Energy, the statewide energy efficiency program that helps residents and businesses lower energy bills, has been a political football the past few years.

In December 2010, the PSC and Legislature authorized a funding increase of \$340 million for four years for the program. But in the spring of 2011, Governor Scott Walker and legislative leaders significantly cut funding to Focus on Energy. A legislative audit released in December demonstrates that the benefits of Focus on Energy are more than double the costs of the program. Since inception 12 years ago, over 2 million Wisconsin residents and businesses have participated in the program, which is one of the most successful of its kind in the nation, and legislators should act quickly to restore lost funding in order to maximize the cost-saving potential of the program.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Wisconsin residents and businesses save over \$2 on their energy bills, according to the audit by the bipartisan Legislative Audit Bureau. This helped save over \$64 million on energy bills in 2010 alone. Since inception, Focus on Energy has helped residents and businesses save over \$2 billion.

That's a lot of money and reason enough to make investment in the program, but it's not the only benefit Focus on Energy is an economic driver for the state. By reducing the need for coal-fired power plants, Focus on Energy helps improve

air quality and protect the health of our families. In fact, reduced power plant emissions resulted in over \$17 million in environmental benefits in 2010, according to the audit. Additionally, Wisconsin currently spends \$12.5 billion every year on imported electricity and dirty, outdated fossil fuels. Much of that money is spent on coal, oil and natural gas to generate electricity and heat our homes. Investing in energy efficiency is the No. 1 way we can reduce that amount and keep money circulating within our own economy.

Finally, the audit acknowledges that Focus on Energy helps spur job creation and increase business sales. An earlier study estimated that the funding cut from the program would create 7,000 to 9,000 new jobs in Wisconsin.

By voting to significantly cut funding for Focus on Energy last spring, legislators turned their backs on an opportunity to lower energy bills, reduce pollution, and spur job creation. With the

recent legislative audit in hand, they now have the opportunity to remedy this mistake.

This week, legislators began circulating a bill that would restore the PSC's ability to reinstate funding to Focus on Energy. This bill is the first step on the path toward lower energy bills, and it deserves the support of our leaders.

By working to restore funding cut from Focus on Energy, our elected leaders can help residents and businesses save money, improve the quality of our environment and create more jobs. That's something that deserves support from legislators on both sides of the aisle.

Clean Wisconsin and its partners, including many businesses that have grown and added jobs because of the Focus program, is actively working on this important issue. If you have questions or are interested in helping with this effort please contact Keith Reepalle at 608-251-7020 ext. 11 or Kary Walter at 608-251-7020 ext. 28.

### How much Focus on Energy saved in 2010



### How many Focus on Energy served in 2010



### Focus on Energy's Return on Investment, 2010



By restoring funding cut from Focus on Energy, elected leaders can help residents and businesses save money, improve the quality of our environment, and create more jobs. That's something that deserves support from legislators on both sides of

From: George Nygaard [mailto:gnygaard@mwt.net]  
 Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 12:19 PM  
 To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC; stephaniestrength@wdc.usda.gov; George Nygaard  
 Subject: CapX 2020 RUS DEIS Comment

DEIS Comment submitted by  
 George R. Nygaard  
 S2126 Wing Hollow Rd.  
 Chaseburg, WI 54621

**I-143-001**

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hampton-Alma-Holmen segment of the CapX 2020 project. I am a member of Vernon Electric Co-op, one of 25 member co-ops in the Dairyland Power Co-op (DPC) system. As a member of and intervenor before the PSCW for Citizens' Energy Task Force (CETF), I have attended numerous meetings and hearings on CapX 2020 (hereafter "project") in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, including both Wisconsin RUS DEIS public hearings. I have talked to and listened literally hundreds of citizens express their opinions on the project including. I have read almost all documents submitted in the CPCN application process as well as the RUS DEIS.

Many of the public meetings in the past year have been informational with both the CPCN applicants and CETF giving presentations. As a result, La Crosse County, La Crescent, MN, Holmen School District and several townships have passed resolutions in opposition to the CapX project. Over 1100 citizens have signed petitions opposing the project. Several state and federal agencies, as well as NGOs have written opinions in opposition to the project or specific routes or segments.

I personally am opposed to the CapX 200 project for the following reasons:

1.) The project is NOT NEEDED! The applicant has greatly overstated future growth in peak load demand projections. Applicants have projected a annual growth in peak load of 1.7% for the La Crosse/Winona area, while PSCW staff agreed that the MISO 0.78% (MTEP 11) was the best estimate through 2050. It should be noted that Xcel modified downward. Moreover, in its Strategic Energy Assessment filed in Docket 05-ES-106 (PSC REF #: 153305), NSPW has indicated that it expects zero growth in Wisconsin peak electric demand between 2011 and 2018.

It should be noted that the applicant used erroneous methodology in determining peak loading by using the total of all substations as the loading was coincidental, when in fact the loads were non-coincidental.

**I-143-002**

2.) The applicant failed to correctly analyze alternatives to the project. Conservation, DSM, Solar, wind and biogas were not addressed in depth and treated separately as unreliable or not enough, rather than as contributions to a mix. The RUS 'copy and paste' DEIS did the same. The applicant has been asked but has failed to adequately address putting French Island #3 in service or construct a gas generating station in La Crosse.

**I-143-003**

**I-143-004**

**I-143-005**

3.) Five low voltage have been addressed in the NSP SNS (8-31-11), the PSCW DEIS and the RUS DEIS. It would seem ratepayers would be subjected to the costs of some of the low voltage projects regardless of the construction of the CapX 345 kV project. In the recently submitted direct testimony of R. Hahn for Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) Mr. Hahn concluded that the 161kV hybrid option was best because it satisfied local need until at least 2035.

## **I-143-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## **I-143-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

## **I-143-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C03-Use of Existing Generation and Transmission Lines.

## **I-143-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.

## **I-143-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-143-006	4.) The applicant used inappropriate methodology for assess local reliability. It modeling for 'NERC 2 contingency' they factored out the 70MW French Island #4 peaking plant which amounted to a 'NERC 3 contingency', which is not required.	I-143-006	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.
I-143-007	5.)Western Wisconsin is a unique, beautiful environmentally sensitive area. All nine routes contain segments that will need special permitting apart from PSCW allow construction. Obviously, the Q-1 route and it's various alternatives present the greatest threat to protected wildlife refuges, conservancy lands, the Mississippi migratory flyway and the Great River Road Scenic Byway, the gem of the 10 state system. The applicant and their surrogate spokes-model from Riverland Energy, Dave Oelkers have expended much energy blaming WDOT at the north end of Q-1 and US FWS at the south end. Disingenuously failing to mention that there are several government agencies, environmental organizations and nature lovers who oppose the route. In fact, Mr. Oelkers has lead a campaign to make people believe the "Original Q-1" was in the application.	I-143-007	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.
I-143-008	6.) DPC has somewhat undermined the argument that there is a critical need for the CapX 345kV project. A couple of months ago DPC announces that they were closing 3 Alma plants with a total of 60MW of capacity. Last month DPC announced that if the Arcadia Route is not chosen, they may pull out of the project. Economically understandable. If CapX 2020 were so critical, I seriously doubt that this would even be considered.	I-143-008	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.
I-143-009	7.) Regional Reliability has become that primary argument for the project, especially since the regional need and reliability argument was exposed as being weak at best. The Hampton-Alma-Holmen line segment, proposed to be the connector between the Brookings -Hampton and the Badger Coulee Project, both MVPs, and designed to transport coal and wind generated enrgy from the west to the east making western Wisconsin/ SE MN energy needs secondary concerns.  8.) Lack of local need , coupled with the enormous monetary and environmental costs leads me and others to conclude that the project does not meet the cost benefit standard in Wis. Stat. § 196.491. This ratio is greatly affected by WI ratepayers being unfairly burdened by the cost allocation of the project because MISO does not recognize it as an MVP which would spread costs over the MISO grid members.	I-143-009	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.
I-143-010	Lastly, I do not believe the project benefits rural folks, while costing many greatly in land value and potential health effects on them and their livestock, let alone the destructive effect it will have on their aesthetic viewshed and quality of life. <b>In short, it would seem that the project does not meet or address the mission of RUS which I thought was charged with aiding in rural development.</b>	I-143-010	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.
I-143-011	It seems that we in America, especially rural America, are at a critical fork in the road in fashioning our energy future. We could invest billions of dollars building an extension cord, perhaps several of them, to afford us the ability to inefficiently consuming energy generated far	I-143-011	Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

**I-143-011**

away, continuing to send over 90% of our energy dollars out of the local region, never to return, creating few jobs and further jeopardizing an already weak economy. On the other hand, aided by RUS and other agencies, we could build a future that conservation, followed by renewable distributed generation and DSM take priority, producing local jobs, boosting the rural economy and combating climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Respectively submitted.

George Nygaard

1 mitigation, which means bury the line, or have the  
2 children 165 feet away. That would be a right-of-way  
3 of 330 feet.

4 I think that the no action  
5 alternative that is mentioned in the EIS would be the  
6 most prudent choice to make for this power line.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: Some new people  
9 have just arrived. We have seats in front, if you  
10 would like to join us upfront, so you could be a  
11 little more comfortable.

12 It is David, right?

13 MR. OELKERS: Yes.

14 MODERATOR RICHTER: David will be  
15 followed by Dan Pretasky.

I-144-001 16 MR. OELKERS: My name is Dave, David  
17 Oelkers. O-E-L-K-E-R-S. I live at W26899 Mesa Lane  
18 in Arcadia, Wisconsin. I want to preface my comments  
19 by simply saying that these are my personal comments.  
20 I am the general manager of Riverland Energy  
21 Cooperative, but I want folks to know that these are  
22 my personal comments.

23 I can share with you that, you know,  
24 from my position I'm aware of the fact that Riverland  
25 Energy Cooperative's kilowatt hours purchased in the

## I-144-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

I-144-001

1 last ten years has increased by 50 million kilowatt  
2 hours. So, for our cooperative, we are growing.

3 We have also increased our demand by  
4 15 megawatts. And that is in spite of all of the  
5 efforts that we have made to do conservation. We  
6 have been very aggressive in our conservation  
7 efforts, but yet we do continue to see growth.

8 As far as the issue of Dairyland and  
9 their involvement, whether or not it goes on a Q1  
10 route or another route, Dairyland is going to be  
11 involved. And the reason is is that Dairyland owns  
12 both of the routes or is involved with both of the  
13 routes. The cost to Dairyland is different depending  
14 upon which route is chosen.

15 With my apologies to those folks who  
16 live along the Q1 route, I will say that I believe  
17 that the original Q1 route, if the decision is made  
18 to go forward, is the logical route to use. The  
19 original Q1 is the most direct, it is the shortest,  
20 it will result in the lowest cost option for  
21 construction, it crosses the least amount of farm  
22 land, it will require the least amount of new  
23 right-of-way, and it has the fewest number of  
24 residents within 300 feet of it. To me that says  
25 that the logical route is the Q1.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

I-144-001

1 Don't think they need to consider the  
2 Highway 88 route. The route south of Gaylesville.  
3 They have a perfectly good route that follows  
4 directly from Alma to the Holmen location and it  
5 makes the most sense.

6 Finally, I think it is important to  
7 recognize that we have a nuclear moratorium, we are  
8 seeing reduced production of coal, Dairyland has  
9 shut down three generators, we have some fairly  
10 restrictive wind ordinances here in Trempealeau  
11 County, at least for large wind. We do have some  
12 opportunity for smaller wind. But at some point we  
13 have to understand and decide what we are going to  
14 accept.

15 So, I guess those are my comments.  
16 I think from a renewable standpoint, the technology  
17 is just not there to accommodate the kind of growth  
18 that we are seeing. So, I do think that we need to  
19 decide what we are going to live with, and for me,  
20 I guess I think it is the transmission line.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Dan  
22 is next and Dan will be followed by Joanne DeMaster.

23 MR. PRETASKY: My name is Dan  
24 Pretasky. I live in North LaCrosse County, along  
25 the Black River and next to one of the proposed





1 Because I will be basically forced to because my wife  
2 is electrically sensitive and I am not going to put  
3 my child in danger because of those power lines.

4 That's it.

5 **MR. OWECKE:** Paul Owecke,

6 O-W-E-C-K-E. Trempealeau. My address is W-25376  
7 Sullivan Road, Trempealeau, 54661.

8 I am totally opposed to siting of the  
9 CAPX 2020 line anywhere in Wisconsin and I feel that  
10 there is not a need for the power supply in this  
11 region. I don't feel that residents of Wisconsin  
12 should be responsible for paying higher rates that  
13 will be incurred by building the transmission line  
14 and that I don't feel that the citizens of Wisconsin  
15 should be burdened with the environmental degradation  
16 that the line will incur. And I feel that the  
17 science that has been used to justify the line has  
18 been manipulated by the power companies in their  
19 favor. And when there is detrimental information,  
20 it is not presented or it has been altered.

21 I feel that running a line of this  
22 size next to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge  
23 is not able to be supported by science and is a  
24 detriment to this area. And I don't think that the  
25 health concerns have been adequately addressed.

#### I-146-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### I-146-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

#### I-146-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-146-001

I-146-002

I-146-003

I-146-003

1 From my understanding, the line is  
2 rated for 2050 megavolt amperage and the CAPX 2020  
3 research has only disclosed the health concerns with  
4 850 megavolt amperage and the concerns about stray  
5 voltage have not been concerned as to how they relate  
6 to agricultural concerns, as far as reduced milk  
7 production in dairy herds near the CAPX 2020 line.

I-146-004

8 I think that's about it.  
9 (Off the record.)  
10 (Whereupon, the individual statements  
11 were concluded.)  
12 (Off the record.)  
13 (Whereupon, the following public  
14 hearing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact  
15 Statement was held and entered of record.)  
16 MODERATOR RICHTER: Good. Okay.  
17 I would like to welcome you all to the January 13th  
18 public meeting put on by the U.S. Department of  
19 Agricultural Rural Development, Rural Utility Service  
20 regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
21 My name is Trudy Richter and I will be your moderator  
22 tonight. And before we get started with your  
23 comments, we have a few remarks that we would like  
24 to make, starting first with Stephanie Strength,  
25 who is here from the USDA Rural Utility Service

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

## I-146-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

From: pame4@centurytel.net (<mailto:pame4@centurytel.net>)  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:26 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject:

Hello USDA staff,

**I-147-001**

Thankyou for the ability to comment on the draft EIS and CapX in general. I feel that the EIS did not give the weight warranted for considering all aspects for two specific areas; this would be the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and the Van Loon State Wildlife Area. Both are extremely high value natural areas that should not even be considered for a project that has the known deleterious effects associated with the CAPX 2020 line. The Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge was recently given RAMSAR status of a wetland area with international significance.

**I-147-002**

Should the USDA approve of actually contributing funds for completion of CAPX 2020 through these areas, I and many others will judge your actions as being complicit in a pre-meditated degradation of these valuable natural resources. I would ask that you follow an ethical path and join in making sure that these areas are protected from this obvious threat.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Owecke Trempealeau, WI

**I-147-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J04-Refuge.

**I-147-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J05-Other Public Lands.

1 existing line. It is called the Trempealeau line.  
2 It is owned by Xcel. It crosses very few residences.  
3 It takes that line out of the Mississippi River  
4 Valley. It is a win-win for both the environmental  
5 concerns and for people.

6 Now, no, personally I am not in favor  
7 of this project at all, but if the project is going  
8 to be built and the RUS is going to fund it, they  
9 must comply with the regulations as put forth under  
10 NEPA.

11 Thank you.

12 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

13 Excuse me. Peggy.

14 THE SPEAKER: Peggy Paskert

15 (phonetic). I am from Lafarge (phonetic), Wisconsin,  
16 which is Vernon County. I am happy to see this many  
17 people here tonight. It has been 15 months since I  
18 have been asked to participate in the Stark Planning  
19 Energy Committee. And the more I read, the more  
20 frustrated I get. There is a lot of information out  
21 there. I think the lady that just spoke probably  
22 represents 90 percent of the people that are involved  
23 in this process.

24 The companies that are building these  
25 transmission lines want to pit each of us against

### I-148-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-148-001

I-148-001

1 each other. "Put it over there, put it over there,"  
2 it is a done deal. It is not a done deal. This is  
3 our tax money. This is our utility dollars. We have  
4 a right and an obligation to see how they are spent.  
5 There is many other options. Some of those options  
6 are increase, increase the amount of money available  
7 for efficiency. If the money that is being spent for  
8 this line was used to encourage people to insulate  
9 their homes, to encourage businesses to do energy  
10 efficiency studies, to improve their lighting and  
11 their energy uses, the need for this line could be  
12 postponed indefinitely.

13 Thank you.

14 MODERATOR RICHTER: Following Chris  
15 Stark --

16 CHRIS STARK: I am going to pass.

17 MODERATOR RICHTER: You are going to  
18 pass?

19 CHRIS STARK: At this time, yes.

20 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you though.  
21 Wendell Klen (phonetic). Is Wendell here?

22 Denise Garavalia.

23 MS. GARAVALIA: Yes.

24 MODERATOR RICHTER: And Denise will  
25 be followed by Sheryl Hanson.

Ed & DeLaine Patzner  
N24001 Co. Rd. J  
Arcadia, WI 54612

February 12, 2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Re: Capx2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence;

I-149-001

As a resident and farmer in southern Trempealeau County, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. We enjoy this area's scenic beauty, the rivers and bluffs with it's abundance of wildlife. With the wildlife refuges, Perrot State Park, back waters of the Mississippi, the Mississippi River itself and the fishing. It is no wonder as to why this area is called "GOD'S COUNTRY".

I have deep concern and issues with proposed Capx2020 project. Historically, Trempealeau County, WI, has acted as a living museum of small farms and small communities. This Capx2020 project would forever disrupt and destroy our rural and recreational landscape. These proposed routes encumber many residences and farms owned by people who are already struggling to maintain their way of life. **Farm land is not a renewable resource.** This project will raze sensitive forest and wetland areas in part of the state where the natural resources would be best preserved for our future generations.

I-149-002

Besides the industrial, scenic and recreational concerns, I have many issues with the public health threats this project will **absolutely** impose upon the people of this community. **Dairyland Power and Capx** would like us to believe that there is no scientific proof that EMFs are harmful to humans. It seems they think we are completely ignorant to facts and scientific proof that EMF forces are extremely dangerous to humans. It's time for **Dairyland Power and Capx to get HONEST with themselves and the people** and tell us the truth.

#### HEALTH ESSENTIALS. INFO

EMFs are an important environmental health problem. EMF pollution that is universal in the modern world today and getting worst!

The human body requires a very orderly DC current that creates an electro magnetic environment in the bodies of humans. Animals also require the same to remain healthy, as do all living organisms.

#### Point 1

**FACT-** EMFs in our homes, offices, businesses, high voltage power lines, etc. have chaotic AC current which is more powerful than the energy within our bodies. Poisoned by this chaotic energy, the EMF current can disrupt brain waves and impede the flow of nutrient material through the cell membranes which in turn affects every organ in our body.

(1)

I-149-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-149-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

## Point 2

**FACT-** Higher than average incidents of leukemia are reported in children who live near high voltage transmission lines.

## Point 3

**FACT-** Some US states and European countries are establishing guidelines for EMF/ELF exposures.

**Source from:** EMF Safety & Information site, Less EMF.com, the EMF Safety Superstore  
What are EMFs? 1995-2012

"The intricate DNA of the Chromosome is affected by EMFs through out our bodies. Every biochemical process involves precisely choreographed movement of EMF sensitive atoms, molecules and ions."

**Source from :** Public Health SOS: The Shadow Side of the Wireless Revolution authored by Camilla Rees and Magda Havas. Copyright Wide Angle Health, LLC@ 2009

**Quote from:** Olle Johansson PH.D. Associate professor, The Experimental Dermatology, Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm Sweden.

"It is evident that various biological alterations, including immune system modulation, are present in electro hypersensitive persons. There must be an end to the pervasive nonchalance, indifference and lack of heartfelt respect for the plight of these persons. It is clear something serious has happened and is happening. Every aspect of electrohypersensitive peoples' lives, including the ability to work productively in society, have healthy relations and find safe, permanent housing, is at stake. The basics of life are becoming increasingly inaccessible to a growing percentage of the world's population. I strongly advise all governments to take the issue of electromagnetic health hazards seriously and to take action while there is still time. There is too great a risk that the ever increasing RF-based communications technologies represent a real danger to humans, especially because of their exponential, ongoing and unchecked growth. Governments should act decisively to protect public health by changing the exposure standards to be biologically-based, communicating the results of the independent science on this topic and aggressively researching links with a multitude of associated medical conditions."

This is one quote of 20 from a forum at the commonwealth club of California, which reiterates the same warning of EMF/RF problems.

**Source from:** Electromagnetic Fields, A Consumers Guide to the Issues, and How to Protect Ourselves by B. Blake Levitt. Copyright 1995-2007

"Many people today think that concerns over powerline electromagnetic fields in the extremely low frequency (EMF/ELF) range have been settled and given a clean bill of health, but nothing could be further from the truth. Three U.S. states and federal agencies now recognize that such exposures are directly linked with childhood leukemia. So do several European governments and the European Union. New studies indicate that living near power lines during childhood significantly increases the lifetime risk of developing adult leukemia as well. No one had followed that population so far into the future until recently. But as is so often the case with this subject, soon as a researcher looks, effects are found. The states of California and Connecticut are establishing guidelines for EMF/ELF exposures, in some cases requiring new powerline corridors to be placed underground near populated areas. The UK is considering buying residential properties along powerline corridors to create larger setbacks for the population. Plus, there are new concerns by health physicists over something called "Dirty Electricity" a term used to describe the increasing multi-frequency exposures created when RF from electronic devices couples with power lines and plumbing fixtures, following their

(2)

pathways into our homes and businesses. Dirty electricity has been found to cause increases in diabetes, headaches, concentration problems, and hyperactivity in school children, among other problems".

Most living things are fantastically sensitive to vanishingly small EMF exposures. Living cells interpret such exposures as part of our normal cellular activities (think heartbeats, brainwaves, cell division itself, etc...) Man-made electromagnetic exposures aren't "normal". They are artificial artifacts, with unusual intensities, signaling characteristics, pulsing patterns, and wave forms. They can misdirect cells in different ways.

#### **My own assessment of this issue:**

Two major things are affecting health of all living organisms in the world today.

1. The fact that we now have polluted our environment with a chaotic charge of Electro Magnetic Forces.
2. Electro smog has now been found capable of affecting the DNA of every living thing and it may even be having an adverse impact on the earth's atmosphere. Electro smog will likely prove to be the greatest environmental challenge of this century world wide. We appear to be on a direct collision course with the basic building blocks of life.

After analyzing some of the information available, I have come to the conclusion that our already massive electrical grid system, countless number of satellites, TV and Radio transmitting, throw into the mix all the cell towers and Wi-Fi and Wi-MAX. This all showers us with massive EMF, RF and microwave energy. It is like someone set off an atomic bomb over the county and the radiation is coming down on us in slow motion, affecting every living organism in accumulative and acute manner.

Our current health care expenditure in the U.S. is at \$2 Trillion a year. I would estimate this may double in the next 25 years. Just look at what our children are playing with, what they are exposed to in schools and homes, cordless and cell phones, Wi-Fi, Wii games, CFLs, florescent lights etc... This will be the demise of this country and the world.

#### **To the PSC:**

**We** do not need nor want this Capx project not in this state not in this county.

**You** need to construct more local power plants for safety, for efficiency, and for National Security. Cheaper doesn't mean better! The health and well being of people are much more important than a little inconvenience.

**You** need to be looking at alternative, safer means of transmitting electricity.

**You** need to be looking at ways of protecting people from **stray voltage, not trying to expose the people to more.**

To Dairyland Power & CAPX;

Your credibility is in question, you need to be honest with the people, I.E. STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. OAH DOCKET NO. 3-2500-21181-2 PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-09-1448



AFFIDAVIT OF BRUCE McKAY, P.E. Item 7: "The first purpose of this statement is to point out the fact that the Capx2020 Magnetic Field tables and charts that I've been able to find in Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse 345 kv Transmission Project documents all fail to address the full potential Magnetic Field along the transmission lines." View it's entirety for yourself at No CapX 2020.

Why are you insistent on running this line right past a school of all places? Have you no shame? What kind of people would run a high voltage power line next to a school? You can't tell me you all are **ignorant** to the facts about the health dangers of EMFs.

I would dare say **NONE** of you would want me to **force** a 345kv power line over or near your parent's home, your children's home, your grandchildren's home, especially if one of them are electrohypersensitive.

Since it is thought that up to 35% of the population is electro hypersensitive, 1-2 of the above could show some acute form of EMF related health problems and the rest cumulative health problems.

#### **Additional References:**

Here is a list of some books that are a **must read** for everyone, to help people to survive in this electrically charged world, and I mean everyone, yes, you too CAPX.

**Public Health SOS:** The Shadow Side of the Wireless Revolution 110 Questions on Electromagnetic pollution from a Forum at the Commonwealth Club of California  
**Written By:** Camilla Rees and Magda Havas

**Electromagnetic Fields:** A CONSUMERS GUIDE TO THE ISSUES AND HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES  
**Written By:** B. BLAKE LEVITT

**DIRTY ELECTRICITY:** Electrification and the Diseases of Civilization  
**Written By:** Samuel Milham, MD, MPH

**HEALTH HAZARDS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION:**  
A Startling Look at the Effects of Electro pollution on Your Health  
Edited and compiled by Bruce Fife, N.D.

**WARNING: THE ELECTRICITY AROUND YOU MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH:** Comprehensive and relevant  
NEW 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Ellen Sugarman (Highly recommended)

**Earthing:** The most important health discovery ever? NAUTILUS BOOK AWARD WINNER, **Written By:** Clinton Ober, Stephen T. Sinatra, M.D., Martin Zuker  
Forward by James L. Oschman, Ph.D., author of Energy Medicine: The Scientific Basis (Highly Recommended)

Sincerely, Ed & DeLaine Patzner

(4)

From: Darlene Pavlovic [mailto:info@drintantiques.com]  
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 7:56 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: concerns over CapX2020

I-150-001

Dear Ms. Strength:

My husband and I am very concerned about the proposed CapX2020 project that is planned to come through our state, only to benefit those many hundreds plus miles from us. We would be bearing the cost of this project, with no NEED or benefit to us. This is appalling that no alternative methods of increasing efficiency, conservation, upgrading existing line, or more renewable energy alternatives have been addressed; just how the ATC can make mega bucks.

I-150-002

I-150-003

I-150-004

I do not know of an independent study to verify the need for this project or for the related Badger Coulee transmission line project. The ATC somehow was able to affect a change in Wisconsin's law that relates to the Weston (Wisconsin) high power transmission line project that was slated to go through one area and when the citizens of that area created enough pressure to not have it go through their area, some Wisconsin law was changed and the ATC rerouted their plan to take another path. This is democracy?

I-150-005

What about the fact that our beautiful state has excess energy capacity through 2016 and that our energy needs are going DOWN!

Please support a NO ACTION for the Cap X2020 project. We do not need it nor do we want it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ratko and Darlene D. Pavlovic  
P.O. Box 216  
Viola, WI 54664

#### I-150-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### I-150-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### I-150-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-150-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

#### I-150-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

APG

If you would like to take this loan with you, please mail by **February 13, 2012** to the address on the back of this form. Find the form in third class as address appears on envelope. Stamp or postmark dated and a stamp will suffice.

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/organic/OFPA/act2002/OFPA2002.htm>

Dennis D. and Judith L. Pierzina  
W17433 McGilvary Rd.  
Galesville, WI 54630

February 12, 2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Re: Capx2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence;

I-152-001

As a resident and farmer in southern Trempealeau County, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. We enjoy this area's scenic beauty, the rivers and bluffs with it's abundance of wildlife. With the wildlife refuges, Perrot State Park, back waters of the Mississippi, the Mississippi River itself and the fishing. It is no wonder as to why this area is called "GOD'S COUNTRY".

I have deep concern and issues with proposed Capx2020 project. Historically, Trempealeau County, WI, has acted as a living museum of small farms and small communities. This Capx2020 project would forever disrupt and destroy our rural and recreational landscape. These proposed routes encumber many residences and farms owned by people who are already struggling to maintain their way of life. **Farm land is not a renewable resource.** This project will raze sensitive forest and wetland areas in part of the state where the natural resources would be best preserved for our future generations.

I-152-002

Besides the industrial, scenic and recreational concerns, I have many issues with the public health threats this project will **absolutely** impose upon the people of this community. **Dairyland Power and Capx** would like us to believe that there is no scientific proof that **EMFs** are harmful to humans. It seems they think we are completely ignorant to facts and scientific proof that **EMF** forces are extremely dangerous to humans. It's time for **Dairyland Power and Capx to get HONEST with themselves and the people** and tell us the truth.

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#### Point 1

**FACT-** EMFs in our homes, offices, businesses, high voltage power lines, etc. have chaotic AC current which is more powerful than the energy within our bodies. Poisoned by this chaotic energy, the EMF current can disrupt brain waves and impede the flow of nutrient material through the cell membranes which in turn affects every organ in our body.

(1)

#### I-152-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

#### I-152-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

## Point 2

**FACT-** Higher than average incidents of leukemia are reported in children who live near high voltage transmission lines.

## Point 3

**FACT-** Some US states and European countries are establishing guidelines for EMF/ELF exposures.

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"It is evident that various biological alterations, including immune system modulation, are present in electro hypersensitive persons. There must be an end to the pervasive nonchalance, indifference and lack of heartfelt respect for the plight of these persons. It is clear something serious has happened and is happening. Every aspect of electrohypersensitive peoples' lives, including the ability to work productively in society, have healthy relations and find safe, permanent housing, is at stake. The basics of life are becoming increasingly inaccessible to a growing percentage of the world's population. I strongly advise all governments to take the issue of electromagnetic health hazards seriously and to take action while there is still time. There is too great a risk that the ever increasing RF-based communications technologies represent a real danger to humans, especially because of their exponential, ongoing and unchecked growth. Governments should act decisively to protect public health by changing the exposure standards to be biologically-based, communicating the results of the independent science on this topic and aggressively researching links with a multitude of associated medical conditions."

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pathways into our homes and businesses. Dirty electricity has been found to cause increases in diabetes, headaches, concentration problems, and hyperactivity in school children, among other problems".

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2. Electro smog has now been found capable of affecting the DNA of every living thing and it may even be having an adverse impact on the earth's atmosphere. Electro smog will likely prove to be the greatest environmental challenge of this century world wide. We appear to be on a direct collision course with the basic building blocks of life.

After analyzing some of the information available, I have come to the conclusion that our already massive electrical grid system, countless number of satellites, TV and Radio transmitting, throw into the mix all the cell towers and Wi-Fi and Wi-MAX. This all showers us with massive EMF, RF and microwave energy. It is like someone set off an atomic bomb over the county and the radiation is coming down on us in slow motion, affecting every living organism in accumulative and acute manner.

Our current health care expenditure in the U.S. is at \$2 Trillion a year. I would estimate this may double in the next 25 years. Just look at what our children are playing with, what they are exposed to in schools and homes, cordless and cell phones, Wi-Fi, Wii games, CFLs, florescent lights etc... This will be the demise of this country and the world.

**To the PSC:**

**We** do not need nor want this Capx project not in this state not in this county.  
**You** need to construct more local power plants for safety, for efficiency, and for National Security. Cheaper doesn't mean better! The health and well being of people are much more important than a little inconvenience.  
**You** need to be looking at alternative, safer means of transmitting electricity.  
**You** need to be looking at means of protecting people from **stray voltage, not trying to expose the people to more.**

To Dairyland Power & CAPX;

Your creditability is in question, you need to be honest with the people, I.E. STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. OAH DOCKET NO. 3-2500-21181-2 PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-09-1448

AFFIDAVIT OF BRUCE McKAY, P.E. Item 7: "The first purpose of this statement is to point out the fact that the Capx2020 Magnetic Field tables and charts that I've been able to find in Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse 345 kv Transmission Project documents all fail to address the full potential Magnetic Field along the transmission lines." View it's entirety for yourself at **No CapX 2020.**

Why are you insistent on running this line right past a school of all places? Have you no shame? What kind of people would run a high voltage power line next to a school? You can't tell me you all are **ignorant** to the facts about the health dangers of EMFs.

I would dare say **NONE** of you would want me to **force** a 345kv power line over or near your parent's home, your children's home, your grandchildren's home, especially if one of them are electrohypersensitive.

Since it is thought that up to 35% of the population is electro hypersensitive, 1-2 of the above could show some acute form of EMF related health problems and the rest cumulative health problems.

#### **Additional References:**

Here is a list of some books that are a **must read** for everyone, to help people to survive in this electrically charged world, and I mean everyone, yes, you too CAPX.

**Public Health SOS:** The Shadow Side of the Wireless Revolution 110 Questions on Electromagnetic pollution from a Forum at the Commonwealth Club of California  
**Written By:** Camilla Rees and Magda Havas

**Electromagnetic Fields:** A CONSUMERS GUIDE TO THE ISSUES AND HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES  
**Written By:** B. BLAKE LEVITT

**DIRTY ELECTRICITY:** Electrification and the Diseases of Civilization  
**Written By:** Samuel Milham, MD, MPH

**HEALTH HAZARDS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION:**  
A Startling Look at the Effects of Electro pollution on Your Health  
Edited and compiled by Bruce Fife, N.D.

**WARNING: THE ELECTRICITY AROUND YOU MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH:** Comprehensive and relevant  
NEW 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Ellen Sugarman (Highly recommended)

**Earthing:** The most important health discovery ever? NAUTILUS BOOK AWARD WINNER, **Written By:** Clinton Ober, Stephen T. Sinatra, M.D., Martin Zuker  
Forward by James L. Oschman, Ph.D., author of Energy Medicine: The Scientific Basis (Highly Recommended)

Sincerely, Dennis D. and Judith L. Pierzina

(4)

Jessica Pierzina  
W25222 Williamson Ln.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661

February 11, 2012

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Re: CapX2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence:

I-153-001

I am a resident of the Town of Trempealeau in Trempealeau County, WI. The proposed powerline creates a great deal of concern for my family, my community and myself.

I live next to the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge and Perrot State Park. One of the proposed routes runs right through the Refuge and my backyard. I grew up in Trempealeau and am deeply concerned that these powerlines will destroy everything that my community holds close to heart and utilizes for livelihood.

The people of Trempealeau County pride themselves on living off the land and therefore have a great deal of respect for the treatment of that land. It seems the impact of these powerlines will threaten much of what makes this community a community that thrives on the farming and tourist industries. I have neighbors who will likely lose the farms that have been in their family for generations. With these powerlines in place, the natural beauty of the Mississippi Valley will be destroyed. And with it many of the families that call this area "home."

I plead with you to demand more information about the necessity of these powerlines. Does that "necessity" outweigh the irreversible damage they will create?

On the land?

On natural resources?

On the agriculture?

On tourism?

On socio-economics?

On the citizen's health?

On the citizen's pocketbook?

On the future of renewable and environmentally-friendly energy?

I-153-002

There is no need for the CapX2020 powerline. As stated in the DEIS, (page XVI of the executive summary) "It is not clear that there will be sufficient population growth in the La Crosse/Winona area to justify the projected increase in demand for electricity presented in the CPCN

## I-153-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-153-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



I-153-002

application." As a result of the lack of need for the powerline, my choice is the "No Action Alternative" for the project.

I do not want the PSC to approve CapX2020 powerline project until there are objective studies by an independent body demonstrating that the energy from the powerline is needed for the communities in the Alma-No. La Crosse area and there is no other way to provide that energy through efficiency programs and locally produced and distributed energy systems.

It is absolutely essential to diligently evaluate both the short- and long-term effects of this endeavor! It seems it is a project that carries too many uncertainties. Let's be SURE that the proposed "benefits" that the power companies claim outweigh the significant CONSEQUENCES.

Sincerely,

Jessica Pierzina  
W25222 Williamson Ln  
Trempealeau WI, 54661



1 Chicago and Milwaukee need to figure out their own  
2 problems. We don't need the energy here. Thank you.

3 MS. RICHTER: Is Travis here  
4 still? Then I wanted to clarify, Scott Mehas. Is  
5 Scott here still? Yes. You indicated you might be  
6 wanting to talk? No? Okay, good. So this is Travis  
7 Plank now, and he will then be followed by John Frie.  
8 Okay.

9 TRAVIS PLANK: Hello, I'm Travis  
10 Plank, we live on 88.

I-155-001

11 MACHELLE PLANK: Okay, this is for  
12 Trav. He opposed the lines coming through. We don't  
13 feel that there's a need for them. We are worried

I-155-002

14 about the health for ourselves, our children, our  
15 future children. We don't know how far away is safe.

I-155-003

16 There are many people saying different things. We  
17 would lose our property value, and who's going to  
18 want to buy our farm when you've got three poles  
19 sitting on it? We would lose our home, because the  
20 line would be too close, and who's going to purchase  
21 my home? Who's going to pay for the losses and the  
22 medical issues that could be caused from this?

I-155-004

23 It destroys our home, the habitat,  
24 our animals. We have cows and horses. Mammals are  
25 all affected by stray voltage. And they can say it

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

#### I-155-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-155-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-155-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### I-155-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

I-155-004

1 doesn't exist, but it does. And what makes anybody  
2 think that these animals can be affected and we are  
3 not? I mean, the logic is not there. I have found  
4 three documents, public and private, that show that  
5 farmers -- medical experts, state utility officials  
6 have found there is fatigue, headaches, aches and  
7 pains, rapid heartbeats, nerve damage, weakness in  
8 legs and arms, immune system weaknesses, cancer,  
9 chronic diseases or any type of adverse health  
10 symptoms, even low level energy, significantly  
11 affects symptoms.

12                   Victims of stray voltage bear the  
13 burden of proof, which takes years. We have to prove  
14 that we have been harmed. When -- we didn't  
15 mismanage or we didn't do something wrong. It  
16 becomes our problem. This is costly. This is  
17 also -- it takes years. How many of us can go  
18 through the years of pain to prove that we are the  
19 victims? Many studies on low voltage to humans in  
20 the long term have not been done. I had read a quote  
21 that Xcel said, "We are not in the business of  
22 research." You know, we can't disapprove this. So  
23 they can't prove it. So that lands it back in our  
24 laps again. Who's going to prove it?

25                   The No. 1 way to avoid stray

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I-155-004

1 voltage, avoid proximity of permanent stationary  
2 sources such as power lines or transformers. I mean,  
3 I think that should say enough. We both oppose it.  
4 I suppose that's all I can say.

5 MS. RICHTER: That was Machel  
6 Plank, M-A-C-H-E-L-L-E, Plank and Travis Plank, 52097  
7 South, Road 88, Alma. Okay. John is here, and then  
8 could I clarify, does Preston want to speak or not?  
9 You will. Okay. So first we have John, is it Frie?

10 JOHN FRIE: I spoke in the past to  
11 both Stephanie and Tom regarding this, especially  
12 Highway 88 option. And we can talk for hours on  
13 this, but I'll keep it to three minutes. My name is  
14 John Frie, F-R-I-E. I live on S2699 State Road 88.  
15 After reviewing the EIS draft in detail, one needs to  
16 question why on earth the USDA would want to be part  
17 of any electric transmission line given the past  
18 history of stray voltage issues among our farming  
19 community. With all the past stray voltage issues  
20 the USDA has been informed of, from particularly the  
21 dairy industry, one would think a better investment  
22 for RUS and USDA could make it clean up existing  
23 distribution services serving the farming segments.

24 This 345,000 volt transmission  
25 line using the Highway 88 route running clearly

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1 wind. It's a shotgun. It's not a single silver  
2 bullet that's going to address our problems. The one  
3 good thing I can say about the fact that we do have  
4 this project coming up before us is I don't think in  
5 the past that we've thought enough about our energy  
6 consumption and where we are going, and I think this  
7 will -- is a wake-up call to us.

8 I mean, one of the reasons that  
9 the United States is losing out to places like China  
10 is they are becoming more efficient all the time as  
11 they move into an industrial age themselves, and we  
12 are stuck in this old thing. And more is better,  
13 burn more. We are actually consuming more energy by  
14 two to one than any country on the face of the earth  
15 other than Canada and Australia. And I see if we are  
16 stuck there, why do we want to keep on doing this  
17 when most of us -- I'm a world person myself, and we  
18 have an ample opportunity, more than any other place,  
19 and the USDA should be supporting this, of a  
20 decentralized generation. Thanks. Thanks for the  
21 opportunity.

22 MS. RICHTER: Is there anybody  
23 else that wanted to speak and hasn't had an  
24 opportunity?

25 **MACHELLE PLANK:** I spoke for Trav.

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### I-155-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

I-155-005

I-155-005

1       There is something I forgot, and I thought it was  
2       important. I'm Machelie Plank. There's a journalist  
3       for the La Crosse Tribune, Chris Hardy, he had done a  
4       story on stray voltage and people that have been  
5       affected by it. And he came up on the Internet, and  
6       these are names you are going to know. So it's  
7       something I wanted to encourage people to do, and you  
8       can see that your neighbors have been affected  
9       already. That's about it.

10               MS. RICHTER: I'm inclined to --  
11       well, the first question I need to ask is does the  
12       court reporter need a break? She's been helping us  
13       out since 5 o'clock, and it is 8 o'clock, and we are  
14       prepared to close. However, Stephanie wanted me to  
15       offer, if anyone felt they needed a few more minutes  
16       to speak, I would like to see how many people feel  
17       that way, and then ask our court reporter if she is  
18       willing to continue. So raise a hand if you still  
19       wanted more time to speak.

20               (Whereupon a short recess was  
21       taken.)

22               MS. RICHTER: For those of you  
23       remaining, I would like your attention to those that  
24       wish to speak. The first hand I saw come up were  
25       John and Preston. So if they would both come forward

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1 Don't think they need to consider the  
2 Highway 88 route. The route south of Gaylesville.  
3 They have a perfectly good route that follows  
4 directly from Alma to the Holmen location and it  
5 makes the most sense.

6 Finally, I think it is important to  
7 recognize that we have a nuclear moratorium, we are  
8 seeing reduced production of coal, Dairyland has  
9 shut down three generators, we have some fairly  
10 restrictive wind ordinances here in Trempealeau  
11 County, at least for large wind. We do have some  
12 opportunity for smaller wind. But at some point we  
13 have to understand and decide what we are going to  
14 accept.

15 So, I guess those are my comments.  
16 I think from a renewable standpoint, the technology  
17 is just not there to accommodate the kind of growth  
18 that we are seeing. So, I do think that we need to  
19 decide what we are going to live with, and for me,  
20 I guess I think it is the transmission line.

21 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Dan  
22 is next and Dan will be followed by Joanne DeMaster.

23 MR. PRETASKY: My name is Dan  
24 Pretasky. I live in North LaCrosse County, along  
25 the Black River and next to one of the proposed

## I-156-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-156-001



I-156-001

1 routes for the CAPX 2020 power line project.

2 I am a rural land owner and I pay  
3 local property taxes to the town of Holland, and  
4 as to the federal government to support national  
5 endeavors, including funding for the USDA.

6 I trust you, our representatives,  
7 are responsible at least in part for looking out for  
8 the welfare of us, the rural land owner. I, like the  
9 many residents of the town of Holland, really began  
10 learning more about the CAPX 20 power line this past  
11 summer. The more I learned, the more the reason for  
12 my opposition.

13 As a group of neighbors we have  
14 expressed our opposition to the CAPX 2020 project to  
15 several of our local governing bodies, including the  
16 town of Holland Board of Supervisors, the town of  
17 Farmington Board of Supervisors, the Holmen School  
18 Board and the LaCrosse County Board of Supervisors,  
19 all of which, after learning more about this project,  
20 passed resolutions against CAPX 2020.

21 It's not hard to understand why  
22 there is almost unanimous opposition. What is hard  
23 to understand is why we are here today to defend what  
24 should be common sense in the first place.

25 Burning dirty coal to produce energy

I-156-001

1 and send that dirty energy over transmission lines  
2 into communities like Holmen will certainly have  
3 repercussions for us, not just for today, but in the  
4 future as well. Why would we want to rely on an  
5 antiquated energy process like the burning of fossil  
6 fuels?

I-156-002

7 The town of Holland, with the Black  
8 River running through its northern boundaries, a  
9 nationally recognized scenic river area that provides  
10 recreation and scenic beauty hard to find. The  
11 eyesore of 150-foot to 170-foot metal structures  
12 and the electric cables that they support will  
13 forever ruin this natural beauty.

I-156-003

14 What about our property values?  
15 Studies have concluded that transmission lines have  
16 a larger negative impact on property values for  
17 smaller parcels of land. Smaller parcels like we  
18 have in Northern LaCrosse County. The power lines  
19 would reduce the value of our property due to the  
20 public perception of health issues, negative visual  
21 and environmental impacts and the ongoing invasion  
22 of privacy by maintenance workers. We not only  
23 consider our property our home, potentially passing  
24 it on to our children, but a means of retirement as  
25 well. How will this value be replaced?

### I-156-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-156-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-156-004

1           What will our local benefit be from  
2 this power line? It is a project that originates in  
3 the Dakotas, passes through our areas to points east  
4 for the profit and benefit of a few. The facts show  
5 that our local energy use in western Wisconsin has  
6 actually fallen in the past several years. Good  
7 energy conservation does that.

8           The reasons for the opposition of the  
9 CAPX 2020 project go on and on. At what cost do we  
10 condone the building of these lines?

11           MODERATOR RICHTER: You can hand in  
12 the rest of your statement. Okay. Thank you.

13           Since some people arrived after we  
14 started, I would like to revisit our process here.

15           I have allowed three minutes per  
16 person and I have indicated three more people that  
17 have signed in that would like to speak. If you  
18 would like to speak after there is testimony from  
19 everyone, maybe someone who has changed their mind  
20 and would like to speak, then time permitting, we  
21 can come back to people for a second three minutes.

22           So that's our process for those of  
23 you that just arrived recently. We also have room  
24 upfront, if you would like to take a seat. Right now  
25 it is Joanne and she will be followed by Rob

#### I-156-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

EXHIBIT

**USDA Statement  
January 13, 2012**

My name is Dan Pretasky..... I live in Northern La Crosse County along the Black River and next to one of the proposed routes for the CAPX2020 Power Line Project. I am a rural landowner, I pay local property taxes to the Town of Holland as well as taxes to the federal government to support national endeavors, including funding for the USDA. I trust you are our representatives and responsible at least in part at looking out for the welfare of us, the rural landowner.

I, like many residents of the town of Holland, really began learning more about the CAPX2020 Power Line project this past summer. The more I have learned, the more my reasons for my opposition.

As a group of neighbors, we have expressed our opposition to the CAPX2020 project to several of our local government bodies including the Town of Holland Board of Supervisors, the Town of Farmington Town of Supervisors, the Holmen School Board and the La Crosse County board of Supervisors. **All of which**, after learning more about this project, passed resolutions against CAPX2020.

It is not hard to understand why there is almost unanimous opposition. What is hard to understand is why we are here today testifying to defend what should be common sense in the first place.

1. Burning dirty coal to produce energy and sending that energy over hundreds of miles of transmission lines, through wetlands, bluffslands, farmlands and worst yet, small rural communities like Holmen will certainly have repercussions for us. Not just for today, but in the future as well. Why would we want to rely on an antiquated energy solution like the burning of fossil fuels. We have a great example of a locally produced energy solution right here in La Crosse County. Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center will soon generate enough of their own energy from wind and the burning of gases from the county landfill to power all of their facilities. What a great regional solution!
2. The Town of Holland where I reside is blessed to have the Black River running through its northern boundary, a national recognized scenic river area that provides recreation and scenic beauty hard to find. The eyesore of 150-foot metal structures, and the electric cables which they support, would forever ruin this natural beauty.



3. The ecosystem supporting flora and fauna will suffer from the impacts of the construction of this power line. Wildlife abounds throughout the proposed path of the power lines including whitetail deer, wild turkeys, eagles, owls, and bluebirds. Not only would the initial construction of the power line have a devastating impact, worse yet, the continual maintenance, including the use of herbicides, would surely threaten the existence of these important occupants.
4. What about our property values. Studies have concluded that transmission lines have a larger negative impact on property values for smaller parcels of land, small parcels like we have in northern La Crosse county. The power lines would reduce the value of our properties due to the public perception of health issues, negative visual and environmental impacts, and the ongoing invasion of privacy by maintenance workers. We not only consider our property our home, potentially passing it on to our children, but a means of retirement as well. How will this value be replaced?
5. What will our local benefit be from this power line. It is a project that originates in the Dakotas, passes through our area to points east for the profit and benefit of a few. Facts show that our local energy use Western Wisconsin has actually fallen in the past several years. Good energy conservation does that.

The reasons for opposition to the CAPX2020 project go on and on. At what cost do we condone the building of these lines?

I have found 100% agreement from all my neighbors that the CAPX2020 project is not in the best interest of us, the rural property owner, our children, or our environment. In closing, I request that you, as representatives of the USDA and more importantly as representatives of us the rural landowner, deny any request for dollars to fund the CAPX2020 power line project. If not for the good of us now, than certainly for our children and their children. Common sense tells us this is the right thing to do.

**MAIL TO:**  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan 11 and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

In our research of this huge project that is being forced on this state, we have learned there is no need of this electricity coming into Wis. Especially since it will be right at our door step of our home

(Optional)  
Signature Ben + Carl Putman Date 2-14-12  
Print Name Ben-Carl Putman  
Address 11096 Havendale Ave  
Spartan, WI 54656

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by February 16, 2012 as the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
[http://www.fishbase.org/USFWS/FISH/PDF/USFWS\\_Honoring\\_Bioethical\\_Opinions\\_Land](http://www.fishbase.org/USFWS/FISH/PDF/USFWS_Honoring_Bioethical_Opinions_Land)

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

my name is

TODD Ryka

115989 Harris Rd

Trumpealeau, WI 53661  
(lived here over 15 yrs)

1/13/2012

I am asking for a resolution to the cap & 2000 power lines  
not only in the ~~city~~ town of Trumpealeau, but also  
any route into this beautiful state.

these high powered lines - regardless of proposed  
routes will affect the livelihood of those who  
live ~~not only~~ in the town of Trumpealeau  
but anywhere they are proposed. Effecting

the wildlife ② industry ② farming ② tourism, ③ people will  
lose property, homes and or farms/lands. ④ we  
will have to fund this hasty, out dated, dirty coal  
powered and politically motivated plan, two ways

① as a federal tax payer ② as an energy consumer,  
I do not believe we should be building new old  
fashioned infrastructure systems, but rather utilize  
newer green - environmentally minded techniques

⑤ I do not like that these large corporations are  
planning to destroy our forest, endanger our wildlife  
and our state citizens to mainly funnel energy  
by passing Wisconsin ~~the~~ and selling electricity out-  
side the state - not benefitting the Great State of WI  
but destroying it and erecting enormous steel poles  
150 to 160' marring the beautiful state

- ⑥ Property values (Valuable lands, homes, farms)  
will be devalued.
- ⑦ Health risks and Dangerous levels of power

I-158-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.



which release EMF's and have the potential to break in storms harming Wisconsin

Citizens

- (9) Wisconsin needs to focus and be a ground breaking state moving forward with renewable/sustainable and efficient energy as well as conservation.
- (10) my proposal is in opposition to any Cap & Trade powerlines (including those proposed in the town of Trempealeau) - there are far too many negatives than benefits to us living in the town of Trempealeau - and the state of Wisconsin. We cannot afford this type of infrastructure any longer - it must be renewable/efficient conservation

Thank you  
Todd Pyka





**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

- I-159-001** - I am opposed to the Q1-STH88 Transmission Line Connector  
Transmission Line Connector Alternative. U.S.D.A. shouldn't  
be funding this project which will adversely affect my farming  
operation and increase costs of my farming operation. The  
placement of transmission poles and lines in my agricultural  
fields will cause hardships during field work. Also, I am  
**I-159-002** deeply concerned about health and safety issues for humans and  
livestock caused by electric magnetic field and stray voltage.  
**I-159-003** There are presently no transmission lines, only distribution lines  
in the Q1-Hwy 88 road. Therefore, I recommend utilization of  
existing R.O.W. preferably, the original Q-I R.O.W.

Optional: Name: Dennis Reglin

- Address: S2244, Co E, Cochrane, WI. 54622

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by January 30, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

Or-email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-159-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

**I-159-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

**I-159-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

1 Oh, and I forgot to introduce  
2 myself I realize. My name is Trudy Richter, and I  
3 was asked to be the facilitator for the five nights  
4 we are here having these hearings. Prior to the  
5 first night, I really had no background on this  
6 project whatsoever. I'm totally independent and here  
7 to moderate the proceedings. And tonight Nicole is  
8 here with me for the timing.

9 With that then, there are a couple  
10 of people that indicated they would like to speak,  
11 but by no means does that limit it. If any of you  
12 would like to indicate after these first two people  
13 speak that you also would like to make a comment,  
14 please let me know. And we will be here until 8:00  
15 to take your comments. So Suzanne Rohlfing is our  
16 first individual.

17 **SUZANNE ROHLFING:** Hello. I'm  
18 Suzanne Rohlfing, S-U-Z-A-N-N-E, R-O-H-L-F-I-N-G.  
19 Thank you all for this opportunity. I know I'll take  
20 probably longer than three minutes, so I'll be  
21 waiting for the ding. First of all, can I ask one  
22 question? Was there a notice sent to people involved  
23 in the macrocorridors about these meetings?

24 MS. STRENGTH: Again, it's  
25 regarding process, so that's something we would

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#### I-160-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and  
Meetings.

I-160-001

I-160-001

1 typically answer in this process. So that wouldn't  
2 count on her time. There were not letters sent to  
3 everyone within the study area. There were  
4 letters — or there was information sent to those who  
5 had requested to be notified or who had requested to  
6 receive a copy of the draft that was available.  
7 There's also a mailing that went out to some people  
8 along the Highway 88 route that had not received a  
9 previous notice. Otherwise, the typical form for  
10 notifying people is to put it in the federal register  
11 and then in newspapers in the area.

I-160-002

12 SUZANNE ROHLFING: Okay. Thank  
13 you. I did miss that. I did not get notice. But  
14 thank you for the clarification. I would just like  
15 to address the EIS first. In the executive summary  
16 on page 3 when it talks about NEPA and then the  
17 responsibility it delegates, and on page 3 I'm  
18 looking in particular in the bottom paragraph where  
19 it suggests that the draft EIS discusses Dairyland's  
20 proposal and alternatives and analyzes the potential  
21 effects of the proposal and the alternatives to the  
22 environment. And when I think of that, I know it's  
23 not just the natural environment, but all parts of  
24 that. So that's just something that I would like for  
25 us to tuck away.

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I-160-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-160-003

1 I was going to mention something  
2 now but I think someone else will mention that for  
3 me, with regard to Minnesota and all the factors that  
4 we look at in lieu of what NEPA would delegate you  
5 all to do.

6 There are just a couple things I  
7 want to mentioned right now. First of all, I would  
8 like to speak of Minnesota Zumbro River crossing.  
9 And I noticed that in this DEIS on page 16 there is  
10 no mention of the dam option. And on the Zumbro  
11 River there are really three crossings, and the dam  
12 option is one that I hope you could include in the  
13 final EIS. On page 75 there was reference to the  
14 river crossing and scoping comments. There was no  
15 mention of the Zumbro River or the Zumbro River  
16 Valley in that discussion on that page.

17 Two examples right now I can give  
18 you, Appendix I is 016 and 263. So in the final EIS,  
19 I hope there is some correction. In fact, in the  
20 scope that this was mentioned — I'm sorry, I'll be  
21 back.

22 MS. RICHTER: We will have time to  
23 call you back up so you can continue, but I also have  
24 an indication that Carol Overland is interested in  
25 speaking tonight. For the first three minutes, and

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### I-160-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.



1 people who haven't spoken yet and we want to get  
2 them, and I'll call on you at that time.

3 CAROL OVERLAND: Okay.

4 MS. RICHTER: Is there anybody  
5 else? Okay. Then leaving this time, although we'll  
6 reopen for three minute comment tonight until 8  
7 o'clock. We do have time now for anybody who would  
8 like to make some additional comments. And Suzanne,  
9 I don't know if you were able to complete your  
10 remarks or if you would like to make an additional?

11 SUZANNE ROHLFING: Please.

12 MS. RICHTER: Does anyone have  
13 objection to it taking longer than three minutes for  
14 Suzanne to finish her remarks? Why don't we allow  
15 her to finish her remarks, and then we'll move to  
16 Carol to complete her remarks.

17 SUZANNE ROHLFING: Thank you. In  
18 lieu of my previous comments, and through the  
19 Minnesota process it was very evident that a very  
20 significant part of the project from Hampton to Alma  
21 was the Zumbro River crossing. And in particular  
22 with the crossing I'm concerned about the area from  
23 the Pine Island substation then crossing to the river  
24 to where there is included in your draft EIS, the  
25 Chester Line, which is a part of the project as well.

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#### I-160-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-160-004

I-160-004

1                   During the process the Minnesota  
2                   DNR was able to comment, I know Randal Doneen did  
3                   comment when he was in La Crosse, and a lot of the  
4                   attention has been on the Mississippi River, and  
5                   rightly so. But again, through the process it became  
6                   evident that the Zumbro River is an important  
7                   tributary to the Mississippi, as is the environment  
8                   around the river. And so what has come of this  
9                   initially? The DNR did suggest, and if I may read --  
10                  and I will give these to you if you would like after  
11                  the evidentiary hearings -- where the north route  
12                  group which is -- I'm co-intervener in that, and the  
13                  three other parties.

14                  The applicant and three other  
15                  parties intervened, the Zumbro River was the issue,  
16                  and then the MNDNR was asked to comment further.  
17                  Testify. After testimony, Jamie Schrenzel from the  
18                  Department of Natural Resources did submit another  
19                  letter to our administrative law judge, and she  
20                  wanted clarification regarding the Zumbro River  
21                  crossings. In the segment three of the project, she  
22                  stated in previous letters that the DNR recommended  
23                  crossing public waters to generally be located where  
24                  there's existing infrastructure, and she also said  
25                  specifically that there were three Zumbro River

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I-160-004

1 crossings on the project record, the north crossing,  
2 which is the north route. It's a greenfield  
3 crossing. The middle crossing which is the dam, and  
4 the southernmost crossing, which is the White Bridge  
5 Road. And that's the applicant's preferred Zumbro  
6 River crossing.

7 She further stated then after her  
8 testimony to clarify that to avoid the greenfield  
9 crossing, which is the northern most route that is  
10 not recommended. So then what she did was -- and  
11 they did -- the team did, was compared the other two  
12 river crossings with infrastructure, which was the  
13 dam option, and the White Bridge Road crossing was  
14 the applicant's preferred crossing, and then she  
15 stated that the DNR recommends utilizing that White  
16 Bridge Road crossing, the area instead of the dam.

17 And in this letter it does take  
18 into account the Minnesota County Biological Survey  
19 and the environmentally sensitive areas of all those  
20 points on the Zumbro River crossing. And then there  
21 is the line -- the Chester Line affectionately we  
22 call it -- which is the tap that will come from  
23 whatever line is chosen in Minnesota for the 345, and  
24 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources did also  
25 comment on that. And basically she reiterated what

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I-160-004

1 I've just said and what is in this letter from June  
2 29th in her testimony.

3 And that said, discussing all the  
4 criteria, that the DNR continues to support that  
5 recommendation. So would you like to have these?  
6 I'll give them to you when I'm finished. Let's see,  
7 okay. That's all I have to say about river  
8 crossings. I would like to move on to another topic  
9 if I may. Okay, thank you.

I-160-005

10 I would like to talk about  
11 something that is not mentioned very much in your  
12 EIS, and that is tree farms. And it's sort of an  
13 interesting thing, tree farms. I did see when it was  
14 addressed, either in comments that were submitted  
15 from the public, it was under the category of land  
16 use, which is true. But there are also a lot of  
17 other things to consider. It tends to be important  
18 for habitat. It tends to be particularly important  
19 if it's forested land along the Zumbro River, which  
20 is what we have on your northern most crossing. And  
21 also in Wabasha, Minnesota, it sites forestry as part  
22 of the agriculture. So I feel as though it was sort  
23 of missed.

24 I think the important piece of  
25 this is, besides the fact it's not only land use,

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## I-160-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.



I-160-005

1 it's not only timber, it's also a lot of other  
2 environmental hosts and habitats of significance.  
3 There are five of them in that segment that I just  
4 referred to on that northern most crossing of the  
5 Zumbro, the greenfield crossing. And five of them  
6 are actually a part of the American Tree Farm System.  
7 And in 2008 the farm bill actually required each  
8 state to complete a state assessment of resource  
9 strategies documents, and it was to be done by June  
10 of 2010 in order to continue receiving federal funds  
11 through the Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance  
12 Act. And the farm bill required this effort because  
13 of growing pressures on the nation's forests and  
14 growing scarcity of available resources.

15 The No. 1 concern of this  
16 Minnesota assessment and strategy -- it was published  
17 in 2010 -- was of the four categories, parcelizations  
18 and fragmentation by the increasing pressures of  
19 urbanization. So we have these farmers who are  
20 involved in the tree farm system, and the mission of  
21 the tree farm, American Tree Farm System, is to  
22 promote the growing of renewable forest resources on  
23 private land while protecting environmental benefits  
24 and increasing public understanding of all the  
25 benefits of productive forestry. And on a sign that

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I-160-005

1 we have, there are four sides to it. One is water,  
2 one is wildlife, one is recreation, one is food.  
3 And -- wood, food, I must be hungry. I'm not, it's  
4 wood.

5 And I think the concept here I'm  
6 trying to suggest is the federal government said this  
7 is what we need to do to take care of our forests,  
8 our woodlands, and our habitats. And then the state  
9 said, okay, let's come up with a plan, which they did  
10 very, very well. So then there are private  
11 landowners, and the majority in Minnesota are private  
12 landowners, they said okay, and on our own dime and  
13 dollar we went forward and said, we can do this. We  
14 can work this plan. And now there is a route under  
15 consideration that will pretty much clear-cut,  
16 fragment, and kind of obliterate the plan that  
17 supposedly came from the top.

18 So with that consideration of the  
19 federal and state initiatives, it doesn't make any  
20 sense to clear-cut 150 foot right-of-way considering  
21 those initiatives can no longer be with trees. There  
22 are other programs that the government, federal and  
23 state, has for all of us with preserving land and  
24 habitat. However, some of them -- although it might  
25 not be good for any of them -- some of them are more

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I-160-005

1 mitigatable. We can't plant trees again, and we are  
2 fragmenting, and it's pretty much the end.

3 So I hope you take that into  
4 consideration. It encompasses a lot of things from  
5 federal, state, and private landowners, and actually  
6 for everyone in this country and the world.

7 I don't have much more.

8 MS. RICHTER: Does anybody else  
9 want to talk? No? Why don't you finish your  
10 remarks.

I-160-006

11 SUZANNE ROHLFING: All right. If  
12 I could just suggest, with regard to Minnesota DNR --  
13 you have a very nice figure, 3-6. It's on page 204.  
14 But I cannot decipher where those sites are. When  
15 you look at the map, it's so big, and it appears that  
16 some are missing on the 3A route, the middle section,  
17 and I can hardly see them at the river crossing. And  
18 on the Minnesota EIS they are really clear. So I was  
19 hoping maybe there might either be a better reference  
20 so you can actually see what we are talking about on  
21 the northern most crossing.

I-160-007

22 Also, in your figure 3-7, you did  
23 a nice job of showing conservation areas. There's a  
24 north branch that has a special red trout section.  
25 If you look on that map, there's also a special small

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#### I-160-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

#### I-160-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I10-Fish.



I-160-007

1 mouth bass section, and it happens to be just down  
2 river from where the proposed northern most crossing  
3 of the Zumbro is. That's of significance.

I-160-008

4 It's something -- I know the U.S.  
5 Fisheries and Wildlife had mentioned eagles. That  
6 section -- that section never freezes over. So  
7 there's a lot of eagle activity when they come on  
8 land, and I know eagles have been a topic of the  
9 conversation, and it's an important topic, but I wish  
10 that in the final EIS you could look at that piece  
11 and that part. Perhaps Minnesota DNR needs to come  
12 and -- excuse me, US Fisheries and Wildlife needs to  
13 come and take a peak at that beforehand just to see.  
14 That's a huge foraging. There's one in particular  
15 large cottonwood, ironically it's right in the center  
16 of that proposed route, that is a potential roosting  
17 and nesting site for our eagles.

18 And then the last thing, and I'll  
19 be done. This is really fun. Partners in Flight is  
20 an international initiative for habitat for birds.  
21 Since we are in the large -- you've heard this -- the  
22 largest migratory flyway on the continent, and it's  
23 from -- the continent south of us, through us, and up  
24 north. This initiative again is not just our  
25 continent, but it's for -- it's global, and it

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### I-160-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

I-160-008

1 takes -- encompasses other countries well. I know  
2 there's a representative for Partners with Flight  
3 with US Fisheries in Wildlife in the Cities. And I  
4 apologize, I can't say who he is, but my suggestion  
5 is when you are looking at the Mississippi River and  
6 all those concerns, there's also other habitats that  
7 are very, very important to birds, forests, and  
8 inland species. And keeping those forests intact as  
9 much as possible are also a part of the plan in  
10 addition to prairies and et cetera and grasslands.

11 So I would like to suggest you  
12 refer to the Partners in Flight concept and  
13 conservation plan, if you could. And thank you.

14 MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Suzanne.  
15 Carol.

16 CAROL OVERLAND: I need to get my  
17 money's worth. On page 22 of the DEIS, where it's  
18 talking about the assisting right-of-way and there's  
19 a section under the Minnesota side that says,  
20 "Following transmission lines, roads, or property  
21 lines" -- and then when I look at the Wisconsin, it  
22 doesn't have that category of property lines. Now,  
23 in Minnesota the property lines part is -- and the  
24 rules of statute, I can't remember offhand which --  
25 but it refers to utilizing property line to minimize

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MS. RICHTER: Yes.

SUZANNE ROHLFING: Hi, I found

something. On page 80 under key issues, it says Zumbrota River, and this is the Zumbro. You probably found that out, already. Yeah. Okay. And the other thing I was just going to mention is you do address the RJ Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. Another piece of that, although you designated the state regulates the majority of that forest, it's also privately owned. And in the Minnesota process the EIS shows a nice map about the statutory boundaries of that forest, and that does include the two top crossings of the Zumbro River. So that might be a good addition to include also.

MS. RICHTER: At this time we are going to take a recess, and we'll come back up if tonight if one of you would like to make a comment. But please feel free to approach any of the consultants and utilities specialist, and they can answer your questions.

(Whereupon the preceeding ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.)

\* \* \* \*

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#### I-160-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

#### I-160-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J05-Other Public Lands.



June 29, 2011

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



Judge Kathleen D. Sheehy  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

Re: Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV Transmission Line Project  
[PUC Docket Number: B002/TL-09-1448; OAH Docket No. 3-2500-21181-2]

Dear Judge Sheehy:

I-160-011

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Route Permit Application and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project and has provided testimony during the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) evidentiary hearing. The attached comments regarding the DEIS, dated April 29, 2011, are included for analysis and consideration in the administrative record and findings of fact. In addition to these comments, further clarification is provided, as requested by parties in the evidentiary hearing, regarding DNR comments about possible Zumbro River crossings in Segment 3 of the project.

As stated in previous comment letters, the DNR recommends crossings of public waters to generally be located where there is existing infrastructure. For example, the Zumbro River should be crossed where existing infrastructure exists and there is the least impact to resources from clearing or construction activities. The Zumbro River crossing at the white bridge in Segment 3 appears to result in the least impact from clearing, and utilizes an existing river crossing.

Specifically, there are three Zumbro River crossings included in the project record: the north crossing, which is a greenfield crossing, a middle crossing at a dam, and the southernmost crossing at the white bridge. As stated above a crossing with no existing infrastructure such as the northernmost crossing is not encouraged. The northernmost crossing also has Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) records of a state-listed threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) Site of Biodiversity Significance ranked as Moderate near the crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS Site of Biodiversity Significance ranked as High. Rare species in the area include state-listed special concern American ginseng (plant), and state-listed special concern moschatel (plant). The southernmost white bridge crossing would affect an MCBS site of Biodiversity Significance ranked as Moderate and one ranked as Below. To avoid a greenfield crossing, the northernmost route is not recommended. Considering a comparison of rare species, MCBS site presence and ranking, and a general goal of reducing deforestation between the two crossings with existing infrastructure, the DNR recommends utilizing the white bridge crossing in this area rather than the crossing at the dam.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schrenzel  
Principal Planner  
Environmental Review Unit  
(651) 259-5115

Enclosures: 1

Judge Sheehy 6/29/2011

cc: Judge Sheehy  
cc: OAH Evidentiary Hearing  
cc: PUC Docket B002/TL-09-1448  
cc: OAH Docket 3-2500-21181-2

I-160-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C14-Zumbro River Crossing.



December 8, 2011

Matthew Langan  
 State Permit Manager  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198

I-160-012

Re: Route Permit Application and Environmental Assessment Scoping for the North Rochester to Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project in Goodhue, Wabasha, and Olmsted Counties [PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-800]

Dear Mr. Langan:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Route Permit Application and considered scoping for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Rochester to Chester 161 kV Transmission Line Project in Goodhue, Wabasha, and Olmsted Counties. Please consider the following comments regarding natural resources located along the proposed routes.

As detailed in the Route Permit Application, the Applicant proposes to place the North Rochester-Chester 161 kV Transmission Line on the same poles as the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project (HRL Project) for the east-west segment portion of the project for 13 to 19 miles. This segment of the route consists of two route alternatives and one route option that has yet to be determined and is being evaluated in the environmental impact statement in MPRC Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448; OAH Docket No. 3-2500-21181-2.

The DNR has participated in the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV transmission line. In the most recent DNR comment letter dated June 29, 2011 (enclosed), the DNR reiterated the recommendation that crossing of public waters be generally located where there is existing infrastructure. In addition, the DNR considers the potential effects of the crossing to existing natural resources which includes rare features that may be affected. As this pertains to the three Zumbro River crossings, two route alternatives and one route option currently under consideration, and in using the criteria above, the DNR recommended utilizing the White Bridge Road crossing. The DNR continues to support this recommendation.

For the purposes of the North Rochester-Chester 161 kV transmission line project, referring to the three Tap locations and the Chester Route North-South Segment, the White Bridge Road crossing would result in Applicant utilizing the Tap 3 location. The Tap 3 location would also result in the least amount of new pole construction before meeting up with the North-South segment.

I-160-013

The DNR requests shapefiles of the proposed route(s). As indicated in the Route Permit Application, the Applicant may need to complete surveys for plants or other species to help



## I-160-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C14-Zumbro River Crossing.

## I-160-013

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.





**I-160-022**

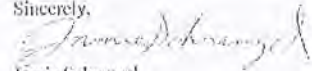
Vegetation maintenance practices should be discussed in detail in the IEA. The DNR requests coordination with the Department of Commerce and the project proposer when vegetation maintenance occurs in or near sensitive areas such as public water crossings and where rare features or native plant communities may be located.

**I-160-023**

The DNR suggests discussing in the IEA the alignment of new poles in comparison to the existing locations of poles for the Peoples Cooperative line. For example, will the poles be placed in the same locations and how will the new line vary from the existing line in size and span?

The DNR appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the North Rochester to Chester Transmission Project. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jamie Schrenzel  
Principal Planner  
Environmental Review Unit  
(651) 259-5115

Enclosures: 4

Letter 126820-1

pg. 3

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O09-Tree Groves and Windbreaks.

**I-160-022**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I08-Vegetative Management Practices.

**I-160-023**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

# CAUTION



## BLANDING'S TURTLES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS AREA

The unique and rare Blanding's turtle has been found in this area. Blanding's turtles are state-listed as Threatened and are protected under Minnesota Statute 84.095, Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. Please be careful of turtles on roads and in construction sites. For additional information on turtles, or to report a Blanding's turtle sighting, contact the DNR Nongame Specialist nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-280-5070); or St. Paul (651-259-5764).

**DESCRIPTION:** The Blanding's turtle is a medium to large turtle (5 to 10 inches) with a black or dark blue, dome-shaped shell with muted yellow spots and bars. The bottom of the shell is hinged across the front third, enabling the turtle to pull the front edge of the lower shell firmly against the top shell to provide additional protection when threatened. The head, legs, and tail are dark brown or blue-gray with small dots of light brown or yellow. A distinctive field mark is the bright yellow chin and neck.

**BLANDING'S TURTLES DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS  
IT IS ILLEGAL TO KEEP THIS THREATENED SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY**

### I-160-024

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.



# **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS TO BLANDING'S TURTLE POPULATIONS**

*(see Blanding's Turtle Fact Sheet for full recommendations)*

- This flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.
- Turtles that are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles that are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed to continue their travel among wetlands and/or nest sites.
- If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest and do not allow pets near the nest.
- Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is critical that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.
- Small, vegetated temporary wetlands should not be dredged, deepened, or filled.
- All wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes.
- Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4" high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred.
- Culverts under roads crossing wetland areas, between wetland areas, or between wetland and nesting areas should be at least 36 in. diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum.
- Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.
- Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.
- Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs.
- Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1<sup>st</sup> and before June 1<sup>st</sup>).

*Compiled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources, Updated March 2008  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator, 500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155 / 651-239-5109*

## Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series

## Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species of Minnesota

**Blanding's Turtle**  
*Emydoidea blandingii*

Minnesota Status: Threatened  
 Federal Status: none

State Rank<sup>1</sup>: S2  
 Global Rank<sup>2</sup>: G4

**HABITAT USE**

Blanding's turtles need both wetland and upland habitats to complete their life cycle. The types of wetlands used include ponds, marshes, shrub swamps, bogs, and ditches and streams with slow-moving water. In Minnesota, Blanding's turtles are primarily marsh and pond inhabitants. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with mud bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (e.g., cattails, water lilies) are preferred, and extensive marshes bordering rivers provide excellent habitat. Small temporary wetlands (those that dry up in the late summer or fall) are frequently used in spring and summer – these fishless pools are amphibian and invertebrate breeding habitat, which provides an important food source for Blanding's turtles. Also, the warmer water of these shallower areas probably aids in the development of eggs within the female turtle. Nesting occurs in open (grassy or brushy) sandy uplands, often some distance from water bodies. Frequently, nesting occurs in traditional nesting grounds on undeveloped land. Blanding's turtles have also been known to nest successfully on residential property (especially in low density housing situations), and to utilize disturbed areas such as farm fields, gardens, under power lines, and road shoulders (especially of dirt roads). Although Blanding's turtles may travel through woodlots during their seasonal movements, shady areas (including forests and lawns with shade trees) are not used for nesting. Wetlands with deeper water are needed in times of drought, and during the winter. Blanding's turtles overwinter in the muddy bottoms of deeper marshes and ponds, or other water bodies where they are protected from freezing.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Individuals emerge from overwintering and begin basking in late March or early April on warm, sunny days. The increase in body temperature which occurs during basking is necessary for egg development within the female turtle. Nesting in Minnesota typically occurs during June, and females are most active in late afternoon and at dusk. Nesting can occur as much as a mile from wetlands. The nest is dug by the female in an open sandy area and 6-15 eggs are laid. The female turtle returns to the marsh within 24 hours of laying eggs. After a development period of approximately two months, hatchlings leave the nest from mid-August through early-October. Nesting females and hatchlings are often at risk of being killed while crossing roads between wetlands and nesting areas. In addition to movements associated with nesting, all ages and both sexes move between wetlands from April through November. These movements peak in June and July and again in September and October as turtles move to and from overwintering sites. In late autumn (typically November), Blanding's turtles bury themselves in the substrate (the mud at the bottom) of deeper wetlands to overwinter.

**IMPACTS / THREATS / CAUSES OF DECLINE**

- loss of wetland habitat through drainage or flooding (converting wetlands into ponds or lakes)
- loss of upland habitat through development or conversion to agriculture
- human disturbance, including collection for the pet trade<sup>3</sup> and road kills during seasonal movements
- increase in predator populations (skunks, raccoons, etc.) which prey on nests and young

<sup>3</sup> It is illegal to possess this threatened species.

**I-161-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

From: Caraway57@aol.com [mailto:Caraway57@aol.com]  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 1:40 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Plainview DEIS Review

**I-161-001**

Hi Stephanie!

It was a pleasure to see you once again after 2 1/2 years. Congratulations on your son, and your pregnancy. Take care of yourself.

I will eventually forward the data I presented last night regarding the DEIS. Thank you for the opportunity to do so! I am please that some information was found to be significant. We appreciated the opportunity to engage.

I also appreciate your addressing the Obama Streamlining of these HVTL Projects. I understand the process more clearly.

In a long, large process, it is difficult to know if your voice has been heard. Thank you for your continued response to my questions, emails, and acknowledgement of submission of data on behalf of the North Route Alternate throughout the CAPX2020 RUS oversight.

Have safe travels home... and be well.

Respectfully yours,

Suzanne Rohlfing



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-162-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-162-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-162-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-162-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- Additional comments:
- I-162-005** I agree with all comments above and in addition:  
1. This area is home to many endangered bird populations
- I-162-006** 2. I believe that option would provide more long term job opportunities in this area compared to construction of a high powered transmission line that would only be a short period.  
This is a unique area of land forms, wild life and needs to be preserved.
- (Optional)  
Signature Sharon Rott Date 2-5-12  
Print Name Alma Rott  
Address 53925 Paul Lane  
Hillsboro, WI 54634
- If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb 13 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Please include cover, with a stamp and mail.  
Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Your name and address can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/USDA-CapX2020/ResponseForms.htm>

## I-162-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-162-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-162-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-162-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-162-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

## I-162-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



1400 Independence Avenue S  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Additional comments:

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by February 20, 2012 to my address on the back of the form. Fold the form in half so the address appears on the outside.  
 single or loose placed, add a 3d zip and mail  
 Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
 E-mail your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usdo.gov**  
 Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.fda.gov/oc/2012/02/08/20120208transparencystatement.pdf>





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

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- I-164-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-164-005** *Please open your eyes, Ms. Strength, to do humanity the service of returning to us just a bit of our self determination. The age of increasing centralization of control to the few at the top of the food chain is what this transmission line is about. That age is coming to a close. You'll be happy if you're on the right side of history. Thank you.*

(Optional)

Signature *Jim E. Kelly* Date *2-4-12*

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make this form your own, please email it to [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov) by Feb. 13, 2012 to get address on the back of this form. Fold this form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Staple or tape corners. Add a stamp and date.

Or email your comments to: [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov> For the most up-to-date information, please visit the website.

## I-164-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-164-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-164-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-164-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-164-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

**I-165-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

1 going to leave it at that.  
2 \* \* \* \*  
3 JOE LOPEZ: 5908 330 Street Way,  
4 Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our  
5 alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit  
6 A1. And no property -- no housing would be affected  
7 if you use this route. It already goes through this  
8 property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is  
9 over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if  
10 we turned it right there -- I know that's still your  
11 property down there, right? And then turned it, and  
12 then it would be way away from your house. That's  
13 the only other route I can think of that wouldn't  
14 affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.

15 \* \* \* \*

16 MICHELLE SANDSTROM. 30127 59th  
17 Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit A1, to  
18 minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we  
19 would prefer the power line pole go through the  
20 middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield  
21 addition. See Exhibit A1.

22 \* \* \* \*

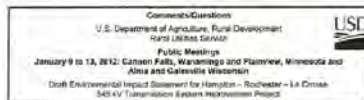
23 MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have  
24 tables here in front. We thought it would be a  
25 little more cozy if you all would gather up to the

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

I-165-001

**I-165-001**





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

I-166-001

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

I-166-002

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

I-166-003

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

I-166-004

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

I-166-005

I believe that there are better options than the proposed CapX2020, options that will benefit everyone (even rural residents). Let's investigate these options and choose wisely one that will lead us into the future in a positive healthy way!

(Optional)

Signature

Print Name

Address

*[Signature]*  
Date 2/12/12  
Kelsey Suber Olds  
53635 Effendahl Ln  
Viroqua WI 54605

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.nrdc.usda.gov/OT/CapX2020/Response-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-166-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-166-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-166-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-166-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-166-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1 get old enough to do so. But you do not even include  
2 my parents' farm on Highway 88. I oppose the Highway  
3 88 corridor.

4 MS. RICHTER: And this is Barbara.

5 BARBARA DIETRICH: My name is  
6 Barbara Dietrich, and I am nine years old. Section  
7 3.11.1 eviction and environment. This impact will  
8 occur only very close to transmission lines. This  
9 will be entirely Highway 88. This will be my barn,  
10 my house, my pets, my cows. This affects me, and I  
11 don't want this coming by my farm. I like my farm  
12 just as it is. Please don't change it.

13 MS. RICHTER: Okay. Now we have  
14 Ann Schaub followed by Gary Brone. And thank you  
15 all, we are staying very much on time. I think we  
16 will be done at 8:00 or a bit before. Thank you.

I-167-001

17 ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I  
18 would first like to start out by saying thank you for  
19 the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann  
20 Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband  
21 Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is  
22 S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there.  
23 We were very distressed to find out about the  
24 proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have  
25 numerous concerns about this line. On page 321,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

## I-167-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

I-167-001

1 section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section  
2 organic farming was not even identified at all. This  
3 line would compromise our right to farm in a matter  
4 for good business properties and economic practices.

I-167-002

5 We are also very concerned about  
6 the effect of any or all stray voltage from the  
7 proposed line on people and animals. If we are not  
8 careful in the future, stray voltage will put us  
9 humans as the No. 1 thing on the list of endangered  
10 species. Our family is working towards a century  
11 farm status, and we are very distressed about the  
12 proposal of this line to come through, and that on  
13 top of all our efforts lose the value that we are now  
14 trying to build.

I-167-003

I-167-004

15 We do not agree with the proposed  
16 line that is supposed to come through on 88. My  
17 husband and I would definitely vote no on this  
18 project. Thank you.

19 MS. RICHTER: Gary?

20 GARY BRONE: It's all been  
21 covered. But I strongly feel the no action  
22 alternative is the way to go. Thank you.

23 MS. RICHTER: David Herzberg, and  
24 he will be followed by Kay Lockinstein.

25 DAVID HERZBERG: David Herzberg,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

### I-167-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

### I-167-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

### I-167-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



**I-168-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O03-Organic Farms.

From: Ann Schaub [mailto:ann.schaub@ive.com]  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 10:00 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Comments about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

**I-168-001**

Good Morning. I want to thank you for the opportunity to send you this email with my comments concerning the proposed Cap X 20/20 transmission line.

My name is Ann Schaub. My husband, Wayne and I currently farm on State Road 88 which is one of the alternate route being discussed for this line.

Our organic farm is located just north of the location where the line could be constructed. When we first heard the news that State Road 88 was being considered as an alternate route, we became very distressed and worried about insuring the integrity of our newly certified fully organic farm. Next I rolled up my sleeves and got to work studying the proposed EIS study. As I began to read the EIS, on page 321 Section 3.11.1.1 listed under Agriculture, I discovered that organic farms were not even identified. I am sending you this email to let you know that we are not the only organic farm located on State Road 88 that would be directly affected if this line is constructed here. The construction of this line on State Road 88 would compromise our right to farm in a manner for good business practices and economics. Our family made the decision to transition our conventional farm to organic four years ago. After a mountain of paperwork was completely and an on farm inspection was done, we began the journey. I am proud to say that in 2011 our farm is now certified fully organic. When we made the decision to go organic, we knew that this decision would be one that would not only benefit us but also carry on to the next generation of Schaub's.

Our farm has been in the Schaub family for three generation. We are nearing century farm status. We love the land and will do all that we can to protect and preserve it. We are very concerned about overspray on our farm as well as other organic farms here on 88. A simple thing like overspray could jeopardize our organic integrity and have our organic certification revoked. We have worked too hard and long just to have it all taken away in an instant. We are also concerned about destruction of the natural habitat for the Bald and Golden Eagles that make this place home. We have a small farm compared to most and don't want to lose any valuable prime agricultural land if possible. This farm is our ONLY source of livelihood. We are also concerned about future stray voltage issues on both humans as well as animals. All of us that live on State Road 88, enjoy its windy, hilly curves and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

We do not agree with the proposal that State Road 88 should even be considered as an alternative route because construction through here would be very expensive and labor intense. State Road 88 should never have been considered. My husband and I would definitely vote NO on this project.

Thank you for taking the time to read our email and for passing it on to the necessary committee.

Sincerely,

Ann and Wayne Schaub

Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Canton Falls, Wisconsin and Polkville, Minnesota and  
April and October Wisconsin  
Grid Environmental Impact Statement for Wisconsin - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

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Additional comments:

- I-169-005** Taken all together, all of these new powerlines projects which will sprawl across the Midwest amount to a giant subsidy for urban users especially the East Coast. Whenever a local power corp or company taps into these lines, which is inevitable the customer will be billed for said infrastructure. This is only subsidizing power for the end consumer. The people of the East should build powerplants in their locale and ship in coal from local sources.

(Optional)

Signature MJL Date 1-24-12  
Print Name Michael Scheder  
Address E14066 Maple Ridge  
LaFarge, WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a return and mail.

Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/DEIS-CapX2020-Wisconsin-Polkville-LaCrosse.html>

## I-169-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-169-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-169-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-169-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-169-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



**I-170-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

**I-170-001**

1 I've just started to touch on a  
2 few things that I feel strongly about, and I know  
3 that I am definitely opposed to the CapX2020 proposed  
4 Highway 88 route as well as any other route that is  
5 being considered.

6 \* \* \* \*

7 **LAURA SCHIFFLI:** My name is Laura  
8 Schiffli. I reside at 52758 State Road 88, Fountain  
9 City, Wisconsin. I'm here to go on record to say no  
10 to CapX2020 on Highway 88, and we recommend to  
11 abandon the proposed 345xV transmission line and  
12 pursue more cost-effective and environmentally  
13 sensitive solutions. My husband and I just finished  
14 building our energy efficient dream house. My  
15 husband, Steve, has not even been able to actually  
16 live in our new home because he is currently on  
17 military assignment overseas, serving our nation in  
18 war efforts in the Middle East. Little did he know  
19 when he left that we would have our own war here on  
20 the home front. A war against those who propose  
21 sending energy through gigantic transmission lines  
22 hundreds and hundreds of miles through wetlands,  
23 farmlands, bluff lands, and small rural communities  
24 to markets east of here.

25 There will be no benefit to us

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955

I-170-002

1 locally, yet we will bear the tremendous cost and  
2 lost property value. Our environment will be harmed.

I-170-003

3 We will have health dangers and permanent damage to  
4 our beautiful driftless area here in Wisconsin, the  
5 most beautiful part of the state.

I-170-004

6 In reference to 1.4.1, the scoping  
7 process on page 67. A public mailer was distributed  
8 to landowners and other individuals who requested to  
9 be on the project mailing list. I've never received  
10 a public mailer yet from the USDA. I live on State  
11 Highway 88 at S2758 in Fountain City. I was  
12 inadvertently left off the mailing list. How many  
13 other landowners have been inadvertently left off the  
14 mailing list? My neighbor received a mailer  
15 Saturday, January 7, 2012, just two days prior to  
16 this meeting. How could we come to this meeting  
17 prepared?

I-170-005

18 It is absolutely essential to  
19 diligently evaluate both the short- and long-term  
20 effects of the alternate proposed routes of this  
21 massive proposed endeavor.

22 In reference to 1.1.2, purpose of  
23 and need for dairylands action. The Q1 rebuild is  
24 needed because the line is over 60 years old and is  
25 reaching the end of its service life. The rebuild is

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### I-170-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

### I-170-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

### I-170-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for  
Highway 88 Alternatives.

### I-170-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-170-005

1 needed to address the age and degraded conditions of  
2 the transmission structures and conductors. If the  
3 utilities want to upgrade the existing Q1  
4 transmission route, why is there a need to create a  
5 new transmission route on Highway 88? There is no  
6 need. The proposed Highway 88 route is significantly  
7 longer than the Q1 route. Constructability and the  
8 cost complications due to the curves of the road and  
9 steep terrain on Highway 88 will make a huge impact  
10 on cost. The Q1 route is a direct route on  
11 relatively flat lands and an existing route already  
12 exists.

13 In reference to 3.7.2,  
14 environmental consequences on page 293. The northern  
15 eight miles of this corridor is near Wisconsin  
16 Highway 35, which in this area is designated as the  
17 Great River Road, an area along which the Wisconsin  
18 Department of Transportation holds scenic easements  
19 and has concerns about esthetic and environmental  
20 impacts. I have concerns too. I own property on the  
21 original Q1 route, and on the proposed Highway 88  
22 alternate route. This line affects me whichever way  
23 it goes. Highway 88 is more scenic than the original  
24 Q1 route. A consultant for Wisconsin Department of  
25 Transportation conducted an assessment for visual

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I-170-005

1 quality along the Q1 section of the Great River Road  
2 around 1997. The consultant classified this section  
3 as being of poor visual quality with the potential  
4 classifications of high, good, moderate, poor and  
5 low. Putting the lines on Highway 88 does not reduce  
6 the visual impacts on the Great River Road. It  
7 transfers the esthetics impact to a relatively  
8 undisturbed area along Highway 88.

9 The Q1 transmission line already  
10 exists. Upgrade it. It is the most direct and  
11 shortest of the Wisconsin routes and meets the  
12 criteria of following an existing transmission line.  
13 The DNR has concerns with environmental impacts. The  
14 environmental issues in the proposed power lines --  
15 if the proposed power line is on Highway 88, it will  
16 devastate the Waumandee Creek watershed. Where can I  
17 find the environmental impact report on Highway 88?  
18 Does an environmental impact report on Highway 88  
19 even exist?

I-170-006

I-170-007

20 In reference to 3.10.2.1. Health  
21 effects of the EMF. The potential of health effects  
22 from EMF is a controversial scientific subject. So  
23 many conflicting reports exist. Do we really want to  
24 bring these lines so close to our school on the  
25 proposed Highway 88 route? I'm petrified of the fact

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### I-170-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

### I-170-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

**I-170-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

**I-170-007**

1           that the proposed lines will be in my yard. I'm  
2           petrified for my family, my neighbors, and my  
3           community.

**I-170-008**

4                               I leave you with this question, do  
5           the so-called benefits that the power companies claim  
6           outweigh the devastating and irreversible  
7           consequences to our land, our property values, our  
8           natural resources, our agriculture, our tourism, our  
9           health, and our wallets, and on the future of  
10          renewable and environmentally friendly energy?

11                               \* \* \* \*

12                              GRACE HOHMAN: I'm a property  
13          owner on Highway 88 and Highway E, and my property  
14          has been in my family since 1854, and it is  
15          actually -- I've put a conservation easement on it to  
16          maintain its natural state. And I'm not in favor of  
17          the power line, either alternative A or B of the two  
18          alternatives. I think it's just plain insane to put  
19          this major power line down a valley when there are  
20          other existing routes that are already there where  
21          they already have the right-of-way. And to tear up  
22          what is a scenic natural valley for this power line  
23          is just sinful.

24                              And I also -- the effect on my  
25          property values, on the neighbors' property values,

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**I-171-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J:  
Land Resources, J05-Other Public Lands.

1 MS. RICHTER: Yes. Okay. We can  
2 set up a chair if you would like to read it for the  
3 group. Anything in writing has the same impact,  
4 however, as giving oral presentation, so it's totally  
5 up to you.

6 JOYCE OSBORNE: I'm not going to  
7 read it. And I'm the vice president of the United  
8 Citizen Action Network.

9 MS. RICHTER: That will be placed  
10 as a comment now as well. Anybody else? As I  
11 indicated, we will be here until 8:00, so if you  
12 would like to continue with some sidebar  
13 conversations again with some of the experts that are  
14 here tonight, or get some other questions answered by  
15 using the maps or the other materials, please feel  
16 free to do so. And if we have more people arrive  
17 during the comment period, we can also reconvene and  
18 listen to their comments. Okay. So the mic remains  
19 open, and I just need to be advised if somebody would  
20 like to make a comment, thank you.

21 \* \* \* \*

**I-171-001**

22 PAUL SCHLUTER: Looking at Exhibit  
23 2, I don't know if you have the information on the  
24 extension of the bike trail, which will -- the Milton  
25 Trail that's going to be going from Cannon Falls

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I-171-001

1 through Northfield to Faribault. Right now we are  
2 acquiring a right-of-way for a trail from Cannon  
3 Falls to the Goodhue County Park along the Cannon  
4 River in Stanton Township. And they are building the  
5 bridge just west -- just east of the Lake Byllesby  
6 Dam right near where a proposed crossing of the power  
7 line is going.

8 And we are going to be connecting  
9 the trail to the Goodhue County Park on the south  
10 side of Lake Byllesby by the dam, and with the Dakota  
11 County Regional Park on the north side of Lake  
12 Byllesby, so. And this bridge will be used for bike  
13 trails and also connecting up to two parks.

14 So Dakota County and Goodhue  
15 County are against the power line going across the  
16 dam so close to proximity to the part of the trail  
17 there. And I'm on the Goodhue County Park and Trail  
18 Board. We are in the process now of designing the  
19 bridge. We have the funds available for that, but  
20 should be building in the next year or two for that.  
21 So for the reason of the two parks and the Milton  
22 Trail, we would be against having a power line going  
23 across the Lake Byllesby dam.

24 (Whereupon the proceeding ended at  
25 approximately 8:00 p.m.)

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Paul Schluter

Cannon Falls





**I-172-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

1 riding next to a 160-foot pole and they hear 160  
2 megahertz going through them all day, they are not  
3 going to come here. They are not -- my property  
4 values are going to go way down, the sales are going  
5 to be down. The state sales tax that I fund in the  
6 state of Wisconsin is going to go way down. It's a  
7 total turn, just a spiral down, down, down.

8 Anyway, next thing I would like to  
9 do is future growth of the county. One thing is I  
10 took some pictures, and I've got two fields that are  
11 underneath my property, two points where geese are  
12 flying all the time. I took a picture of my house  
13 because for nine years my wife and I have wanted to  
14 open up a bed and breakfast, but there will be no big  
15 poles there.

16 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. The next  
17 person is Laura Schiffli.

18 LAURA SCHIFFLI: I already gave  
19 it,

20 MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Laura.  
21 And Cathy, you are the next one. And this is the  
22 same last name as the individual before.

23 CATHY SCHMIDTKNECHT: All right.  
24 My name is a Cathy Schmidtknecht. We don't have a  
25 lot of conveniences of the larger cities and even  
larger towns, but we knew that when we chose to live

**I-172-001**

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I-172-001

1 here. We do not wish to take on big city  
2 inconveniences either. This valley is why we live  
3 here. The 88 corridor is a great part of that. The  
4 tourism along Highway 88 is a great commodity to our  
5 area businesses along 88 and the trunk roads. It is  
6 one of the many Wisconsin back roads that tourists  
7 refer to when coming to this area, and some come to  
8 this area just to drive down this road.

9 Next to farming, the tourism  
10 industry is a large part of this area's economic  
11 base. We will experience lost income to the area if  
12 this happens. The beauty and surrounding area is  
13 priceless. Having the line go down the 88 corridor  
14 will not only affect those here, but will affect the  
15 tax revenue to the state and county. People and  
16 families will lose income, and so will state agencies  
17 due to the lack of tourism which affect the  
18 businesses, which in turn affects the tax revenue  
19 which support our schools and agencies. It is a full  
20 domino effect.

21 This will then affect our fees to  
22 you. Therefore, you will actually charge us more on  
23 fees on top of our property values will drop  
24 tremendously. I have a concern for the effects of  
25 the noise coming off the lines. I am very sensitive

I-172-002

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## I-172-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic Environment, H01-General/Other.

I-172-002

1

to sound. I am concerned for the health of my

I-172-003

2

grandchildren, my neighbors, ourselves due to the EMF

I-172-004

3

and stray voltage. Who will be responsible for the

4

medical? Will you?

I-172-005

5

We have worked all our lives to be

6

where we are. To have this come through and create

7

this destruction of our property is devastating to

8

us. We have trees on the property that were planted

9

ten years ago and are just now providing shade and

10

windbreak. Not to mention I have recently ordered

11

more trees to plant. Would I have done that knowing

12

this was coming through? Maybe not. There's a loss

13

of an investment already. And not to forget that

14

these trees create refuge for our wildlife.

I-172-006

15

This is our life investment. I

16

don't know -- I don't want to spend the rest of my

17

life waking up to every morning seeing a huge pole

18

and trying to go to sleep at night with the noise of

I-172-007

19

the wires humming. We chose to live in this area

20

because we did not want big towers and overabundances

21

of health risks, huge amounts of noise. If I wanted

I-172-008

22

a large pole in front or in back of my house, I would

23

have bought it. I didn't. This valley is why we

24

live here.

25

In accordance to page 12 where

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### I-172-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

### I-172-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

### I-172-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O09-Tree Groves and Windbreaks.

### I-172-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-172-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic Environment, H01-General/Other.

### I-172-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-172-009

1 you're referring to the crossing, the effect on  
2 wildlife, we have two sandhill cranes that nest near  
3 our home and feed in our fields every spring, summer,  
4 and fall. We have golden eagles that migrate and  
5 bald eagles that hunt and feed in our fields, as well  
6 as ducks, geese and wild turkeys. We have an active  
7 eagles nest within one mile of our property along 88.  
8 Thank you.

9 MS. RICHTER: Next is Erv Balto  
10 and he will be followed by Jeff Falk.

11 ERV BALTO: My name is Erv Balto.  
12 I am a member of the Citizens Energy Task Force. I  
13 would like to, I guess, state the obvious, which is  
14 that I haven't heard anybody speak in favor of the  
15 power line except a representative from CapX2020, Mr.  
16 Hillstrom. Mr. Hillstrom did state that individuals  
17 will speak about need. I am not going to meet  
18 Mr. Hillstrom's agenda tonight and speak of need,  
19 rather I would like to speak to the rural utility  
20 environmental impact statement, stating -- stating  
21 need.

22 What was not examined in the  
23 statement was a combination of renewables, rather  
24 they examined each renewable such as wind and solar  
25 separately without looking at the combination. If a

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### I-172-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

**I-172-010**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

1 out of the marshes. And there's a couple of  
2 pinpointed spots that would be crossed with the  
3 equipment which can stay on the equipment. And when  
4 it moves to further locations, it can spread this.  
5 And right now it's spread via wind, or via wind. So  
6 it can further spread the seed, and with the seed it  
7 multiplies at an exponential rate. And if you cut  
8 the rate in half, you have two times one million.  
9 You have one million times. And it smothers out any  
10 native vegetation, it's like putting a blanket over  
11 whatever is there and growing up. It's just a  
12 ruthless invader, and it's nowhere mentioned on there  
13 that this is present. Thank you for your time. And  
14 I highly oppose this.

15 MS. RICHTER: All right.

16 CATHY SCHMIDTKNECHT: All right.

I-172-010 17 I'm Cathy Schmidtknecht. I've been asked to come up  
18 on top here to ask for a vote of hands for all of  
19 those in the group that are here tonight who are  
20 opposed to the CapX2020 project? Can you show your  
21 hands if you are against it going through? So I  
22 would say what, 95, 97, 99 percent. Oh, maybe 100  
23 percent, except for our board. And those that oppose  
24 the no action alternative on County Road 88. Can I  
25 have a hand for that? And I would have to probably

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I-172-010

1 say about 75, 80 percent -- yeah, about 100 percent  
2 there again, huh. Okay. And I wanted to go on  
3 record that I do also support the no action  
4 alternative. So thank you.

5 DAN JUMBECK: I just wanted to  
6 make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when  
7 they rated the Great River Road, the portion that  
8 goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard,  
9 and it was listed as poor back in '71. So if it was  
10 poor then, there's been no upgrades since 1971. If  
11 it was poor then, it's poor now, so why wreck a  
12 beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it's the  
13 nickname of Waumandee Valley, not silicone valley.  
14 Thank you.

15 MS. RICHTER: Was there one more  
16 individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

17 FRED GLEITOR: I'm Fred Gleitor  
18 from Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road,  
19 Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my  
20 brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation  
21 on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100  
22 percent during a national survey this fall. There  
23 are quality milk producers in this Valley. The  
24 proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house,  
25 dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle

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1       they struck -- CTF opposed the line. We vote for no  
2       bill option. Thank you.

3               MS. RICHTER: And Brian will be  
4       followed by Vicky Kamrowski.

5               BRIAN: I'll submit mine in  
6       writing.

7               MS. RICHTER: That's fine. Is  
8       Vicky here? And you were able to do it as well.  
9       Great. Ron Kazmierczak? All right. Submitted one.  
10      Okay. You are covered. And Dan Schmidtkecht? I'm  
11      sorry if I butchered that. Can I help you set up in  
12      any way?

I-173-001

13              DAN SCHMIDTKNECHT: We were  
14      notified Friday at 3:30 about this project, and then  
15      we received a letter on Saturday. So what I have  
16      here is just put together in a short, short amount of  
17      time. I took some photos of the last time that an  
18      electric company went through my farm and farm area,  
19      and of the massive destruction that they have done,  
20      and that's what I have on this picture here. Anyway,  
21      what it shows is where they were supposed to go 20  
22      feet, ended up going 50 feet, 54 feet onto trees.  
23      Here's trimming that was supposed to be done. And do  
24      you think there would have been a knock at the door  
25      or let us know that they were going to come to our

I-173-002

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### I-173-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for  
Highway 88 Alternatives.

### I-173-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological  
Resources, I01-General/Other.

**I-173-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

**I-173-002**

1 house and go across our fields and into our land?  
2 They just started cutting, starting trimming. And  
3 this is going to be worse if you are looking at a lot  
4 farther wide aspect.

**I-173-003**

5 I did hear something about spring  
6 tonight, which I have no idea, but that cannot be  
7 a -- the next thing is my farm, which overlooks the  
8 valley, and I also is a business in the town of  
9 Waumandee. And my business is mostly a tourism  
10 business. It's a bar/restaurant, and we do a lot of  
11 hunting. We have people from Florida, Pennsylvania,  
12 New York, Texas, California, Hawaii, Alaska, all come  
13 here to Buffalo County to hunt deer. Buffalo County  
14 is the No. 1 County in the United States for  
15 attracting tourism dollars relating to hunting. That  
16 keeps my cabins full.

17 If these lines go through, I'm  
18 very concerned what that's going to do to my tourism  
19 dollars, not only on the hunting aspect but in -- the  
20 motorcycle season is huge. We have been called  
21 Little Sturgis per the hills and valleys that the  
22 clubs come for. I have a Jeep Club. I have car  
23 clubs. We have snowmobilers that use these routes,  
24 say it's the most beautiful area in the whole state.

25 Well, if they're going to be

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I-173-003

1 riding next to a 160-foot pole and they hear 160

2 megahertz going through them all day, they are not

I-173-004

3 going to come here. They are not -- my property

4 values are going to go way down, the sales are going

5 to be down. The state sales tax that I fund in the

6 state of Wisconsin is going to go way down. It's a

7 total turn, just a spiral down, down, down.

8 Anyway, next thing I would like to

9 do is future growth of the county. One thing is I

10 took some pictures, and I've got two fields that are

11 underneath my property, two points where geese are

12 flying all the time. I took a picture of my house

13 because for nine years my wife and I have wanted to

14 open up a bed and breakfast, but there will be no big

15 poles there.

16 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. The next

17 person is Laura Schiffli.

18 LAURA SCHIFFLI: I already gave

19 it. MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Laura.

20 And Cathy, you are the next one. And this is the

21 same last name as the individual before.

22 CATHY SCHMIDTKNECHT: All right.

23 My name is a Cathy Schmidtknecht. We don't have a

24 lot of conveniences of the larger cities and even

25 larger towns, but we knew that when we chose to live

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## I-173-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

1 as possible. And if you haven't driven 88, you are  
2 missing a wonderful treat. I would not want to live  
3 anywhere else.

4 Our vision for the future  
5 generations is to sustain our living while preserving  
6 the land. We have a son who's 30 years old who has a  
7 child, and when we heard about CapX in the last  
8 couple of weeks, he said, "Mom and Dad, I am not  
9 interested. I don't want it." To have something go  
10 to that 5th generation and have something like this  
11 put a stop to it like that, is unacceptable. And I  
12 feel that the no alternative option is the way to go.

13 Our impact to the property value,  
14 public health safety, tourism, agri tourism, impact  
15 on agricultural practice and our farm animals, the  
16 stray voltage, we went through that in the 1980s. We  
17 were told we were poor managers, we weren't feeding  
18 right, they weren't drinking water. We would go down  
19 to the barn and we would have a dead cow. And it  
20 wasn't once, it was ten times. And we fought with  
21 the utilities. Thank you.

22 MS. RICHTER: Joan will be  
23 followed by Travis Plank.

24 **JOAN SCHNABEL:** I'm Joan Schnable,  
25 I live in Fountain City. Several years ago, I think

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#### I-174-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-174-001

I-174-001

1 it was at a different high school gym, I had a lovely  
2 conversation with Tom. We talked about eagles, and  
3 he said the same kind of things about growth in the  
4 area. And you know, it just didn't match what I  
5 perceive in this county, so I went home and looked it  
6 all up. And Rochester is growing, and Olmsted County  
7 is growing. That is absolutely true. Buffalo County  
8 isn't growing. La Crosse County isn't growing.  
9 Winona County isn't growing. Trempealeau County  
10 isn't growing. Houston County isn't growing. The  
11 numbers aren't there. So I'm a little suspicious of  
12 that. I can't find those numbers. Everything I look  
13 up doesn't support that data. And that makes me a  
14 little nervous.

15 You know, I look at the  
16 environmental impact statement, I look at fish and  
17 wildlife statement. I love this river. I'm very  
18 active in the birding community, and I don't want  
19 these lines on the river. And then I think, well,  
20 you know, I'm just protecting my own little territory  
21 here. You know, when this meeting moves over to  
22 Galesville, you are going to hear the same thing over  
23 there. And all we are doing is shifting it to  
24 somebody else's backyard. I think we need a no  
25 option. I don't think we don't need these lines.

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I-174-001

1 Chicago and Milwaukee need to figure out their own  
2 problems. We don't need the energy here. Thank you.

3 MS. RICHTER: Is Travis here  
4 still? Then I wanted to clarify, Scott Mehas. Is  
5 Scott here still? Yes. You indicated you might be  
6 wanting to talk? No? Okay, good. So this is Travis  
7 Plank now, and he will then be followed by John Frie.  
8 Okay.

9 TRAVIS PLANK: Hello, I'm Travis  
10 Plank, we live on 88.

11 MACHELLE PLANK: Okay, this is for  
12 Trav. He opposed the lines coming through. We don't  
13 feel that there's a need for them. We are worried  
14 about the health for ourselves, our children, our  
15 future children. We don't know how far away is safe.  
16 There are many people saying different things. We  
17 would lose our property value, and who's going to  
18 want to buy our farm when you've got three poles  
19 sitting on it? We would lose our home, because the  
20 line would be too close, and who's going to purchase  
21 my home? Who's going to pay for the losses and the  
22 medical issues that could be caused from this?

23 It destroys our home, the habitat,  
24 our animals. We have cows and horses. Mammals are  
25 all affected by stray voltage. And they can say it

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MAIL TO:  
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USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP11 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Yes, you have probably received a lot of these, but the winner ~~schmattered~~ we significant.

An out of date DHS is nothing to base business on.

I graduated from U.W. Madison with a degree in geology in 1969 and have tracked energy science ever since. The current rapid change in energy technologies suggests that large transiions ~~lies~~ may soon be "white elephants". ~~Does~~ Wisconsin and the Midwest would do well to dodge long term debt for a white elephant.

Option) Check out the "Efficient Vermont" program. ~~James D. Servais~~

Signature James D. Servais Date 2-6-12

Print Name James D. Servais

Address 4607 ReForestation Rd.

Saanis, WI 54313

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail to: ██████████ 2012 to that address at the back of this form. Fold this form in thirds so the address appears on the bar code. Staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

For additional comments to: Stephanie.strength@wda.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the National and State Energy Conservation and RPS, visit [www.nationalenergyconservation.gov](http://www.nationalenergyconservation.gov)

[illegible]

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

From: Deb Severson [mailto:deb@whisperit.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 4:02 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Comment on Dairyland Power\_USDA EIS for CapX2020 / Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse Transmission System Improvement Project

Hello Stephanie

I've not been able to locate an on-line way to upload my comments, so I've sent them to you. Sorry if this isn't the right process, but I hope it works. I'll continue to look on-line for something.

Thanks for your help, Deb Severson

#### I-176-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### I-176-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

#### I-176-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

CapX2020 is not the right option for us now, if ever.

I-176-001

Smart technologies exist to make our electrical system smarter. Roger Anderson at Columbia University's Center for Computational Learning Systems stated that tweaking the grid's communications capabilities can increase transmission efficiency by 50 percent—no additional wires necessary.

I-176-002

Energy efficiency is considered a first fuel and it, along with conservation, top the priority list of energy sources that the Wisconsin PSC is required to implement in making all energy-related decisions and orders. Distributed generation comes next in the State's priority.

However, we've yet to see a cost-benefit analysis if equal investment to CapX2020 were to be made into these type of technologies, either individually or in an optimized mix.

With the initial growth and reliability numbers reduced from the original application and industry experts challenging even the reduced numbers, I cannot help but question what a robust commitment to efficiency, demand response and distributed generation would do to the peak demand and needed-reliability numbers.

On January 11, 2012 the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) issued a press release focused on their new report. The report claims that we could cut U.S. energy consumption over 50 percent, save consumers more than \$300 to \$400 billion per year, and add almost two million jobs by 2050 if we paid equal attention to large-scale energy efficiency savings as we have individual measures.

It is a travesty to not apply equal vigor analysis and investment forethought to these very viable alternatives. It may also be a violation of Wisconsin Act 141.

I-176-003

Last, we call this around God's country. Please let us honor this and be careful how we treat our land and our environment. It's the only country God gave us and, God knows, we've already done a lot of damage from when we didn't know better. Let us learn from our mistakes and think our options through.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-177-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-177-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-177-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-177-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-177-005** *I feel that in order to save our natural resources more effort should be made to utilize our natural & renewable energy sources to maintain our wild life. We need to protect our surroundings!*

(Optional)

Signature Annabell Sharp Date 2/24/12

Print Name

Address 11246 Hansdale Ave  
Spokane, WA 99216

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the Farming web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/1777-CapX2020/Comments/Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-177-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-177-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-177-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-177-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-177-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1 east.

2 So it is just not necessary here. If they  
3 are going to do this with the power lines, it should  
4 go straight across from Alma to the Interstate 94,  
5 and down the interstate, and keep it away from these  
6 great pristine areas; "God's Country," as we call it.

7 I think that's it.

8 **MR. SHEPARD:** Erik, E-R-I-K, Shepard,  
9 S-H-E-P-A-R-D. W24 220 Rivera Lane, Gaylesville,  
10 Wisconsin.

11 I guess I would like to just say,  
12 if it goes through the Arcadia route, we are going  
13 to be less than a quarter of a mile away. And I  
14 have got several concerns, but two of our biggest  
15 concerns is, for one, are health issues with the  
16 EMFs, with high-voltage power lines, and also our  
17 property values. But the first is our health because  
18 my wife is electrically sensitive.

19 And there are several, and I mean I  
20 could go on and on and on about all of the different  
21 research, the factual research that has been out for  
22 over 30 years about high-voltage power lines and EMFs  
23 and how dangerous it is to human health.

24 And I would like to mention this as  
25 well, but you don't want to write the whole thing,

### I-178-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-178-001



I-178-001

1 but there is in Colorado school children it was  
2 determined that those who lived near power lines had  
3 two or three times as much chance to develop cancer.  
4 And the link seemed so improbable that the power  
5 companies even paid to have the studies replicated  
6 and to their surprise the scientific inquiry  
7 supported the original findings.

8 And also I hear that the river route,  
9 they are worried about the scenic view. Well, sure,  
10 that is important, but is that more important than  
11 our human health? I have got a two-year-old  
12 daughter. I certainly don't want her to grow up  
13 with diseases. That has been known to cause, from  
14 these power lines, it has been known to cause cancer.

I-178-002

15 I mean there is also now a surprising  
16 new report released in February, not sure of what  
17 year this is, but it shows that power lines attract  
18 particles of radon, and we know for a fact that radon  
19 does cause cancer.

I-178-003

20 I also want to mention one more  
21 thing. If this does go through the Arcadia route,  
22 that they are basically going to force me to sell my  
23 home. And if my property value is less than what --  
24 is less because of this power line, are they going  
25 to make up the difference for me when I sell my home?

I-178-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

I-178-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-178-003

1 Because I will be basically forced to because my wife  
2 is electrically sensitive and I am not going to put  
3 my child in danger because of those power lines.

4 That's it.

5 MR. OWECKE: Paul Owecke,  
6 O-W-E-C-K-E. Trempealeau. My address is W-25376  
7 Sullivan Road, Trempealeau, 54661.

8 I am totally opposed to siting of the  
9 CAPX 2020 line anywhere in Wisconsin and I feel that  
10 there is not a need for the power supply in this  
11 region. I don't feel that residents of Wisconsin  
12 should be responsible for paying higher rates that  
13 will be incurred by building the transmission line  
14 and that I don't feel that the citizens of Wisconsin  
15 should be burdened with the environmental degradation  
16 that the line will incur. And I feel that the  
17 science that has been used to justify the line has  
18 been manipulated by the power companies in their  
19 favor. And when there is detrimental information,  
20 it is not presented or it has been altered.

21 I feel that running a line of this  
22 size next to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge  
23 is not able to be supported by science and is a  
24 detriment to this area. And I don't think that the  
25 health concerns have been adequately addressed.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

I-178-004

1           MR. SHEPARD: Yeah, my name is Erik  
2           Shepard. I live at W24220 Rivera Lane. That is  
3           right by the Ferguson Apple Orchard. And if the  
4           Arcadia line does go through, those power lines are  
5           going to be less than a quarter of a mile from my  
6           house. And my wife is electrically sensitive --

7           MODERATOR RICHTER: I am just going  
8           to put this in front so you can look and speak in it.  
9           We are having trouble hearing in the back. It is fine  
10          to look at the audience, but please speak. Thank  
11          you.

12          MR. SHEPARD: And my wife is  
13          electrically sensitive, and if that does go through,  
14          we are going to be basically forced to sell our  
15          house, our beautiful house that we bought. We bought  
16          this house back in the valley. It is beautiful.  
17          The orchard is back there and it is nice and quiet.  
18          And now if these lines are coming through, we are  
19          basically going to be forced to sell our house,  
20          because my wife is electrically sensitive, and the  
21          first thing that's going to be of the most importance  
22          is our health.

23          And I have got several, several  
24          papers here from different doctors that are proven  
25          factual reports that EMFs are a health hazard that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

I-178-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-178-004

1 can cause cancer, that can cause several health  
2 concerns.

3 As you can see, I have got a  
4 two-year-old daughter here, and the effects of that,  
5 that the EMFs will have is horrible. I have seen,  
6 with my wife being sick, we have got special filters  
7 in our house because that has helped her and it  
8 reduces the EMFs in our house.

9 And I would just like to ask the  
10 utility companies if they have any actual proof and  
11 research that has been done that shows that the EMFs  
12 and electrical power lines do not cause any health  
13 hazard. And I know for a fact it does. And I do  
14 have several papers here to prove that.

15 A quick little note here. When the  
16 study of cancer rates among Colorado school children  
17 determined that those who lived near power lines had  
18 two to three times as much chance to develop cancer,  
19 the link seemed so improbable that the power  
20 companies eagerly paid to have the study replicated.  
21 To their surprise, the subsequent findings of the  
22 inquiry supported the original findings, which have  
23 since been supported by a variety of additional  
24 studies and reports of an increased cancer rate among  
25 the workers employed in the electric industry.

I-178-004

1                   And the No. 1 concern that I have and  
2                   comment that I've got is that it is our health, and  
3                   if these people don't realize that these power lines  
4                   can affect our health, and it does, my wife is a  
5                   prime example, and I would certainly want the people  
6                   that is putting this power line up to really think  
7                   hard about what they are -- what they are doing to  
8                   everyone's health.

9                   Grant it, the snakes, I think --  
10                  I think our health, our children are much more  
11                  important than the scenic byways and all of those  
12                  things.

13                  Thank you.

14                  MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Thank you.  
15                  Joanne Schnell will be followed by Peter Van  
16                  Laarhoven.

17                  I am Joanne Schnell and I will pass.

18                  MODERATOR RICHTER: And that's fine.  
19                  If I come to your name and you have changed your  
20                  mind, that's fine. I will also be asking everybody  
21                  at the end if anybody has changed their mind and  
22                  would now like to be speakers. So I will ask that.  
23                  Don't worry about that.

24                  So Peter is next, followed by Ken  
25                  Gundersen.



Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-179-001

I AM AGAINST THIS POWERLINE PROJECT.  
MY REASONS FOR BEING AGAINST THIS PROJECT  
ARE: 1) IT WILL DO NOTHING TO PROVIDE ENHANCED  
ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS AREA.

I-179-002

2) THE AREA'S ELECTRICAL USAGE IS TO THE DEFECTIVE  
FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS OR MORE. 3) THIS POWER

I-179-003

LINE IS BEING PLANNED TO RUN THROUGH POPULATED  
SUBURBAN AREAS AND IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY TO (2)  
EXISTING SCHOOLS AND A PROPOSED 3<sup>rd</sup> SCHOOL WHICH

I-179-004

POSES UNNECESSARY HEALTH RISKS TO THE PEOPLE INHABITING  
THOSE AREAS (HOLMEN, WI). 4) THIS POWERLINE PROJECT  
WILL DROP PROPERTY VALUES, THUS DECREASING THE TAX REVENUE.

Optional: Name: TRAVIS SIMPSON

Address: 320 N. CHERRY LANE, HOLMEN, WI 54636

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by FEB. 13<sup>TH</sup> 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@ndc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@ndc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UIWP-CcpX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-179-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-179-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-179-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-179-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

From: Karen Specht [<mailto:karynlak@mwl.net>]  
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 10:25 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: power line

I-180-001

I-180-002

I oppose the proposed power line that has been mentioned to be built on Highway 88, Cochrane, Wamandee area Wisconsin. The ill effects of high electrical current are not something I want to live around and have chosen this valley as my home. This is a much used scenic route with many cattle(milk) farms and organic farms. We want to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Karen Specht  
52185 Yaeger Valley Road  
Cochrane, Wisconsin 54622

#### I-180-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

#### I-180-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.



2-10-12

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utility based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options: the high-voltage transmission option.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

Additional comments:

Taking farm land out-of-production  
due to easements & claiming land/  
buffer zones, for the proposed lines  
and applying antitox chemicals/herbicides  
to that land is counter to stewardship,  
farm economy and rural development....  
all for a <sup>private</sup> company to gain profits, the  
unnecessary project!

(Optional)  
Signature C. Stark Date 2/9/12  
Print Name C. Stark  
Address rural Richland Co.  
Miss.

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **AIRMAIL** to the address on this back of the form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, relative to type above, add a return mail.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Or email your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.fishwildlife.usda.gov/2013/Feb/08/2013-Hempstead-Meeting-in-Lake-George>

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.





Jan. 25/2010

Comments/Questions  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-182-001

\* more reasons for (No Action Alternative)  
Amish farmers and elderly farmers  
are among the many who are  
disfranchised by these "public hearings"  
since they 1) can't easily attend for  
obvious reasons 2) can't get information  
on the issue to make comments. (no web  
etc. etc.  
to access info)

I-182-002

I attended Jan. 13, 2012 public hearing,  
driving more than 2 hrs. on snowy roads to  
support the ~~people~~ <sup>almost 200 estimated attending</sup> people in that area in opposing  
CAPX2020 + USDA RUS providing money to dairymen. I only  
heard 2 people who were  
not opposed to your  
proposed assistance to  
dairymen + to  
lives.

Optional: Name: Chris Stark  
Address: Rural Richland  
Co, WIS

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~Feb. 13th~~, 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strengi@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strengi@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

one was  
from an  
electric  
company

I-182-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

I-182-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



Comments/Questions Jan. 27, 2010  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service  
Public Meetings  
January 8 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Watertown and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville, Wisconsin  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project 1-26-12

I-183-001

I attended the Jan. 13 public hearing and am convinced.  
• The 2020 IS not needed for  
Wisconsin energy requirements. The public  
Service Commission's 2010 assessment was that our  
state has an excess capacity with a planning reserve  
margin of above 15% thru 2016.

I-183-002

• It is that the "NO ACTION Alternative"  
is the use option.  
• USDA can better serve rural development by NOT  
allowing a For-profit company(s) to take over farmlands, woods,  
homesteads and out family farms - polluting with massive  
towers and towers that filter in ground  
water, disturb beauty &  
Optional: Name: I & Ken Stark health of rural  
life & farms.  
Address: Richland County

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~postmark~~ 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

FEB. 13

email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

information and up can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse>

#### I-183-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### I-183-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
Service

Public Meetings  
January 9 to 13, 2012  
Hampton and Plainview, Minnesota and  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

#### I-184-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

#### I-184-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-184-001

I-184-002

Concerned about health effects  
and land value. The proposed  
line are right by our farm/home.  
At 70 years, I don't want to move  
out of our house.

Optional: Name: Bob Steenlage

Address: W24418 Hopcomb Coulee, Mapleville, WI 54630

If you would like to take this form to a public meeting, please mail by January 30, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp.

FEB. 13

Or email your comments to [stevenia.steenlage@usda.gov](mailto:stevenia.steenlage@usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWZ-Cap2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

From: Debra Stith [mailto:simple7630@aol.com]  
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:20 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020

I-185-001

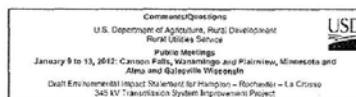
This email is to express our opinion re: CapX2020 and my opinion is NO. We recently attended one of the many meetings being held re: this topic. You might think this project has gone too far to turn back now but let's not allow a problem to just keep growing. This project is of no value to our area and we are totally against these unhealthy and unsightly power lines being placed anywhere in our area. We are not willing to contribute one penny towards this unnecessary project. Please, listen to the people who are taxpayers and voters, and stop the insanity.

Thank you, Stephanie.

David A. and Debra J. Stith  
N15421 Hollow Lane  
Galesville, WI 54630

#### I-185-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-186-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-186-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-186-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendixes A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-186-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.
- I-186-005** Additional comments: To whom it may not concern!  
The federal government has been ~~over~~ involved in promoting Energy efficiency since the Carter administration (35 yrs) and the use of electricity has been slowed down, but the price has stayed high for the Rural consumer. The large Power Supply (investor owned) companies do not care for the well being of the people. This CapX2020 is being proposed to sell wholesale power from Power Stations in the grid of the Dakotas etc!! No new wind farms are being built, because the Stimulus money of 2009 was used up - so power to the people! Right on! Money talks, Bullshit walks!  
Stephanie Strength
- I-186-006** Signature: Douglas J. Stokke Date: 2/12/12  
Print Name: Douglas J. Stokke  
Address: 219 Ramsland  
Westby, Wisconsin 54687

If you would like to take this form with you, please photocopy it to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
E-mail your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.rural.usda.gov/ERP/LineCapX2020/AlternativeRochHamLaC.asp

## I-186-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-186-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-186-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-186-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

## I-186-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

## I-186-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

1 things like French Island, which is an Xcel company,  
2 and it works. You take our refuse from our  
3 throw-away society and turn it into electricity. And  
4 we need to concentrate more on those types of things.  
5 Alternatives.

6 The Cap Vision Plan study was  
7 prepared from 2004 to 2005. We need to update it a  
8 little bit. We need to emphasize renewables and  
9 really spend USDA money for things of that nature. I  
10 don't need any more time. Thank you.

11 MS. RICHTER: Susan will be  
12 followed by Joan Schnable?

I-187-001 13 SUSAN SUHR: My name is Susan  
14 Suhr, S-U-H-R. I live at State Highway 88 where I'm  
15 on a century farm. I'm opposed to the -- CapX, the  
16 no action alternative is what we want to impose. Our  
I-187-002 17 generation has been operational in our dairy farm  
18 since 1973. The meetings were not set for the farmer  
19 who milks cows. I'm here representing my family. We  
20 have had profound changes over the last 39 years.  
21 We've been able to remain in operation even during  
22 the 1990s when Wisconsin lost almost 40 percent of  
23 our dairy farmers.

I-187-003 24 We feel that it is USDA's  
25 responsibility to support our local agriculture and

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### I-187-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M03-Historic.

### I-187-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

### I-187-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

I-187-003

1 respect the farmers and other landowners. All are  
2 threatened by the CapX2020 project. Farmers along  
3 alternate 88 have precious resources that we rely on  
4 to support our dairy. Our 195-acre farm has been in  
5 the family since 1892. We were designated a century  
6 farm in 1992. It's always been a dairy. We have 35  
7 cows, we have 30 head of young stock, 70 crop acres,  
8 the balance is woodland. The difference in our  
9 cropland -- we would have three fields that were  
10 impacted. We don't have a lot of fields, and one is  
11 right directly in front of our house.

I-187-005

12 This is a heritage farm. As  
13 special characters, we have beehives, we have an  
14 on-site bakery. We have a team of draft horses as  
15 you can see there. Our house was built from the clay  
16 of our soil. Our forefather's built that home from  
17 our clay, fired it on-site and built that house.  
18 That is how important this is to me. I'm very  
19 passionate about this.

I-187-006

20 I'm also concerned about tourism,  
21 because I am part of that tourism. And the bakery is  
22 a big part. We have a CSA out on Highway 88, which  
23 is also supported by the USDA. They have an on-site  
24 pizza that people come from all over the area. It's  
25 very important to keep this as scenic and as pristine

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#### I-187-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O02-Dairy Cattle.

#### I-187-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

#### I-187-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

I-187-006

1 as possible. And if you haven't driven 88, you are  
2 missing a wonderful treat. I would not want to live  
3 anywhere else.

I-187-007

4 Our vision for the future  
5 generations is to sustain our living while preserving  
6 the land. We have a son who's 30 years old who has a  
7 child, and when we heard about CapX in the last  
8 couple of weeks, he said, "Mom and Dad, I am not  
9 interested. I don't want it." To have something go  
10 to that 5th generation and have something like this  
11 put a stop to it like that, is unacceptable. And I  
12 feel that the no alternative option is the way to go.

I-187-008

13 Our impact to the property value,  
14 public health safety, tourism, agri tourism, impact  
15 on agricultural practice and our farm animals, the  
16 stray voltage, we went through that in the 1980s. We  
17 were told we were poor managers, we weren't feeding  
18 right, they weren't drinking water. We would go down  
19 to the barn and we would have a dead cow. And it  
20 wasn't once, it was ten times. And we fought with  
21 the utilities. Thank you.

22 MS. RICHTER: Joan will be  
23 followed by Travis Plank.

24 JOAN SCHNABEL: I'm Joan Schnable,  
25 I live in Fountain City. Several years ago, I think

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### I-187-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

### I-187-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.



From: Mike Thedens [mailto:mthedens01@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 9:13 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Capx2020 project for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line

### USDA Public Comment Sheet

#### CapX Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Name: Mike Thedens

Address: 4313 Hwy 247 NE Elgin , Mn 55932

#### Comments:

**I-188-001**

I have a number of concerns with the preferred route that is being proposed along my 160 acre century farm where I reside in Olmsted County, Farmington Township, Section 9. The actual tax description of the property is Sect-09 Twp-108 Range-013 160.00 AC or SW ¼ Sec 9 108 13. My century farm is located on map 23 of the CapX2020 project map for Hampton to Rochester to LaCrosse. On this map it indicates the preferred route is to be along the north ½ mile long property line of my farm.

**I-188-002**

My first concern is how this transmission line will impact my farm and also my parents and cousins property located in Section 9 of Farmington Township. Looking at map 23, in the middle of Section 9, the preferred route for the transmission line changes from going east/west to north/south. The concern with this is the 80 acre farm to the north of my property is my parent's farm. Their farm has the preferred transmission line going along both the ¼ mile long south property line and the ½ mile long east property line. My parents are retired and sometime in the near future this will be my property and will expand my continuous farm acreage from 160 acres to 240 acres. When this happens my farm will be divided by ¼ mile of transmission line along with ¾ mile of transmission line along it perimeter property lines. Besides my parent's farm, is my cousin's 160 acre farm to the east of my parent's farm in Section 9. This is the home of my father's sister where she raised her family and her granddaughter currently has ownership. I am interested in purchasing this 160 acre farm when my cousin decides to sell. My cousin mentioned that they would let me know when they want to sell the farm. When this would happen, along with my parent's farm I would

#### **I-188-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M03-Historic.

#### **I-188-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

<b>I-188-002</b>	<p>expand my farm acreage to a continuous 400 acre farm that would end up being divided by ¼ mile transmission line and ¼ mile transmission line along the perimeter property lines. These opportunities to expand my farm were in the planning staging for the past number of years and before any thoughts of any proposed transmission lines. My family over the past 150 years has owned up to 540 acres of the 620 acres that make up Section 9 in Farmington Township. It is my intent to own the property of my parent/cousins, besides what I currently own and past it onto my sons and keep the farm in the family.</p> <p>Besides concerns of transmission lines dividing the farm property I am also concerned about other items such as land values, farm operation flexibility, aesthetics and recreation.</p>	<p><b>I-188-003</b></p> <p>Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.</p>
<b>I-188-003</b>	<p>Land values are a very big concern. My family as stated previously has a made a big property investment in Section 9 for over 150 years. If this transmission line would be routed thru Section 9 as proposed then this would have a negative impact on the resale/loan value of all this property. I know if I was given the opportunity to purchase two similar farms (size, building site, tillable acres) and the only major difference was one had transmission lines and the other did not, I know I would not offer as much money to purchase the property with the transmission lines. Why would someone else do any different? Transmission lines certainly do not make the landscape more appealing to look at. With the situation of my parent's farm they are retired and depend on the farm income and the value of their property to take care of them for the rest of their life. What happens if they go into a nursing home? The less their farm is worth the fewer choices they have available to them. I know the placement of these transmission lines will have a negative impact on the value of the farms. Also Farmington Township only allows buildable sites to be on minimum of 80 acres. Since my parents farm is only 80 acres there is no way that they can split up and try to sell a portion of the property without any transmission lines on it to try and recoup any negative impact it may have on their farm as a whole.</p> <p>The future flexibility of the farm or farms in Section 9 of Farmington Township is going to affect by the placement of transmission lines. I know on my cousins farm for instance the need to build a new house is required especially if I purchase the property and one of my sons decide to build a house there. The old abandond building site is not much worth salvaging so moving the house and building site to a new location is a strong possibility. Transmission lines will impact the location of where to setup a new building site in the future.</p>	

I-188-004

The aesthetic impact to the farm will also be negative. Who wants to look out the window of their house or drive a tractor while doing field work and enjoying nature to see a transmission line in the middle it? Well, certainly not me. I have always enjoyed spending time on my farm and part of that is the scenery that is currently there.

Then there is the impact the transmission lines will have on the recreation of the property. Besides doing field work and enjoying the scenery, my sons and I also deer and pheasant hunt on the farm. Over the past few years we have also seen bald eagles flying around and nesting on and or near our farm. Having transmission lines may not have a large impact on this, but it certainly takes away from the setting of being in the middle of nature doing something you enjoy and then seeing this man made transmission line in it.

These are my concerns of the proposed transmission lines on my farm and the other farms near by in Olmsted County of Farmington Township Section 9

I-188-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

**I-189-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

**I-189-001**

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\* \* \* \*

**CRAIG THOENY:** I live at S2275.

State Highway 35. I was talking to them about the eagles, and they said making a comment about the eagle population down there would be helpful. So I'm probably -- the State Highway 35 property is, I'm going to say, is a half mile away from the Mississippi River, and my wife and I have walked along the river road, and eagles are seen there frequently. And I'm trying to think, it would have probably been -- you know, it would be spring, you know, late winter, early spring when the water starts to open. But I've counted as many as 70 eagles sitting in one tree. And that would be just over in Buffalo City.

And then if you go out on State Road 88, which is another route the power line is proposed to go. Golden Plump, which is a commercial chicken raising operation, and they built barns in that whole, you know, Arcadia, Fountain City, Alma area, and then they lease the barns back to the landowners or the property owners. And then they raise chickens in these barns, fryers and stuff.

Well then -- I don't know how often, but it's got to be several times a year they

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952-922-1955

I-189-001

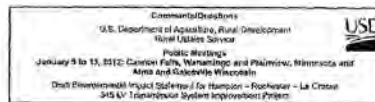
1 have to clean the litter out of the barns, and they  
2 spread it on the fields. And then again -- this is  
3 an eagle comment -- there's, I can't think of the  
4 county road that goes from 88 towards Waumandee, but  
5 at that time I actually drove into the field and  
6 counted the eagles, and I counted over 70. And those  
7 are all Bald Eagles. So there's lots of eagles in  
8 there. So I'm giving that information to you.

9 \* \* \* \*

10 CHARLES UMBANHOWAR: I live at  
11 35531 10th Avenue, and the postal office is Dennison.  
12 And that means we are most concerned about the  
13 alternative route that would run through Dennison.  
14 Because I guess our greatest concern is one, we are  
15 restoring a native prairie. The line would not go  
16 through that, but it would go within 1,000 - 1,500  
17 feet of that. But that line in general goes through  
18 what is now unspoiled open land, farmland, and it  
19 would really ruin the scenic view. And I don't know  
20 what the implications would be for environmentally.

21 But nevertheless, if you could  
22 build it along 52, which is already disturbed, we  
23 think it would be better than having it in an area  
24 that is undisturbed, essentially. And Warsaw is a  
25 township is where we live, and it sees itself as a

Kirby Kennedy & Associates  
952-922-1955



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-190-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-190-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-190-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-190-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature [Signature] Date 2/1/12  
Print Name Stephanie A. Strength  
Address 1012 S. Main St. Apt 2  
Neenah, WI 54956

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by February 13, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fill out form in black or blue ink on the back of this form. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Or email your comments to: Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.federalregister.gov/2012/01/17/2012-01-17-usda-rd-utilities-programs-ltr-cv-12-001

### I-190-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-190-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-190-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-190-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



Dear Ms. Strength—

**I-191-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEPI regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

**I-191-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP 11 investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **February 2012** to the address on the back of this form. Fill the form in there at the address above, on the inside, inside of this cover, add a stamp and date.

**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**

Delivered your candidate to **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**

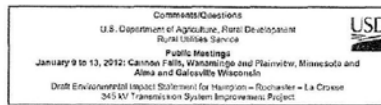
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
http://www.usda.gov/officeofpublicaffairs/2012/02/06/USDA-LEADS-2012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other. A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

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Additional comments:

(Optional)

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 2/14/12

Print Name Teresa Trappner

Address 33301 S. Jug Creek Rd

LaFarge, WI 54639

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/USDA/2012/napoleon-rochester-lacrosse-245k-volts-transmission-system-improvement-project>

### I-192-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-192-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-192-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-192-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



1 that's dead weight, because nobody in their right  
2 mind wants to buy that property and put up with it.

3 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. I  
4 want to thank everybody. It is ten of 8:00, and if  
5 no one else wants to make the first comment that they  
6 have been able to make tonight, I know that there is  
7 at least one individual that said that they wanted  
8 to continue their comment, and that was Joe Morris.

9 So I want to ask, again, I want to be  
10 fair to everyone here. Again, has everybody had an  
11 opportunity to make any comment they would like to  
12 make? You do? Okay. How about anybody else? Okay.  
13 Then before we start, besides Joe, who would like to  
14 make a secondary comment for three minutes? Just so  
15 I have a sense. One, two, three, three of you.  
16 Okay. I think we are doing very well in terms of  
17 time. I want to thank you all again for your  
18 cooperation again tonight.

19 MR. JEREDTUXEN: My name is Jered  
20 Tuxen. J-E-R-E-D T-U-X-E-N. I'm at N15388 Delaney  
21 Road. I think the comments that I want to direct are  
22 specific to the USDA, since it is your money that you  
23 are looking to give here.

24 If I think of what that department is  
25 looking to do in its rural development, I guess my

# I-193-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

I-193-001

I-193-001

1 question would be around is this truly developing  
2 a rural area? And when I look at the monies that  
3 would be spent and the comments that were made  
4 earlier, that is the industries in our rural area  
5 are agriculture and tourism, and does this project  
6 promote the rural development of both of those?  
7 And I think the answer is not.

8 So, if you look at the monies that  
9 you are giving out, could they be spent in other  
10 areas for rural development in this area? And that  
11 would be specifically for agriculture and tourism.  
12 So if you are looking to spend the money, I suggest  
13 maybe some studies around those areas and not in  
14 power distribution. Or a good suggestion may be  
15 keeping those monies for a rainy day perhaps and  
16 looking at the budgets and saying, "Does this money  
17 need to be spent at all?"

18 So we have all heard the comments  
19 and everybody has great points. A lot of them are  
20 directed at getting around this, but tonight was  
21 about giving you folks answers to what you're looking  
22 for, and that is should you spend the money on this,  
23 and I think you are hearing that you shouldn't.

24 So, we are all for rural development  
25 here. We would love to see you invest in the area.

I-193-002

1 But this is not an investment to our development.  
2 This is an investment to others' development. Thanks.

3 MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. I saw  
4 three hands come up in terms of three people that  
5 would like to have an additional three minutes; is  
6 that correct? Is that pretty much everyone then?  
7 Can you show me your hands if you want to speak a  
8 second time? The three of you, okay. That will get  
9 us right about to 8:00. Others may decide they want  
10 another three minutes, but at 8:00 I'm going to give  
11 a break to the Court Reporter, and I think that is  
12 only fair, and I think we can also determine at that  
13 point if there is anyone that wants to remain after  
14 she comes back from break. I saw the gentleman with  
15 the hat first before I saw this woman. Thank you.

16 MR. MORRIS: Thanks a lot for the  
17 opportunity to speak again. I was the one that  
18 talked about this extension cord from North Dakota  
19 passed through our communities. And even though we  
20 will not benefit from that, we will bear the burden.  
21 I think it has been mentioned here by other people.  
22 I feel like it is an honor to be among the people  
23 here tonight who have testified and spoken so  
24 brilliantly and articulately about how they feel  
25 about this project. But we are going to be burdened

## I-193-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

1 have to clean the litter out of the barns, and they  
2 spread it on the fields. And then again -- this is  
3 an eagle comment -- there's, I can't think of the  
4 county road that goes from 88 towards Waumandee, but  
5 at that time I actually drove into the field and  
6 counted the eagles, and I counted over 70. And those  
7 are all Bald Eagles. So there's lots of eagles in  
8 there. So I'm giving that information to you.

9 \* \* \* \*

I-194-001

10 CHARLES UMBANHOWAR: I live at  
11 35531 10th Avenue, and the postal office is Dennison.  
12 And that means we are most concerned about the  
13 alternative route that would run through Dennison.  
14 Because I guess our greatest concern is one, we are  
15 restoring a native prairie. The line would not go  
16 through that, but it would go within 1,000 - 1,500

I-194-002

17 feet of that. But that line in general goes through  
18 what is now unspoiled open land, farmland, and it  
19 would really ruin the scenic view. And I don't know  
20 what the implications would be for environmentally.

I-194-003

21 But nevertheless, if you could  
22 build it along 52, which is already disturbed, we  
23 think it would be better than having it in an area  
24 that is undisturbed, essentially. And Warsaw is a  
25 township is where we live, and it sees itself as a

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### I-194-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I01-General/Other.

### I-194-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-194-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-194-003

1 rural township and we're kind of resistant to  
2 development. It's mainly farms. And people who are  
3 hobby farmers, like us. So that's another strike  
4 against that land. It seems to me is you're changing  
5 the character of the township.

6 \* \* \* \*

7 HENDRIKA UMBANHOWAR: I would only  
8 add that no matter where the line will eventually  
9 run, there will be unhappy people. And so it's a  
10 matter of looking at it, I think both in terms of the  
11 economics, the esthetics, and the environment.  
12 Whether that's the environment, physical environment  
13 or whether it's -- any other way you might want to  
14 describe it, as I said, esthetically. So to run it  
15 past our place would actually end up in a right  
16 angle, which again is through the countryside. That  
17 so far -- it doesn't have any services, no roads, I  
18 mean, other than gravel roads.

19 So it's going to, it seems to me,  
20 cost a lot more to run it the alternate route than  
21 the existing route, which we take on a weekly basis.  
22 We travel down Highway 52 to the Mayo Clinic. And  
23 that whole area has been -- there's all sorts of  
24 infrastructure on it already. So why not add just  
25 another transmission line. It's not going to make it

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1 rural township and we're kind of resistant to  
2 development. It's mainly farms. And people who are  
3 hobby farmers, like us. So that's another strike  
4 against that land. It seems to me is you're changing  
5 the character of the township.

6 \* \* \* \*

I-195-001

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9 run, there will be unhappy people. And so it's a  
10 matter of looking at it, I think both in terms of the  
11 economics, the esthetics, and the environment.  
12 Whether that's the environment, physical environment  
13 or whether it's -- any other way you might want to  
14 describe it, as I said, esthetically. So to run it  
15 past our place would actually end up in a right  
16 angle, which again is through the countryside. That  
17 so far -- it doesn't have any services, no roads, I  
18 mean, other than gravel roads.

I-195-002

19 So it's going to, it seems to me,  
20 cost a lot more to run it the alternate route than  
21 the existing route, which we take on a weekly basis.  
22 We travel down Highway 52 to the Mayo Clinic. And  
23 that whole area has been -- there's all sorts of  
24 infrastructure on it already. So why not add just  
25 another transmission line. It's not going to make it

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### I-195-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-195-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

I-195-002

1 look any better, but on the other hand all of the  
2 services are there already. And I know that there  
3 are farms along those roads, but they must already  
4 have easements because of the existing lines.

5 So I think in terms of the cost  
6 and the fact that this is already geared for  
7 commercial industrial sites. I guess I would rather  
8 have them have them. And it's not just a matter of  
9 not in my backyard, but I think in a rather  
10 unimpassioned way, we can state that to have it along  
11 the alternate line would really disturb not only our  
12 land and its easement, but there are some other

I-195-003

13 places that would be destroyed, as in Prairie Creek.  
14 A neighbor has a prairie easement, and I can't speak  
15 for the rest of the neighborhood, but there are some  
16 very, very -- we have a native plant species which is  
17 endangered called Prairie Bush Clover.

18 And we have long discussions about  
19 what the electrical transmission lines do to human  
20 health. And one of our dearest friends, Paul  
21 Wellstone, who you may have heard of, we were very  
22 close friends with the Wellstones. And of course he

I-195-004

23 wrote a book on the power line. And there's great  
24 debate about whether or not there is spillage that  
25 would harm plants, humans, and animals. But I'm just

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### I-195-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

### I-195-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-195-004

1 going to leave it at that.

2 \* \* \* \*

3 JOE LOPEZ: 5908 330 Street Way,  
4 Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our  
5 alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit  
6 A1. And no property -- no housing would be affected  
7 if you use this route. It already goes through this  
8 property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is  
9 over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if  
10 we turned it right there -- I know that's still your  
11 property down there, right? And then turned it, and  
12 then it would be way away from your house. That's  
13 the only other route I can think of that wouldn't  
14 affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.

15 \* \* \* \*

16 MICHELLE SANDSTROM. 30127 59th  
17 Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit A1, to  
18 minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we  
19 would prefer the power line pole go through the  
20 middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield  
21 addition. See Exhibit A1.

22 \* \* \* \*

23 MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have  
24 tables here in front. We thought it would be a  
25 little more cozy if you all would gather up to the

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MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

**I-196-001**

**I-196-002**

**I-196-003**

**I-196-004**

(Optional) Signature M. J. White Date 1-31-12  
Print Name Melanie White  
Address E13292 Muller Rd  
Ontario WI 54651

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail it to [redacted] 2012 to your address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside. Steps of paper used, add a return address.

Feb. 13/14

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

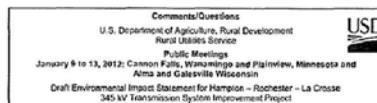
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.usda.gov/officeofpublicaffairs/2012/02/06/2012-02-06-01>

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other. A03-Connected Actions.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives. C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-197-001** | In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-197-002** | The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP II regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-197-003** | The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-197-004** | In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-197-005** | *It just makes no sense to build unneeded and unwanted transmission towers that compromise the environment and the economic viability of communities through reduced property values when positive alternatives exist:*
- I-197-006** | *\* low voltage alternative  
\* increased efficiency measures through incentives to reduce demand by replacing old appliances and commercial applications for reduction of demand.  
\* incentives for local generation of electricity*

(Optional)  
Signature Bevly Vailanceort Date 2/12/12  
Print Name Bevly Vailanceort  
Address E4251 Douglas Rd  
LaVelle, WI 53941

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.  
Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/USFPA/CapX2020/Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

### I-197-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-197-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-197-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

### I-197-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-197-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

### I-197-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

**I-198-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

1 decrease in livestock production and health.

2 Point 5, safety and health issue  
3 of operating farm equipment near and around the power  
4 lines. And I do believe there's not the need for the  
5 transmission line of this size due to lower demands  
6 from conservation of electricity. And if needed be,  
7 use the cleaner sources of energy when the need  
8 arises.

9 In closing, I say not to proposed  
10 CapX2020 transmission line. Thank you.

11 MS. RICHTER: Thank you. And  
12 Linda will be next followed by Brian Becker?

**I-198-001**

13 **LINDA VANART:** Hello, my name is  
14 Linda Vanart. I live in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I'm a  
15 member of Citizens Energy Task Force, a bunch of  
16 volunteer citizens in Minnesota and Wisconsin who are  
17 opposing the CapX2020 project. Just two years ago in  
18 2009 Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar announced that  
19 the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish  
20 Refuge had been designated a wetland of international  
21 importance. Refuge manager Don Holtman said the  
22 designation was aimed at strengthening public  
23 awareness and appreciation of the role wetlands play  
24 in sustaining environmental health, economic  
25 enterprise, and recreational well-being. And yet,

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I-198-001

1 here we are just two years later considering  
2 sacrificing 12 acres of marsh and wetland for a  
3 monstrous 345kV power line with a 150-foot  
4 right-of-way to make an electric highway from coal  
5 mines in the Dakotas to big cities east and south of  
6 Wisconsin.

7 Exactly what will the CapX2020  
8 project destroy in the refuge? According to the  
9 rural utility service, 1.9 acres of marsh and 9.6  
10 acres of mature floodplain forest will be sacrificed.  
11 Well, why are these areas important? Because the  
12 marsh and floodplain forest could not be commercially  
13 developed, they are the largest and most viable  
14 remnants of natural plant and animal communities in  
15 Wisconsin. They are home to 51 species of mammals,  
16 119 species of fish, 42 species of freshwater  
17 muscles, 45 species of reptiles and amphibians.  
18 Together with the trees and plants, this area is  
19 often called an ecological treasure, reducing soil  
20 erosion, improving water quality, reducing the flood  
21 damage and providing scenic and recreational  
22 landscape.

I-198-002

23 People come here for fishing,  
24 hunting, wildlife observation, recreation, and to  
25 escape even temporarily our industrial society. Ten

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## I-198-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

I-198-002

1 acres of open water will also be comprised by the  
2 enormous towers and high voltage lines of CapX. This  
3 area is part of the Mississippi Flyway, a route used  
4 by 40 percent of North American waterfowl. Although  
5 geese, large ducks, swanns, pelicans, herrins,  
6 waders, cranes and fowel, because of their size, are  
7 the most frequent victims of power line deaths. Some  
8 800 species of birds use the flyway to migrate. 91  
9 bird species call this area home.

10 The flyway extends, according to  
11 fish and wildlife specialists, ten miles on either  
12 side of the river. According to Fish and Wildlife,  
13 the only way to protect our birds from colliding with  
14 power lines is to bury them underground or not build  
15 them at all. The power lines, they say, should not  
16 be located in the refuge, wooded bluffs, floodplain,  
17 wetlands, or lower streamages. Specific to our area  
18 are regularly developing dense fogs. The fog and  
19 other inclement weather conditions, neither balls nor  
20 strips of plastic, lights nor innovative line  
21 configurations can protect birds from fatal collision  
22 or electricution.

23 In 1980 a particularly awful bird  
24 strike was documented at Galesville. 3,000 to 5,000  
25 song birds were killed on a foggy night in August as

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I-198-002

1 they struck -- CTF opposed the line. We vote for no  
2 bill option. Thank you.

3 MS. RICHTER: And Brian will be  
4 followed by Vicky Kamrowski.

5 BRIAN: I'll submit mine in  
6 writing.

7 MS. RICHTER: That's fine. Is  
8 Vicky here? And you were able to do it as well.  
9 Great. Ron Kazmierczak? All right. Submitted one.  
10 Okay. You are covered. And Dan Schmidtknecht? I'm  
11 sorry if I butchered that. Can I help you set up in  
12 any way?

13 DAN SCHMIDTKNECHT: We were  
14 notified Friday at 3:30 about this project, and then  
15 we received a letter on Saturday. So what I have  
16 here is just put together in a short, short amount of  
17 time. I took some photos of the last time that an  
18 electric company went through my farm and farm area,  
19 and of the massive destruction that they have done,  
20 and that's what I have on this picture here. Anyway,  
21 what it shows is where they were supposed to go 20  
22 feet, ended up going 50 feet, 54 feet onto trees.  
23 Here's trimming that was supposed to be done. And do  
24 you think there would have been a knock at the door  
25 or let us know that they were going to come to our

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1 pawn in the whole thing and I would urge you to take  
2 an alternative action and believe that this isn't  
3 needed.

4 Thank you.

5 MODERATOR RICHTER: Is Linda here?

6 MS. VAN ART: Yes.

7 MODERATOR RICHTER: Great. And Linda  
8 will be followed by -- I'm having difficulty with  
9 this name. Is it David Oelkers?

10 MR. OELKERS: Oelkers.

11 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. So  
12 you know you are next.

13 MS. VAN ART: My name is Linda  
14 Van Art. I am a retired nurse. I worked 37 years  
15 primarily as a nurse midwife and public health nurse.  
16 I first learned about electromagnetic fields while I  
17 was reading about CAPX 2020 about a half a year ago.  
18 Some of this, one of the other people have mentioned  
19 already.

20 "In 1979 in Denver, Colorado a  
21 doctor named Nancy Wertheimer was looking at unusual  
22 clusters of childhood cancer in Denver, Colorado.  
23 She found that children living in homes near 345  
24 kilovolt power lines were developing leukemia, brain  
25 cancer and lymphoma more than twice as often as

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### I-199-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-199-001

I-199-001

1 children in low-current (phonetic) homes.

2 These statistics have been replicated  
3 by epidemiologists for more than thirty years in  
4 countries around the world.

5 Leukemia in children is a rare  
6 disease. It is one in 1500. The risk of Leukemia,  
7 however, has doubled, to at least one in 800, within  
8 165 feet of a high-voltage power line. The World  
9 Health Organization, after reviewing all of the  
10 studies on EMFs in 2007 said that there was a small  
11 but consistent correlation between EMF exposure and  
12 childhood leukemia.

13 The Minnesota Department of Health  
14 also noted a consistent correlation between EMFs and  
15 childhood leukemia. Their public health officials  
16 recommended in their 2002 paper on EMFs a policy  
17 called "Prudent Avoidance" in relation to  
18 high-voltage power lines. What does "Prudent  
19 Avoidance" mean? "Prudent avoidance" means avoid  
20 high-voltage lines. They recommend to conserve  
21 energy, which is why our energy use has been  
22 dropping, one of the reasons. They recommend  
23 small-scale distributive generation and production  
24 of electricity. And finally, as a last resort,  
25 if you have to build a high-voltage power line,

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I-199-001

1 mitigation, which means bury the line, or have the  
2 children 165 feet away. That would be a right-of-way  
3 of 330 feet.

4 I think that the no action  
5 alternative that is mentioned in the EIS would be the  
6 most prudent choice to make for this power line.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: Some new people  
9 have just arrived. We have seats in front, if you  
10 would like to join us upfront, so you could be a  
11 little more comfortable.

12 It is David, right?

13 MR. OELKERS: Yes.

14 MODERATOR RICHTER: David will be  
15 followed by Dan Pretasky.

16 MR. OELKERS: My name is Dave, David  
17 Oelkers. O-E-L-K-E-R-S. I live at W26899 Mesa Lane  
18 in Arcadia, Wisconsin. I want to preface my comments  
19 by simply saying that these are my personal comments.  
20 I am the general manager of Riverland Energy  
21 Cooperative, but I want folks to know that these are  
22 my personal comments.

23 I can share with you that, you know,  
24 from my position I'm aware of the fact that Riverland  
25 Energy Cooperative's kilowatt hours purchased in the

From: L V [mailto:lindavanart@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 6:24 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC

Response to Environmental Impact Statement of RUS on 2-13-12

**I-200-001**

- 1.) I was disappointed that no one with any experience in medicine, nursing, public health, or epidemiology was on your staff listed at the end of the statement. It shows.
- 2.) Table 3-9 does not match CAPX's chart 2c in their brochure "Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): the Basics." Your chart does not identify who "projected" the figures at the right of way, but CAPX admits to 20 milliGauss at 75 feet from the tower of a 345kV line. Your projected mG exposure for all lines is under 12, often in the single digits. David O. Carpenter and many other public health officials worldwide hold 2-4 mG as the outside safe exposure. Who is telling us the truth about our exposure—the RUS or CAPX?
- 3.) You referenced the American Cancer Society twice—saying there is no persuasive evidence that EMF's are linked to childhood leukemia. Your staff, free of medical professionals, is oblivious to the extreme conflicts of interest in the ACS. The only prevention they promote is smoking cessation. In 2002, they finally divested themselves of public relations people also handling tobacco companies. They promote yearly mammograms for young women although science advises against this practice—they receive monies from mammography industries. They will not join any testimony or action against air pollution, organochlorine pesticides, rGBH (Europe won't buy our dairy food), diethylstilbestrol (other countries won't buy our meat) or residual pesticides in our food, even for infants. In 2010 the ACS rejected the April 2010 President's Cancer Panel report "Reducing Environmental Cancer". They say "more studies are needed" to prove environmental causes of cancer.
- 4.) You quote the National Academy of Sciences review of medical literature done 15 years ago. Their conclusion that EMF's does not cause cancer in animals is outdated. EMF's have been found in this century to be a "promoter" of cancer, viz. Fedrowitz and Loscher, 2008. Other recent studies include Belson, 2007; Draper, 2005; Foliat, 2006; Greenland, 2000; Huss, 2009; Kabuto, 2006; Lowenthal, 2007; Macillo, 2009; Svendsen, 2007; Yang, 2008. These are peer-reviewed studies, not reviewed by engineers, and conclude there is significant hazard for childhood leukemia, Alzheimer's and senile dementia.
- 5.) You reference the classification of EMF's by the International Agency for Research on Cancer 2002 as a Class 2b carcinogen "along with pickles and coffee. Yes, and along with DDT, carbon tetrachloride, lindane, welding fumes, glass wool. Typically, if an agent is classified as a Group 2b carcinogen, precautionary measures are taken at workplaces and special care is recommended if it is present in consumer products. Here we are talking about involuntary exposure day in and day out for hours each day to people who live and work by these lines.
- 6.) Finally, you mention the World Health Organization which even with its penetration by industry is constrained to conclude "Consistent epidemiological evidence suggest that chronic low-intensity ELF magnetic field exposure is associated with an increased risk of childhood leukemia. However, the evidence for a causal relationship is limited...but some precautionary measures are warranted." What "precautionary measures" do you recommend given your statement of purpose is to improve the quality of life in rural America?

Linda Van Art  
2211 East Avenue  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

**I-200-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

1 MR. VAN LAARHOVEN: Good job with my  
2 name.

3 MODERATOR RICHTER: I thought I did a  
4 good job. Thank you.

5 MR. VAN LAARHOVEN: My name is Pete  
6 Van Laarhoven and I live at W518 Wurhaie (phonetic)  
7 Road, Holmen. That is on the north end of LaCrosse  
8 County. I am a 30-year resident property owner.

9 On November 8th, 2011 the Wisconsin  
10 Public Service Corporation released its Draft  
11 Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed  
12 Alma to LaCrosse 345 kilovolt transmission line.  
13 In it they contend that the CAPX applicants have  
14 submitted projections of peak energy load demands  
15 that are more than double the predictions made by the  
16 PSC staff itself.

17 Wisconsin Statutes 196.49(3) and  
18 196.491(3)(D) state that, "Transmission line projects  
19 approved by the PSC of Wisconsin must have," and this  
20 is a quote, "costs that are in proportion to their  
21 benefits and must also not be overbuilt or designed  
22 in excess of probable future energy needs."

23 So, by the PSC's own estimates then,  
24 this transmission is not needed. Its only useful  
25 function will be to supply profits for greedy

## I-201-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-201-001

I-201-001

1 corporations. We as rate payers and taxpayers will  
2 be far better served by upgrading local power line  
3 infrastructure and power generation facilities.

4 If Dairyland's North LaCrosse to  
5 Alma 161 kilovolt line needs upgrading, then let  
6 Dairyland upgrade the thing. A concurrent 345  
7 kilovolt line, with all of its health, environmental  
8 and property devaluation issues is not needed.

9 The township of Farmington in North  
10 LaCrosse County is bisected by the proposed N765 leg  
11 of the Badger-Coulee line, that is CAPX 2020's evil  
12 twin. At the September 13th meeting at the Minora  
13 Town Hall we had unanimous opposition to that line,  
14 both lines. The Town Hall was standing room only.  
15 Because of this strong public disapproval, the  
16 Farmington Town Board unanimously passed a resolution  
17 in opposition to both the proposed CAPX 2020 line and  
18 the Badger-Coulee line.

19 I would like to submit a copy of this  
20 document at this time and have it entered into the  
21 record. (Handing.)

22 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you, Peter.  
23 Again, we have a moment here, if people would like to  
24 come forward and sit in the seats, if you are tired  
25 of standing, please feel free.

	<p>4/2011</p> <p>TOWN OF FARMINGTON</p> <p>RESOLUTION REGARDING CAPX2020 and ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT (3/11/11)</p> <p>WHEREAS, Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power and American Transmission Company (ATC) have proposed CapX2020 Phase I and Badger Coulee transmission line projects including a 345 kV high voltage power line from Alma to North La Crosse and North La Crosse to Madison; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the CapX2020 Hampton-LaCrosse and Badger Coulee ATC 345 kV projects include a proposed route corridor which cuts across rivers, farms, forests and valleys, scenic bluffs, and wildlife and waterfowl habitats, exceptional water resources, cultural and economic districts in the Town of Farmington; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington is charged with protecting and enhancing the Town's public safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the hills and coulees - which would be adversely affected by the 130 to 170 foot steel towers and high voltage power lines proposed for the CAPX2020 and Badger Coulee ATC projects; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the use of electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has declined significantly since a 2006 peak and demand is projected to remain flat in the predictable future; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, it is the township's belief that there are other ways of meeting any electrical need claimed by applicants that should be considered and implemented first, including efficiencies, demand and supply side management, locally produced and distributed renewable energy, and energy-related economic development, before high voltage transmission is considered; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, costs for the Alma to North La Crosse (\$250 million) to Madison (\$425 million) high voltage power line would cost ratepayers more than \$675million and be part of a \$23-36 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, building a high voltage transmission line would require use of public rights of way and condemnation of private property for easements; and the centerline of this transmission line on its 150 foot right of way could be placed within 75 feet of a residence; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a new 345kV transmission line will result in increased electricity costs for all ratepayers, loss of property value because of the view and dangers that high voltage power lines inherently carry, and create adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there is a growing body of health concerns including medical studies which have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by high voltage transmission lines, childhood leukemia, neurological diseases and conditions, and other health effects; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, transmission line projects approved by the PSC of WI are required by WI statutes (196.49 (3) and 196.49(3)(d)) to have costs that are in proportion to their benefits, must satisfy the reasonable needs of the public for adequate energy supply and must also not be overbuilt or designed in excess of probable future energy needs; and</p>
I-201-002	
I-201-003	
I-201-004	
I-201-005	
I-201-006	
I-201-007	
I-201-008	
I-201-009	
I-201-010	

## I-201-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

## I-201-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

## I-201-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-201-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

## I-201-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

## I-201-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J01-General/Other.

## I-201-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-201-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-201-011

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of WI (Stat. # 1.12(6)) is to site new transmission lines to the greatest extent feasible, utilizing existing corridors in the following order of priority: a) existing utility corridors, b) highway and railroad corridors, c) recreational trails with limitations, and d) new corridors; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that

I-201-012

1. The Town of Farmington opposes the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and specifically the Alma to North La Crosse and North La Crosse to Madison 345 kV power line; and

I-201-013

2. The Town requests that additional on the record public hearings be held near the Town of Farmington in Wisconsin before a recommendation on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is made for either project; and

I-201-014

3. The Town requests that it not be utilized as a pass through for transmission for which it receives no benefit; and

I-201-015

4. The Town requests that clear, detailed information be provided to the town explaining the perceived need for the 345kV powerline which includes supporting objective studies with a cost benefit analysis comparing the efficiency-only, locally produced and distributed generation options with the high voltage option; and

I-201-016

5. The Town insists that every effort be made in developing or enhancing the energy system on which the Town relies to do the following:

Implement and enforce WI State Statute 1993, Wisconsin Bill 414 that states: "In meeting energy demands, the policy of the State is that, to the extent cost-effective and technically feasible, options be considered based on the following priorities, in the order listed:

- (a) Energy conservation and efficiency.
- (b) Noncombustible renewable energy resources.
- (c) Combustible renewable energy resources.
- (d) Nonrenewable combustible energy resources, in the order listed:
  - 1) Natural gas.
  - 2) Oil or coal with a sulphur content of less than 1%.
  - 3) All other carbon-based fuels.

I-201-017

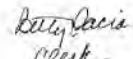
6. Furthermore, the Town requests adoption and action of Wisconsin's energy policy by implementing local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy, and to minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts of electric transmission.

The Town Clerk is authorized to request that the Town be added to project notice lists and request a copy of the application for the CAPX2020 and Badger-Coulee transmission projects from the utilities to be available in the Town. The Town Clerk is authorized to transmit this resolution and other appropriate documents to the WI Public Service Commission Docket # 5-CB-136 and Docket #137-CE-160 and to the Administrative Law Judge and state Commission staff conducting proceedings for the CAPX2020 and the Badger-Coulee 345 kV Transmission Line Projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Farmington hereby approves this resolution ADOPTED this 4th day of October, 2011.

  
Mayor

2

  
Clerk

## I-201-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

## I-201-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

## I-201-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-201-013

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

## I-201-014

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

## I-201-015

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-201-016

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

## I-201-017

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.



**Comments/Questions**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

**Public Meetings**

**January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-202-001

On November 8, 2011, The Wisconsin Public Service Corporation released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Alma to LaCrosse 345KV Transmission Line. In it they contend that the CapX applicants have submitted projections of peak energy load demands that are more than double predictions made by PSC staff. Wisconsin Statutes 196.49(3) and 196.49(3)(d) states that transmission line projects approved by the PSC of Wisconsin must have "costs that are in proportion to their benefits" and "must also not be overbuilt or designed in excess of probable future energy needs."

By the PSC  
own estimates  
then

→ This transmission line is not needed in the LaCrosse area. It's only useful function will be to supply profits for greedy corporations. We as rate-payers and taxpayers would be far better served by upgrading local → over

Optional: Name: Peter VanLaarhoven

Address: W5184 Hale Rd., Holmen, WI. 54636

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 20~~ **FEB. 13**, 2012 to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside, staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

**I-202-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

powerline infrastructure and power generation facilities. If Dairyland's North LaCrosse to Alma 161 KV line needs upgrading, then let Dairyland upgrade the damaged thing. A concurrent 345 KV line ~~is~~, with all its health, environmental, and property ~~value~~ devaluation issues, is not needed.

The Township of Farmington, in North LaCrosse County is bisected by the proposed N 765 leg of the Badger/Coulée line, CapX2020's evil twin. At a September 13 meeting in Mindoro Town Hall, we had unanimous opposition to the line. The town hall was standing room only. Because of this strong public disapproval, the Farmington Town Board unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to both the proposed CapX2020 line and the Badger/Coulée line. I'd like to submit a copy of this document at this time and have it entered into the record.

Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570





MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-203-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-203-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-203-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-203-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-203-005** *We need clean, local + sustainable energy in our own backyard. If we accept climate change, then I know we have the job of fixing it, so lets get going.*

(Optional)

Signature *Felicia Vieth* date *2/2/12*  
Print Name *Felicia Vieth*  
Address *209 Packer St.*  
*Elroy, WI 53601*

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by **FEB 13 2012** to the address on the back of this form. Fold the form in half so the address appears on the front. Staple or tape closed, add a return address.  
Direct your comments to: **Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov**  
Information and updates can be found on the following web site:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/2012/02/01/USDA-RDP-Feedback-System.html>

### I-203-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-203-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-203-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-203-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-203-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.

From: Joel [\[mailto:ceesixer@gmail.com\]](mailto:ceesixer@gmail.com)  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:01 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: Capx2020

I-204-001

Do not locate a mammoth 345 kv powerline in the Mississippi River Valley. To do so would be in complete contradiction with all the Shoreline, Bluffland, and viewshed conservation practices that are and have been taking place over the years in the River Valley. The conservation efforts are being done by Federal, State and Local laws, along with private conservation easements, etc. It would be a travesty to subvert those laws and those efforts with an eyesore powerline.

The beauty of the Mississippi River Valley is key to the economic prosperity of the region, and to the residents quality of life.

To locate a 200 ft. tall lighted powerline, which stands 100 ft. taller than the treelines, in the Mississippi River Valley would be a shortsighted economic & quality of life blunder. It would be a life sentence for this generation and those to come, to have this eyesore in the River Valley.

Joel VonHaden  
N12311 Scherr Rd.  
Trempealeau, WI 54661

#### I-204-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

I-205-001

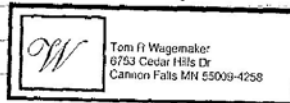
Stephanie Strength, USDA  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington DC 20250-1570

Dear Sirs :

I am in favor of the CapX Project  
from Hampton MN to Rochester MN  
to LaCrosse WI.

May God speed its construction.

Tom R. Wagemaker



507-263-3593

**I-205-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

From: Brad Walker [mailto:bnwalk@centurytel.net]  
 Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 3:00 PM  
 To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
 Subject: comments on the Draft EIS

Comments on RUS EIS by Bradley Walker, Assoc Prof. of Biology/Ecology, Retired

- I-206-001** | **Executive Summary** pg. 7 "Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action" Purpose 1)  
 Why isn't the system currently reliable? Shouldn't the local infrastructure be upgraded first? It would be cheaper and reduce energy use and cost.  
 2) The larger the system the more prone it is to "hacking" and/or terrorist attacks – not making it very reliable.  
 3) Doesn't this really mean that more electricity is produced locally than is needed for the immediate area?
- I-206-002** | Pg 13 **Alternatives Eliminated.** Bluff Route is this the Route 88a & b corridor?
- I-206-003** | Pg. 13 **Alternatives Eliminated.** I agree that the portion of the Q1 Route through the Black River Bottoms of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge should be removed from consideration. The Route 35 crossing of the Van Loon Wildlife area should also be removed from consideration for environmental, as well as, aviation reasons.
- I-206-004** | Pg 17 **Wisconsin** – paragraph 2. ...Offset approximately 300 feet rom WI-35 to avoid scenic easements. This is really DUMB. This creates a second 150-foot wide break in the forest cover, creating two additional edge effects and a second opening for invasive species and a corridor for predation. The Van Loon Wildlife Area is a high quality environment area and should not be crossed.
- I-206-005** | Table ES-3 pg. 24 **Biological Resources – Bird collisions.** It should be noted that bird collisions would be greatest where power lines cross or run along ridgelines, particularly if the height of the lines exceeds the height of the tree canopy. A high collision rate would be expected near the river in areas where birds leave the river to feed and return. Power lines exceeding the height of the tree canopy would greatly increase collisions.
- I-206-006** | **Connected Actions** pg. 81 I find this section lacking. The proposed Badger/Coulee Line (ATC) is definitely a connected action. Without the Proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Line the Badger Coulee will not be built. The lines running from the Dakotas to Hampton, MN is also a connected action. Without the line from the Dakotas the HRL line would not be of any use.
- I-206-007** | **2.0 Summary of Alternatives**  
**2.1 Development of Alternatives - Dairyland** **needs** additional transmission capacity. The word "need" implies that the facts are in and the need is documented. I don't feel that this is the case. It may well need to update its transmission lines. I saw nothing in section 1 to justify need. Where are the facts?

## I-206-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B01-General/Other.

## I-206-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

## I-206-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C06-Alternatives Eliminated.

## I-206-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C06-Alternatives Eliminated.

## I-206-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

## I-206-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

## I-206-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-206-008	<b>2.2.3 New Generation.</b> This is interesting – Dairyland Power has surplus generating capacity and Excel is complaining they don’t have enough and they are both in the Winona/La Crosse area. Somebody is wrong.
I-206-009	<b>2.2.4.2 Net Metering</b> The last sentence – Based on participation, without additional incentives, net metering would not be expected to have an impact. Did Dairyland Power look into offering incentives to individuals and/or companies to install solar, geothermal or wind. I have geothermal and would install solar, if there were a decent incentive.
I-206-010	<b>2.4.1 No Action</b> In the last paragraph it states that no action would likely result in higher electricity rates for consumers. <b>We have already been informed that the rate payers will pay for this line and about \$2 will be added to our bill each month. Also, about \$2 will be added to our bill each month to pay for the Badger-Coulee line (from the end of the CAPX2020 line through Madison). That is \$4 a month for something we don’t need and in the case of the Badger-Coulee line will receive NO benefits.</b>
I-206-011	<b>Table 2-5 Water Resources section</b> There is no mention of summer warming of streams due to clearing near the stream. This could have a significant impact on trout streams.  <b>3.2.1.4 Special Status Streams</b> Designated Trout Streams. You state that there are no trout streams along any of the WI routes but I believe there is one along the Route 88 path.  <b>3.2.3.1 Streams</b> You state no direct impact to streams but clearing a 150 ft. ROW in a wooded area would expose the stream to direct sunlight, which would have a surface warming effect. If the crossing occurs over a pool, as apposed to riffles or rapids, the effect would be greater.
I-206-012	<b>3.5.1.5 Special Status Species</b> The last two paragraphs are the same.
I-206-013	<b>State-Listed Species – Wisconsin</b> This information is available from WDNR under the National Heritage Inventory and organisms are listed by county.  <b>3.5.2.3</b>
I-206-014	<b>Wisconsin</b> “the proposed transmission line alignment centerline would be parallel to and approximately 400 feet from the roadway. The purpose of this distance is to avoid the scenic easements associated with the Great River Road, and to provide a buffer of a strip of wooded land.” This is environmentally <b>DUMB</b> . This creates a second disruption to the forest area, creating two more edge affects and a second corridor for predation and invasion by invasive species.

#### I-206-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### I-206-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C03-Use of Existing Generation and Transmission Lines.

#### I-206-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### I-206-011

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category F: Water Resources, F02-Surface Water.

#### I-206-012

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

#### I-206-013

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

#### I-206-014

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C06-Alternatives Eliminated.

<b>I-206-015</b>	<b>Summary</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> line you have 6,3 acres don't you mean 6.3 acres?
<b>I-206-016</b>	<p><b>3.5.2.4 Birds and other Wildlife Resources</b></p> <p><b>Bird Collisions</b> ... page 259</p> <p>"The configuration (height and span length) of the line and placement with respect to other structures or topographic features can also have an effect on collision risk "</p> <p>What is being proposed to reduce this risk--lines parallel to the ground rather than staggered, height of lines kept at tree top level in wooded areas, and/or use of bird flight diverters in open areas or in areas where the lines are above the treetops?</p> <p><b>Upper Mississippi/Trempealeau Refuges</b> page 260</p> <p>"Considering the relative positions of the bluff line and the Q1/Highway 35 Route for most of its length (Figures 3-9 and 3-10), the distance of the Q1/Highway 35 alignment from the river where the bluff is not present along the river (Figures 3-11 and 3-12), and the fact that there is an existing transmission line except for the Highway 35 segment at the Black River, the Q1 Highway 35 Route appears to present little risk to those birds that may fly back and forth between Refuge pools and nearby agricultural fields to feed. "</p> <p><b>Evidence does not support this statement.</b> The higher lines and the staggered line configure will greatly increase the risk of collisions. Just the fact that there will be, at least, 3 more lines double the risk of collisions!</p> <p><b>Bald eagle and golden eagle</b> page 265 Both bald eagles and golden eagles frequently leave the river to forage. They are frequently seen feeding on road killed deer and are known to frequent chicken houses and cattle farms to feed on dead animal stock. So your first paragraph is incorrect.</p>
<b>I-206-017</b>	<b>3.5.3.4 Birds and Other Wildlife Resources</b> page 272 line one Undergrounding has been addressed and determined to be not feasible (Section 2.4.2.1). <b>They are burying 345 kV lines in Canada and other countries with only a slight increase in cost.</b>
<b>I-206-018</b>	<p><b>Paragraph 2</b> Regarding shield wire. Is one shield wire sufficient or must you have two?</p> <p><b>Paragraph 3</b> "Take permits under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act are available for nest disturbance and possibly nest removal (if needed).136" <b>This is ridiculous!</b> They should be able to avoid the areas containing bald eagle nests. There aren't that many.</p> <p><b>Last paragraph page 272</b> "Flight diverters may be installed in other areas, if collision risk is identified." <b>How are they going to determine collision</b></p>

#### **I-206-015**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A04-Grammatical and Minor Corrections.

#### **I-206-016**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

#### **I-206-017**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C10-Mississippi River Crossing.

#### **I-206-018**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

<b>I-206-018</b>	<p>risk? Wait until a large number of birds have died from collision with the lines.</p> <p>I would recommend flight diverters on most of the Q1 route and anywhere the lines are above the tree canopy, especially crossing ridges or traveling along ridges or near open water.</p>
<b>I-206-019</b>	<p><b>3.7.1 Affected Environment</b> page 287 “Moreover, these areas are already characterized by a relatively high proportion of visible human-made landscape elements.” <b>Add just not as ugly and out of place!</b></p>
<b>I-206-020</b>	<p><b>3.8.3 Airports and Airplanes</b> page 299 last sentence - “The proposed transmission lines could be a safety hazard to the planes approaching and taking off from the Parkway Farm Strip airport (PSC-WDNR 2011 p. 125). “ <b>Wouldn't this then rule out this route in this location or require moving it further from the airstrip?</b></p>
<b>I-206-021</b>	<p><b>General comments:</b></p> <p>I did not find anything in this document to justify the need for this project, nor would the local area benefit from this project. The only beneficiaries of this project would be the power companies involved and their shareholders. I do not feel that the electrical ratepayers should have to pay for something, from which they will receive no benefit. I do not feel that RUS should fund any part of this project. It does more to damage our rural area than it does to improve it.</p>
<b>I-206-022</b>	
<b>I-206-023</b>	<p><b>I recommend no action.</b> If the project is funded to go forward then the Arcadia Route would be the least environmentally damaging.</p>

#### **I-206-019**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

#### **I-206-020**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category L: Transportation, L04-Other Airport/Strip.

#### **I-206-021**

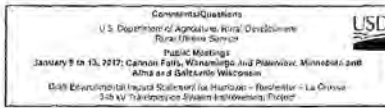
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-206-022**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

#### **I-206-023**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.



MAIL TO:  
Stephanie A. Strength  
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength—

- I-207-001** In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utilities based on their load forecasts, assumptions and the exclusion of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.
- I-207-002** The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reversing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering farm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.
- I-207-003** The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan II and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.
- I-207-004** In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, low voltage upgrades and development of distributed generation. I feel that the later investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

- I-207-005** *For many years I was "go the grid" with my own solar panels & inverter battery storage set up.  
We need to have more investment in solar for the utilities & homeowners.*

(Optional)

Signature

Date 2-3-22

Print Name

Tom Unalane

Address

423 Greenleaf Ave.  
Winnetka, IL 60091

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by Feb. 13, 2022 to the address on the back of this form. Pack the form in a sturdy envelope with a stamp and mail.

To submit your comments, in Stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov (include your comments in the following text box) <https://www.usda.gov/indianaffairs/2022/02/03/submitting-comments-to-usda>

### I-207-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

### I-207-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

### I-207-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-207-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

### I-207-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.



From: ron welch [mailto:fischer4768@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 7:46 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020

**I-208-001**

Hello

I am writing with my comments on the proposed line that follows Hwy 88. We came to this area in Buffalo Co. several years ago and fell in love with the beauty of the fields, hills and river bottoms, and with the serenity of the area. We have since bought property here and spend several months each year at our hunting cabin. The proposed line goes through some of our river land. We would like the line to go through a different route i.e. the Hwy 35 route, and leave this area unscarred .

Thank you for listening

Ron and Cindy Welch  
W1073 Schoepps Valley Road  
Cochrane, Wi. 54622

**I-208-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

From: David Wernecke [mailto:brange@baraboorange.org]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:56 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: comment on CapX2020

February 13, 2012

Stephanie Strength  
USDA, Rural Development –Utilities Programs  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244  
Washington, DC 20250-1570

Dear Ms. Strength,

I-209-001

I'm writing to comment on the CapX2020 proposal. Due to my own reading, meetings with local transmission company and utilities personnel, and sponsorship of local presentations by energy professionals, I question the need for the proposed transmission line.

We've asked for and not received information from the transmission companies to help determine need. We've discovered that the transmission companies in other project proposals seem to have a pattern of overstating need. We've seen studies commissioned by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission which indicate that there are less expensive ways to address need and grid reliability.

I-209-002

These and other studies as well as existing successful programs which work to reduce energy use indicate that the benefits of aggressively reducing energy use for rural communities and local population centers is more significant than expanding the capacity of the electric transmission system to accommodate energy trading over longer distances and generous investment returns.

Dedicating resources to aggressive energy efficiency and conservation, demand side management, low voltage upgrades where necessary, and distributed renewable generation better promotes rural development and economically and socially benefits more rural residents than an equivalent level of resources used on the CapX2020 line.

As you know, the proposed CapX2020 is part of a larger regional plan to expand transmission networks. When comparing the costs and benefits of the proposed line to alternative approaches to rural development and regional electric reliability, we hope you take into account the costs of entire planned transmission network.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for your thoughtful commitment to rural development.

Sincerely,

David Wernecke  
E13119 Highway 33  
Baraboo, WI 53913

## I-209-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-209-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1 I believe. And will some of those lines require  
2 guidelines because we are on the curve?

3 I suffer from tinnitus, and I have  
4 enough -- my ears are ringing in here. If the lines  
5 are going to give any kind of noises, what is that  
6 going to be like when it's right straight across the  
7 road from our house. Our son would like to take over  
8 the farm, and who's to say that any of us would  
9 develop cancer or any of the other things that come  
10 from stray voltage. We put up with this in the past,  
11 I don't hope that we would have to do it again in the  
12 future. But that would be an everyday occurrence.

13 There are also air strips out  
14 there that no one is taking into consideration. Our  
15 neighbor Fred Gleitor flies in there all the time.  
16 And he has other people that fly in. We also have an  
17 air strip on ours that was not included. We haven't  
18 used it in a number of years, but it was still  
19 readily available.

20 Our family opposes the CapX2020  
21 line coming through on the Highway 88 corridor.  
22 Thank you.

23 MS. RICHTER: Okay. We have Steve  
24 Willedsen.

25 STEVE WILLEDSON: I'm Steve

**I-210-001**

1 Willedsen, W-I-L-L-E-D-S-E-N, I live at W1050  
2 Schoepss Valley Road in the township of Waumandee.  
3 I'm a part of a group of landowners that was  
4 inadvertently left off the mailing list. I believe  
5 this group should be allowed the same time line to  
6 review the transmission line project information as  
7 it was afforded other owners who were notified at the  
8 start of the scoping process. The other communities  
9 were given much more time to review the information  
10 to form a rebuttal as well as build awareness in the  
11 communities involved.

**I-210-002**

12 Though many of the people here  
13 tonight are mostly here because they don't want to  
14 see this line going through their property,  
15 succeeding only pushes the line to another community.  
16 No matter what path the line follows, the impacts on  
17 the environment and human health is a much studied  
18 and proven concern, and will certainly be  
19 justification for future litigation.

**I-210-003**

20 Many aspects of this project have  
21 changed since the original studies were done, such as  
22 the vast production of demand, the substantial growth  
23 of renewable resources, and the increased cost of  
24 implementation. Is this project viable, and are  
25 there other less volatile alternatives? Issues such

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**I-210-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D:  
Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for  
Highway 88 Alternatives.

**I-210-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

**I-210-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-210-004

1 as health risks, environmental impact, and personal  
2 financial burdens may be seen by many people as  
3 monetary issues only. But more importantly they are  
4 negatively life changing.

5 I hope the business of putting  
6 this together, putting this project together, will  
7 see that people's lives and livelihoods are more  
8 important than the money made by this project. Thank  
9 you.

10 MS. RICHTER: Okay. That is all  
11 of the names that have been provided to me of  
12 individuals that wanted to speak. I believe we have  
13 about time for three more people that maybe didn't  
14 get their name on a list and would like to speak. I  
15 would like to first ask if somebody who did not speak  
16 prior would like to speak if we missed getting their  
17 name, and then if we still have time, we could allow  
18 three minutes for another person. Thank you.

19 THERESA HENDERSON: Hello, my name  
20 Theresa Henderson, H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I live at  
21 W1158 Henderson Road just off of 88. And I just  
22 would like to say I'm against the 88 corridor, and  
23 personally I don't like the idea of mass amounts of  
24 energy come from one source and getting distributed  
25 to another area because I just feel like the local

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#### I-210-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

From: Willadsen [<mailto:willad6@mwf.net>]  
 Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 8:20 PM  
 To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
 Subject: Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 Kv Transmission Line

- I-211-001** | I am part of the contingent of ownership that was inadvertently left off the mailing lists in Buffalo County Wisconsin. This group should be allowed the same timeframe to review the transmission line project information as was afforded owners who were notified at the start of the scoping process. The other communities were given much more time to review the information and devise a rebuttal as well as build awareness in the communities involved.
- I-211-002** | No matter what path the line follows the impacts on the environment and human health is a much studied and proven concern and will certainly be justification for future litigation.
- I-211-003** | Many aspects of this project have changed based on studies dating back to when this project first started such as the vast reduction of the Kilovolt demand requirement, the substantial growth of renewable resources and the increasing cost of implementation. Is this project still viable? Are there other less volatile alternatives such as green energies? The entire world is moving toward green energy and this project is anything but green. There has to be another alternative to pushing these lines onto private properties. Wind, solar, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal.....
- I-211-004** | Issues such as:  
 health risks - stray voltage is a major problem with the small power lines that currently run through our properties. This not only is a concern for humans, but animals as well. Farm animals and wild animals. Two of the proposed routes come within a quarter mile of our school district and I'm sure other school districts as well. This means our children will be near this high voltage line for at least eight hours per day. Many kids stay longer (an additional 1-7 hours) for after school activities.  
 environmental impact - these lines will affect the natural habitat of our wild animal population. We have a large bald eagle population in this area as well as deer, birds and many other species.
- I-211-005** | reduction of tourism - tourism is a large part of our local communities. Many clubs drive\bike\run our scenic roads for the beauty it holds for sight seeing. That equates to income for our communities. The poles would surely degrade that source of income and beauty.
- I-211-006** | reduced property values - putting these poles on private properties would drastically reduce the value. Most properties would then become difficult to sell making people lose a large amount of money. Some count on the value of their properties as a source of income after retirement. Selling their property to move into town and rent. With the reduction of value, this will alter their retirement plans in devastating fashion.
- I-211-007** | dirty energy versus clean technology, non-renewable versus renewable and sustainable energy sources - the coal plant is not a renewable nor sustainable energy source. We need to move toward green energies and have already started that transformation. There are already many

#### **I-211-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for Highway 88 Alternatives.

#### **I-211-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

#### **I-211-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-211-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

#### **I-211-005**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O07-Tourism.

#### **I-211-006**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

#### **I-211-007**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

<b>I-211-007</b>	wind farms located near or along the route of this transmission line and many that have been built since the original scoping, which has reduced the originally calculated need for future electricity.
<b>I-211-008</b>	acoustical environment - these lines emit a hum which is detrimental to quiet country living.
<b>I-211-009</b>	<p>cost of upkeep especially concerning the macro corridor routes - these lines will need to be upkeep. The cost of this sort of thing is always under valued and over looked. Future upkeep costs will continue to go up especially in areas where the lines will be going through country hills. Included in this upkeep cost is the income farmers will lose in cropland needing to keep right-of-way roads open to the lines.</p> <p>There are too many to go on with.</p> <p>The costs of this project are not just monetary. They are life changing and life degrading. The proposed lines will run directly through properties of not just home owners, but businesses such as family farms. The valuable cropland this will cover is detrimental to these farm families. Property values will plummet making properties difficult to sell.</p>
<b>I-211-010</b>	<p>I am against this transmission line in all aspects. I live in an area of a proposed route this line may run. Please find an alternative solution to these power lines. Many lives and livelihoods count on it.</p> <p>Steve Willadsen W1052 Schoepps Valley Rd Cochrane Wi, 54622 608-248-2769</p>

#### **I-211-008**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category H: Acoustic Environment, H01-General/Other.

#### **I-211-009**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

#### **I-211-010**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

1 that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go  
2 over the school that my grandchildren are attending,  
3 so it is going to affect us all.

4 So I guess I am angry, also, that we  
5 have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in  
6 this area. And why do we have to deal with it and  
7 why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that  
8 technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind  
9 of technology into something that is already dated is  
10 not a wise thing to do.

11 We can give everybody a solar water  
12 heater for what this is going to cost. I mean it  
13 is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I  
14 really do object to the whole, "Let's put it here.  
15 Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people  
16 over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair.  
17 And there has got to be alternatives than what is  
18 in that report. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay,  
20 now I'm going to ask again, are there people here  
21 that have not spoken yet that would like to have  
22 three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay.  
23 Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

24 MR. WOLBERG: I am Ed Wolberg. I  
25 live down on Harris Road. When we first started

# I-212-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C06-Alternatives Eliminated.

I-212-001



I-212-001

1 getting this information in the mail, which was over  
2 a year ago, they were so nice. They gave us a (800)  
3 number. I called that (800) number and talked to  
4 somebody from Xcel, and because they were looking for  
5 ideas or suggestions they said. That's the comment  
6 they made. But if you give them a suggestion they  
7 didn't like, they brushed you off in a real hurry.

8 I called and I says, "If this line  
9 is starting in, you know, above Rochester, quite a  
10 ways above Rochester, and it is going to end up in a  
11 substation in the Holmen/Onalaska area," I told them,  
12 "to me, the most common way of going would be to go  
13 right down I-90, run I-90. You have the right-of-way  
14 already there for I-90 and you don't have to go  
15 through all of these small communities, and you  
16 already own the land there. You have got the  
17 easement and everything, the right-of-way for the  
18 state highway, I mean the interstate." The guy there  
19 says, "Yeah, that makes sense," he says. And then he  
20 kind of brushed it off. And that was shortly after  
21 that, then all of a sudden they said no, they are  
22 going to go LaCrosse, LaCrosse/Alma, cross over Alma  
23 and bring it down this way.

24 I'm kind of wondering when they first  
25 came up with this idea if Dairyland Power had bought

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I-212-001

1 into it yet. Because that's probably why they are  
2 crossing it, in Alma Dairyland Power now owns like  
3 11 percent, or whatever, you know. And that was  
4 probably part of the thing. If they're going to own  
5 it, they want it to come across right there and be a  
6 part of it.

7 But that's the only comment I got  
8 is that to me, when the thing first came out, they  
9 seemed like they didn't object too much about running  
10 it that way. It was a straight shot. It didn't  
11 affect communities or nothing else. And now all of a  
12 sudden, now it is supposed to go through communities,  
13 and they run it all along the highway over here.

I-212-002

14 And I have to agree, everybody's property means  
15 everything to everybody. I don't care if you have one  
16 acre or if you've got 500 acres, it's still something  
17 that you own. And for them to put a monstrosity on  
18 there and your property goes down in value, is your  
19 taxes going to go down? I highly doubt it. Because  
20 they have to have so much money anyway to fund  
21 schools and everything else. So your property taxes,  
22 if they put it across your land, your property taxes  
23 ain't going to go down. But yet try to sell that  
24 piece of property with this 150-foot, 170-foot  
25 structure on it, and you own a piece of property

## I-212-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:  
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

I-212-002

1 that's dead weight, because nobody in their right  
2 mind wants to buy that property and put up with it.

3 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. I  
4 want to thank everybody. It is ten of 8:00, and if  
5 no one else wants to make the first comment that they  
6 have been able to make tonight, I know that there is  
7 at least one individual that said that they wanted  
8 to continue their comment, and that was Joe Morris.

9 So I want to ask, again, I want to be  
10 fair to everyone here. Again, has everybody had an  
11 opportunity to make any comment they would like to  
12 make? You do? Okay. How about anybody else? Okay.  
13 Then before we start, besides Joe, who would like to  
14 make a secondary comment for three minutes? Just so  
15 I have a sense. One, two, three, three of you.  
16 Okay. I think we are doing very well in terms of  
17 time. I want to thank you all again for your  
18 cooperation again tonight.

19 MR. JEREDTUXEN: My name is Jered  
20 Tuxen. J-E-R-E-D T-U-X-E-N. I'm at N15388 Delaney  
21 Road. I think the comments that I want to direct are  
22 specific to the USDA, since it is your money that you  
23 are looking to give here.

24 If I think of what that department is  
25 looking to do in its rural development, I guess my

1 a sense of the order of which you are going to speak.

2 So tonight we are going to start with  
3 Margaret Wood and she will be followed by Herb Balto.

4 **MS. WOOD:** My name is Margaret Wood,  
5 1804 Cameron Avenue, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. And I am  
6 a LaCrosse County Board Supervisor, District Ten.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to  
8 speak tonight.

9 Within the past few years the  
10 City of LaCrosse and LaCrosse County have become  
11 sustainable communities and they formed a joint  
12 sustainability LaCrosse commission. After meetings  
13 with both Xcel Energy and the Citizens Energy Task  
14 Force, the commission in July and the County Board  
15 this past December passed very similar resolutions.  
16 My comments regarding the study are going to take the  
17 form of the LaCrosse County Resolution 76-12/11 that  
18 reflect the outcome of attendance at CAPX 2020 open  
19 houses at our various committee studies parallel to  
20 the topics in the Draft EIS at the city and county  
21 levels.

22 The honorable members of the LaCrosse  
23 County Board of Supervisors regarding proposing and  
24 requesting additional information regarding CAPX 2020  
25 and ATC at locations for a 345-kV transmission line

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## I-213-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-213-001

I-213-001

1 project. Whereas Xcel, Dairyland and the ATC have  
2 proposed this CAPX 2020 phase one-line project and  
3 the Badger-Coulee (phonetic) transmission line  
4 project, including the 345-kV high-voltage power line  
5 from Alma to North LaCrosse and North LaCrosse to  
6 Madison, by crisscrossing LaCrosse County. And the  
7 CAPX 2020 back to LaCrosse and Badger-Coulee ATC  
8 project include a proposed route corridor which cuts  
9 across rivers, farms, forests and valleys, scenic  
10 bluffs, wetlands, wildlife and water fowl habitats,  
11 exceptional water resources and cultural and economic  
12 districts in the county. And the county is charged  
13 with protecting and enhancing the county's public

I-213-002

14 safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the  
15 hills in Coulee, which would be adversely affected by  
16 the 130- to 170-foot steel towers and high-voltage

I-213-003

17 power lines proposed. And the use of electricity in  
18 Wisconsin has declined significantly since its 2006  
19 peak and is again projected to remain flat in the  
20 predictable future. And it is the county's belief  
21 that the claim of need for the line is overstated and

I-213-004

22 that there are other ways of meeting additional needs  
23 claimed by applicants that should be considered and  
24 implemented first, including efficiencies, demand and  
25 supply site management, locally produced and

### I-213-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K:  
Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

### I-213-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

### I-213-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-213-004

I-213-005

distributed renewable generation and energy-related economic development before high-capacity transmission is considered. And the costs for the Alma to North LaCrosse to Madison high-voltage power line would cost rate payers more than 675 million dollars and building the transmission line would require the use of public rights-of-way and condemnation of private property for easements, and the center line of this transmission line in this 150-foot right-of-way would be placed within 75 feet of a residence, business or school, and the line will result in increased electricity costs for all rate payers.

And I will hand in the rest of the comments. Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you very much, Ms. Wood. Two items I forgot to mention. Nicole doesn't start the timer until after you put your name on the record, so difficult names to spell are not to your disadvantage.

Two, I have been advised that it is a very directional mic, so please be sure to speak directly into it. Following Herb Balto (phonetic) will be Sally Miller.

MR. BALTO: My name is Herb Balto. I

## I-213-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

1 School? The bleachers behind Holmen High School,  
2 what would happen to the students and the teachers  
3 and the fans? They would be fried. Don't do it.  
4 Don't do it on our backs. They want it down there,  
5 they can figure it out. I mean they produced a  
6 president, so they can produce some electricity.  
7 You know, neither one are working damn well.

8 MODERATOR RICHTER: This will be our  
9 last speaker then, the last three minutes, then we  
10 will be taking a break. Does anybody want to come  
11 back after the break? The alternative is that we are  
12 still here with our maps. If you have questions,  
13 this is not a time for questions, it is for comment.  
14 People are still here and you can ask questions, but  
15 we will close after this. Thank you.

16 MS. WOOD: I think that I am the  
17 beginning cover and the end cover of a book.

18 I am just going to continue so that  
19 you know what LaCrosse County did in their "be it  
20 resolved" part. But the two other issues.

21 Whereas a new transition line will  
22 result in increased electricity costs for all of the  
23 rate payers, loss of property value and tax base  
24 because of the impact on view and the dangers that  
25 high-voltage power lines inherently carry, and

## I-213-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

I-213-006

I-213-006

1 creating an adverse effect on the area's tourism and  
2 general economy. And there is a growing body of  
3 health concerns over the medical studies which have  
4 shown an association between the exposure of  
5 electromagnetic fields produced by the high-voltage  
6 lines and childhood leukemia, neurological diseases  
7 and conditions, and other adverse health effects.

I-213-008

8 Therefore, be it resolved that the  
9 LaCrosse County Board hereby opposes the plan for the  
10 expansion project in the midwest, and specifically  
11 the Almo to North LaCrosse and North LaCrosse to  
12 Madison power line. That the LaCrosse County Board

I-213-009

13 requests additional off-the-record public hearings  
14 be held by the Wisconsin PSC in LaCrosse before a  
15 recommendation on a certificate of necessity is made  
16 for either project. That the county requests that  
17 clear detailed information be provided to the county  
18 explaining the perceived need for the power line,  
19 which includes the supporting objective studies and  
20 forecasts and the cost benefit analysis comparing the  
21 efficiency only, locally produced and distributed  
22 generation option with the high-voltage option  
23 individually and in combination. That the county  
24 requests adoption of and action on the Wisconsin  
25 Energy Policy by implementing local ownership of

### I-213-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

### I-213-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

### I-213-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.



I-213-009

1 energy generation and energy efficiency efforts to  
2 include disbursement of local energy to support the  
3 local economy, and that to minimize the size, scale,  
4 voltage, and environmental impact of electric  
5 transmission. And request that the Wisconsin PSC do  
6 an independent study of the health risks of the  
7 electromagnetic fields for these projects.

8 And finally, that the county clerk is  
9 authorized to send this resolution to the Wisconsin  
10 PSC regarding Dockets SCE136, 137, CE160 and to the  
11 Administrative Law Judge conducting proceedings for  
12 the CAPX 2020 and Badger-Coulee 345 kV transmission  
13 line project adopted on December 15th, 2011.

14 MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.  
15 Again, I want to thank you all tonight. Thank you  
16 for your attention and consideration for all of our  
17 speakers on behalf of RUS. Thank you for coming  
18 and please drive safely home.

19  
20 (Hearing Exhibits 1 through 11 marked  
21 for identification.)  
22  
23  
24  
25

**I-214-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

From: Toni (<mailto:coyotecrossing@centurytel.net>)  
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 12:16 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: DEIS for CAPX2020 proposed project - Hampton-LaCrosse

**I-214-001**

I am against this project. I know that it will be environmentally harmful. Also, I don't believe that it helps, in any way, the rural community. Instead the massive power lines will be ugly, cause health problems, etc.

Thank you for allowing my input.

A.M. Yeske



Comments/Questions

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development  
Rural Utilities Service

Public Meetings

January 9 to 13, 2012: Cannon Falls, Wanamingo and Plainview, Minnesota and  
Alma and Galesville Wisconsin

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I-215-001

*This "high" power line is a bad idea on many  
levels - Health wise (EMF's)*

I-215-002

*Economically (we will pay for it but  
won't use it or need it)*

I-215-003

*Environmentally - no explanation  
necessary*

*Emotionally - so many frightened &  
bewildered people in the "path  
of destruction"*

*Thank you*

Optional: Name: *Antoinette Mary Leske*

Address: *Windsor, Farmington Township, WI*

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by ~~January 13, 2012~~ *FEB. 13* 2012 to the address  
on the back of this form. Fold the form in thirds so the address appears on the outside,  
staple or tape closed, add a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to [Stephanie.strengtin@vdc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strengtin@vdc.usda.gov)

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>

I-215-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public  
Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

I-215-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose &  
Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

I-215-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

From: Zollweg, William [mailto:wzollweg@uwflox.edu]  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 7:47 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC  
Subject: EIS 5-CE-136

To: Stephanie Strength  
USDA

Fr: Dr. William Zollweg  
N20892 Thompson Ln  
Galesville, WI 54630

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Alma-La Crosse  
345 kV Transmission 5-CE-136

Da: 1-10-12

Stephanie,

**I-216-001** | The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is deficient on several levels of professional requirements. First and foremost in these deficiencies is the degree of specifics that are completely missing from the draft. There is no mention of the specific endangered species that are presently living in the some of the areas planned for destruction. I have submitted specific list in past letters that demonstrate a few of the species I have observed on or near my property. Those species included the Gray Wolf, and the Canadian Lynx to mention two of the most significant species I have picture documentation of in the area of planned destruction, There is no mention of the species that will be destroyed by the planned construction.

**I-216-002** | Furthermore, there is no list of plant species that will be destroyed during the construction of the power lines. I could go and I am happy to do so, but the basic reaction I have to the draft is that it is entirely inadequate.

**I-216-003** | I sincerely hope this draft will be rejected! Furthermore, there is no alternative route that appears to be a prudent option. I encourage you do demand a more thorough report be prepared before any decision can be contemplated regarding this project. The potential harm is enormous. We, the people of Wisconsin have worked for many years to restore our environment to a natural pristine state. Now all that effort is threaten by this proposed project. Please, help us protect Wisconsin so that future generations can enjoy an environment that flourishes with the natural fauna and flora that originally habited our great State.

Thank you for the extended period of time to respond. Apparently, ours was one of many names affected significantly by the project that was left completely off the list for notification.

#### **I-216-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

#### **I-216-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### **I-216-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

From: Agger, William A [<mailto:waagge@gundluth.org>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 12:27 PM  
To: 'cgonzalez@atdlc.com'; 'localrelations@atdlc.com'  
Cc: 'stephanie.strength@usda.gov'  
Subject: Proposed Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project (Proposed N760)

June 28, 2011

Mr. Charlie Gonzales  
Sr. Local Relations Representative  
American Transmission Company  
2 Fen Oak Court  
Madison, WI 53718-8810

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

I-217-001

As I received no response to my letter and e-mail of June 14, 2011, I now re-state and expand (see last paragraph) on my point of opposition to the potential line N760.

I am opposed to any new transmission line that does not follow an existing line or is not buried. In particular, I am opposed to the potential new line marked N760 on the La Crosse County – Town of Holmen map that follows just north and roughly parallel to County Road T. This potential line would pass through my property on the south side of the Black River north of Holmen.

I-217-002

First, my neighbors and I do not want such an eyesore through this nationally recognized scenic river area. Such a power line would not only mar the beauty of the land, but also its commercial value would be greatly degraded. This land is in the Holmen area and the proposed route would not only pass through relatively inexpensive (but nevertheless valuable) farm land, but also through a semi-rural area of north growing Holmen. These transmission lines would significantly devalue our property for future house sites in one of the most rapidly growing areas of the State of Wisconsin. Furthermore, the woodland that I own, is in forest crop and is designated to be managed for forest harvest. This value would be severely damaged by tree trimming and herbicides.

I-217-003

I-217-004

I-217-005

There is an equally important fact that must be acknowledged. Both historically and prehistorically the Black River (Nee Shepra in the Ho-Chunk language), was an important trade route by Native Americans. As such, there are many campsites, gravesites and rock shelters, a few of which are already registered, along the proposed line. These sites should be preserved for future generations as should the beauty and productivity of the riparian habitat of a national scenic river, the Black River.

I-217-006

Finally, I am a lepidopterist (one who studies butterflies). I have managed my property in part, for the protection of habitat for the endangered Karner blue (*Lycaides melissa*). This rare butterfly is found in a significant portion of my property. For years I have managed and expanded the Lupine as a food plant for this endangered butterfly. Now, this habitat is directly in the path of destruction your N760 power line would cause. Such disruption is environmentally unacceptable.

Yours truly,

William A. Agger, MD, FACP  
Land Owner  
N2288 Willow Way  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
E-mail: [waagge@gundluth.org](mailto:waagge@gundluth.org)

WAA:cls

## I-217-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O08-Electronic Equipment.

## I-217-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

## I-217-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.

## I-217-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.

## I-217-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M02-Archaeological.

## I-217-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

From: [bibalto@mwt.net](mailto:bibalto@mwt.net)  
[mailto:[bibalto@mwt.net](mailto:bibalto@mwt.net)] Sent:  
Friday, August 05, 2011 11:58 AM  
To: Strength,  
Stephanie - Durango  
CO Subject:

Ms. Strength;

I have recently become aware of CapX power line project proposed from Alma to Holmen. Although not in the direct impact area for the line I am a Dairyland customer and understand that this line will have impact on rates. Further it is my understanding through attending scoping and other information meetings that need projection for Western Wisconsin is questionable. Lastly in speaking to neighbors and friends in the area of impact there is almost solid opposition to the project. For these reasons I urge Dairyland to oppose any funding for CapX. Correction; I oppose any funding of Dairyland for this project.

Irv Balto  
E2451 Lietke Ln.  
Chaseburg Wi. 54621

I-218-001

I-218-002

### I-218-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

### I-218-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

From: Kristina Bassuener [<mailto:akbassuener@charter.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2011 10:11 AM  
To: [Stephanie.strength@usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.strength@usda.gov)  
Subject: pwr line...

I-219-001

I am strongly opposed to the line building in the town of Holland area. Please know that it is extremely frustrating to listen to people talk of building this line and feeling like there is not much we can do to stop it. Please help us prevent the line from crossing our schools and community.

Dr. Alan J. Bassuener

I-219-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

## I-220-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C:  
Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

From: Beau Kennedy [<mailto:beaukenedy@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 10:10 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Durango CO  
Subject: CapX2020 Comment

I-220-001

Hello Stephanie

My name is Beau Kennedy and my wife and I live in Section 16 in Mazeppa TWP in Wabasha County Minnesota.

I noticed that the RUS is accepting comments on the proposed HVTL affecting MN/WI. I had submitted documents and comments in the Summer of 2009 regarding the Hampton to LaCrosse section of the proposal, and I'd like to resubmit those documents again at this time.

Attached is a petition signed in 2009 by many of our neighbors along the, at the time, "B70" route, and now labeled in the DEIS as the 3A route (the north route). This 3A north route proposes to cross the Zumbro River where there are no existing powerlines, roads, utilities. 53% of this 3A route does not follow any existing corridors for power/gas and even roads for that matter.

Route 3A will cut our old growth timber forest in half and will negatively effect the wildlife and soil erosion by clearing 150' wide swath through virgin wooded ground. Our home is located 270' north of the proposed centerline of the 3A route and our neighbor to the south will be located 120' from the proposed centerline. This is one of two pinch points on our small section of the route and mitigation for siting these HTVL is impossible if the construction of the lines are to stay within the 1,000' corridor studied in the DEIS.

Follow existing road and utility corridors. Thank you for your time.  
Beau Kennedy



Date: July 22nd, 2009

RE: CapX2020 Transmission Line Route Hampton to Lacrosse

I-220-001 Dear Rural Utilities Services

We, as citizens of Mazeppa Township in Wabasha County, petition the CapX2020 route decision making parties to choose an alternate route to the proposed 345 kV Route Option, particularly the segment labeled B70.

The Zumbro River Valley is one of Southeastern Minnesota's greatest recreational areas. The Zumbro River Valley provides outdoor activities that are being heavily utilized by many. The Zumbro River itself is a great fishery and canoeing resource. The river bottoms are home to many campgrounds, ATV and horse trails, and countless animals of game and non-game species as well as rare and endangered plant communities. Up and down the Zumbro River bottoms, the valley walls are steep and heavily forested. These hills and bluffs along the valley seem to go on forever without interruption on the landscape. The proposed B70 line will cut up and down valleys and ridge tops altering the viewshed in; first the North Fork of the Zumbro River Valley and then down and across the Zumbro River Valley.

As citizens of Mazeppa Township, we believe that this proposal will ruin the natural esthetics of the Zumbro River Valley. The natural beauty of this area is the reason we live here. Please do not take that away from us and our future generations by constructing this transmission line in this location. We ask that existing highway and utility corridors be utilized when considering alternate routes.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Name	Address	Phone
Erin and Katie Kennedy	301 1st Ave Goodhue MN 55027	507-280-1126
Kelli Voel	60152 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	507-843-4311
Steve & Brenda Welch	60083 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa, MN 55956	507-843-4683
Ashley Mathison	60033 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	507-843-5456
Andrea Mathison	60033 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	843-5456
David Mathison	60033 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	843-5456
Steve Mathison	59931 CR 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	4655
Ralph Moll	59903 Cty 71 Mazeppa, MN 55956	843-4339
Chuck Cameron	59882 Cty 71 MAZEPPA MN 55956	843-2021
Lynda J Clayton	59882 Cty Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	843-2021
James Larson	59753 CR 71 MAZEPPA MN 55956	507-843-5455
Cynthia Olmsted	59634 County Road 71 Mazeppa 55956	843-2017
Wendy Cochran	59604 4th St. Mazeppa MN 55956	843-5281
Eric Mathison	59523 415th Ave Mazeppa, MN 55956	993-2059
Donna Mathison	58092 Co. Rd 71, Mazeppa MN 55956	843-4634
Donna Mathison	55944 Co Rd 71 Mazeppa MN 55956	843-2046
Donna Mathison	59237 423rd Ave MAZE MN 55956	

843-5380

Joni Degayer	59207	423 <sup>rd</sup>	Ave	Mazeppa, MN	55956	
Bryan Degayer	59207	423 <sup>rd</sup>	Ave	Mazeppa	55956	
Marsha L. Foster	59206	423	Ave	Mazeppa	55956	
Jane G. Deane	59227	City Rd 71		Mazeppa	55956	
Jay Degayer	59227	City Rd 71		Mazeppa	55956	
John H. H.	59516	415	Ave	Mazeppa	55956	843-2350
John H. H.	59444	415	Ave	"	55956	
John H. H.	"	"	"	"	"	
John H. H.	"	"	"	"	"	
John H. H.	59976	415	Ave	Mazeppa MN	55956	
Mary Honemann	59976	415	Ave	Mazeppa MN	55956	
Tim Halton	41176	591 <sup>st</sup>	street	Mazeppa, MN	55956	
Chad Sautter	41500	594	St	Mazeppa MN	55956	843-2049
Chad Sautter	41500	594	St	Mazeppa MN	55956	843-2049
Chad Sautter	41208	598 <sup>th</sup>		Mazeppa MN	55956	843-4188
Joyce Erickson	41301	598 <sup>th</sup>		Mazeppa MN	55956	843-2037
Rick Erickson	41301	598		"	"	"
Alan H. H.	59814	415 <sup>th</sup>		"	"	259-4148

- CC: Rep. Tim Walz  
 Sen. Amy Klobuchar  
 Sen. Al Franken  
 Steve Drazkowski  
 Yvonne Prettner Solon  
 Satveer Chaudhary  
 Bret Eknes  
 Scott Ek

August 13, 2011

Stephanie Strength  
Rural Utilities Service  
Engineering + Environmental Staff

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am a member of an ad hoc committee formed by the town of Stark, located near La Farge, WI, to obtain information regarding the proposed Badger Coulee Transmission Line.

My husband and I obtain electricity through La Farge Municipal Utility, which gets its electricity from Dairyland Coop. I understand that Dairyland will apply to RUS for a loan to participate in the grid that would include the Badger Coulee line.

As a member of Stark's Energy Planning and Information Committee, I have learned that Wisconsin does not need this line. According to the WI Public Service Commission, the state creates more electrical energy than it uses. So it appears Wisconsin, its residents and municipalities,

I-221-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

I-221-001



would be severely harmed by a terribly expensive and invasive project that would not benefit this state's ratepayers.

Residents here have asked American Transmission Company officials--in numerous letters and postcards and in two programs--to justify the need for this line. It seems that should be the first step, before deciding where to put it, but all the ATC open houses have focused instead on location, pitting communities against each other. That seems like "putting the cart before the horse" and like a politically divisive tactic.

In addition, ATC has failed to provide requested information on a low-voltage option, which would be much less expensive and invasive but still meet any specific area electricity needs in Wisconsin in the future.

Lastly, several areas of this state, including <sup>the</sup> south western where we live, are economically deprived. Is it true that RUS policy forbids utility projects in such areas if the projects would further erode the areas' economies?

That would definitely be the case here as much of the economy, including tourism and permanent and vacation home construction, is driven by the area's scenic beauty.

Considering all these issues, we are asking that RUS not give any financial aid to Danigland for a project for which need has not been proven and which would harm this state.

Thank you for considering this letter. I apologize for hand-writing it, but our computer crashed this week and I am trying to meet the RUS deadline.

Sincerely,

Joan Lent

608) 625-2339

Ms. Stephanie Strength  
United States Department of Agriculture  
(Lead Agency – Dairyland Cooperative Environmental Impact Statement)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Rural Utilities Service  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independent Ave. SW  
Mail Stop 1571, Room 2242  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Subject: CapX 2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Line Proposal

Date: August 15, 2011

Dear Ms. Strength:

**I-222-001** Based on its currently proposed path, the subject power transmission line would run along the northern boundary of our family's property (N20990 Thompson Lane, Galesville, Wisconsin). We have done our best to review the documents posted on your website to inform the affected public about the proposed CapX 2020 project, which includes the following: *Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project Scoping Report*, February 2010 (1,438 pages); *Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project Macro Corridor Study*, May 2009 (213 pages); and, *Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project Alternative Evaluation Study*, May 2009 (371 pages). We appreciate your attempt to communicate the particulars of this project, however, it is unreasonable to ask citizens to grasp the "scope" of a project requiring 2,022 pages of description and comments. Nonetheless, we have reviewed these documents with much interest as it is clear that there is the potential for significant impacts to the health and well-being of our family, our farm animals, and the rare if not threatened and/or endangered species of plants and animals that have found haven on our land.

**I-222-002** The need for additional power supply has not been clearly and/or definitively established. There has been a lack of attention given to the potential impact of conservation for mediating the need for additional power supply. Schools, hospitals, businesses, residences, etc. have for the past several years been increasing their use of energy efficient systems and we can presume that more of this type of conservation behavior will be occurring in the future. In addition, there has been no attention given to the benefits that could be gained by replacing the current power supply lines with one of the newer more efficient power line materials available today. A one-for-one replacement with ACCR or some other technologically advanced material might significantly increase the carrying capacity of power lines.

**I-222-004** Through a combination of conservation and in-place increases in carrying capacity, the need for this expansion could potentially be avoided. It may take a coordinated effort by Wisconsin and Minnesota and probably the Federal government to build/promote/provide tax incentives to alter consumer behavior and upgrade existing power lines, but if these protect human health and the environment, such transformations could be the preferred alternative.

#### **I-222-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

#### **I-222-002**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

#### **I-222-003**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

#### **I-222-004**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.



I-222-005

Global warming has been a local/regional/state/national/international concern for over forty years since at least April 1970 when a United States senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, held the first "teach-in" on April 22, 1970. Since then our understanding of incremental and cumulative impacts to the natural and built environment from man's use of natural resources has been clearly documented to cause global warming. The scientific data demonstrating this cause and effect has motivated many nations to change policies, rules, and regulations to ensure future generations have access to the quality of life we enjoy today. Global warming is not a theory but a reality, and we expect that this reality will be given consideration in the EIS in all those areas where it is relevant.

I-222-006

As a property owner, it concerns us that a large number of property owners could be significantly adversely affected if the proposed project(s) as described in your documents was (were) implemented. Many of the comments in the *Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project Scoping Report* appear to parallel some of our own concerns. Specifically, those that touch on biological resources, stray voltage, health and safety, historic and cultural resources, land rights and easement acquisition, noise, the environmental review process, reasonable project alternatives, route alternatives, social and economic impacts, transportation and access, and visual impacts. While we share our fellow citizens' concerns about these issues, some of these are, to us, of more concern than others. While we refer broadly to already submitted and published comments from other concerned citizens, we list below those issues that we believe are particularly worthy of scrutiny and/or are especially relevant to our property:

I-222-007

1. Electric and magnetic fields and stray voltage

- a. Our historic farmhouse is currently rented and occupied by a family, and when not rented is often occupied by visiting family or friends; we consider it an extension of our own home; the health of all those who would stay in this house are at risk, and the rent ability of the farmhouse is likely to be compromised, which could require us to lower its rent.

I-222-008

- b. The proposed line route extends over our barn and chicken coop and surrounding property on which our mules and chickens live. Ordinarily mules are long-lived animals that are a joy to care for and to ride, and ours have been with us for many years. The chickens are the basis of a business (L.A. Eggs) and we are concerned about anything that would adversely affect the value of these eggs and the health of our animals and ourselves.

I-222-009

- c. Through your environmental review process, please establish a baseline of stray voltage from the existing lines on our property and model using the best available technology the anticipated increase in stray voltage; anything higher than the existing levels should be mitigated to levels that ensure protection to human health and the environment.

I-222-010

2. Historic and cultural resources

- a. We estimate the farmhouse, barn, and chicken coop to be well over 100-years old. It was built by hauling stones from a ridge top quarry by horse and wagon by the originally owners of the farm Art and Florence Thompson.

## I-222-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category G: Air Quality, G01-General/Other.

## I-222-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

## I-222-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.

## I-222-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O10-Animal Health.

## I-222-009

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N04-Stray Voltage.

## I-222-010

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category M: Historic and Cultural Resources, M01-General/Other.

I-222-011	<p>3. Transportation and access</p> <p>a. The proposed transmission line runs directly over the road that is the only access route to our home and the homes of our neighbors; we drive on this road, we bike on this road, we ride our mules on this road, and we walk on this road; how would we access our homes during construction? What provisions would the utilities make in design and materials that would prevent collapse of lines and towers in the event of high winds or ice storms? Especially considering the increasing severity of storms in recent years.</p>
I-222-012	
I-222-013	<p>4. Visual impacts</p> <p>a. The satisfaction of living where we live and the value of our property would be severely compromised by the presence of a high voltage transmission line rising like the creatures in a <i>War of the Worlds</i> movie on our northern boundary. The power line to our home is buried and that was one of the major considerations for our purchase. For us, living in the country has an aesthetic value that worth plenty in monetary terms.</p>
I-222-014	<p>5. Wildlife and plant ecosystems</p> <p>a. We have observed a number of rare species on and near our property that will undoubtedly be negatively affected by the proposed project. To be brief, we have photographed Canadian Lynx and Wolf in the area. We also have numerous rare species of birds and insects that could be negatively affected. There are also numerous plant species that are rare that must be protect from the impact of the proposed project.</p>
I-222-015	<p>It seems that the single property owners could be likened to the battle between David and Goliath, and the Goliath in this process appears to be a combination of the various power companies and their influence over the rural utilities commissions. It is important that the USDA be vigilant in fairly and thoroughly evaluating this project through the EIS.</p> <p>We believe the most stringent environmental compliance standards, whether they be those of Wisconsin, Minnesota, South or North Dakota, or the Federal Government, should be applied to the assessment of this project since the proposed action(s) traverse(s) through these states. The hope is that citizens and decision makers throughout the proposed route(s) will have accurate scientific and analytical data to minimize potentially significant impacts to the natural and built environment.</p> <p>Citizens are fortunate that processes such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) of 1973, and the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) of 1972 are available to allow individual citizens to have a voice in this process. In reviewing these laws, it appears the USDA has an overarching responsibility to ensure that the proposed power line project(s) comply with the highest standard of environmental compliance in assessing reasonable alternatives and act on those alternatives to protect human health and the environment. In reviewing NEPA, MEPA, and WEPA, one can readily see that all have a similar guiding principle:</p>

**I-222-011**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O01-General/Other.

**I-222-012**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.

**I-222-013**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

**I-222-014**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

**I-222-015**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A12-NEPA Summary or Interpretation.



I-222-015

NEPA: "To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment ... to enrich the understanding of the ecological system and natural resources..."

MEPA: In 1973, the Minnesota Legislature passed the State's Environmental Policy Act. The Act is a comprehensive environmental planning requirement, which declares a state policy to use all practicable methods to create "a harmonious balance between man and nature." MEPA requires environmental impact statements for all major government action(s) or any major private action of more than local significance that has the potential for significant environmental effects. The primary purpose of MEPA is to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for each project with "potential for significant environmental effects."

WEPA: Signed into law in 1972, WEPA spells out the state's environmental policy. WEPA lacks procedural guidance; much of the current environmental process in Wisconsin has been developed in response to various court decisions.

It appears that NEPA and its implementing regulations, the President's Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) 1500 – 1508 are the most stringent, in other words, NEPA would appear to be the dominant guide to the process by which the proposed project(s) should be reviewed. However, both MEPA and WEPA have similar language, and it appears they were modeled after NEPA. Where the strength of NEPA comes into play appears to be in CEQ's implementing regulations. NEPA and CEQ's regulations, as demonstrated below, place a higher standard on the Federal Government to protect human health and the environment. Therefore, the USDA is obligated to use these higher standards in evaluating the impact of this project.

The purpose of NEPA can be found in Sec. 2 [42 USC § 4321]. To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

The intent of NEPA, Sec. 101 [42 USC § 4331]. "The Congress, ... declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with State and local government, and of other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans."

CEQ 1500.1 (a) Purpose: "The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our basic national charter for protecting the environment...The regulations that follow (1500 – 1508) implement Section 102(2). Their purpose is to tell federal agencies what they must do to comply with the procedures and achieve the goals of the Act. The President, the federal agencies, and the courts share responsibility for enforcing the Act so as to achieve the substantive requirements of Section 101."

I-222-015

MEPA has a similar intent. In 1973, the Minnesota Legislature passed the State's Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 4410). The Act is a comprehensive environmental planning requirement that declares a state policy to use all practicable methods to create "a harmonious balance between man and nature." MEPA requires environmental impact statements for all major government action(s) or any major private action of more than local significance that has significant environmental effects.

In addition, when assessing the highest standard of environmental compliance, consider that in 1971, the Minnesota Legislature passed the State's Environmental Rights Act (Chapter 952). The Act declares that each person is entitled by right to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of air, water, land, and other resources located within the state. The Act further declares its policy to create and maintain within the state conditions, which man and nature can exist in productive harmony in order that present and future generations may enjoy clean air and water, productive land, and other natural resources.

CEQ 1502.17 List of preparers: "The environmental impact statement shall list the names, together with their qualifications (expertise, experience, professional disciplines), of the persons who were primarily responsible for preparing the environmental impact statement or significant background papers, including basic components of the statement (Secs. 1502.6 and 1502.8). Where possible the persons who are responsible for a particular analysis, including analyses in background papers, shall be identified. Normally the list will not exceed two pages."

Neither Minnesota nor Wisconsin has a requirement to list preparers. In fact, in Minnesota, the proponent(s) prepare their own environmental impact statement. For Wisconsin, the Public Service Commission (PSC) has a staff that writes environmental impact statements in-house. Neither of these systems are as stringent as CEQ's requirement for preparers, so at your earliest convenience, please send to us and publish a list of the technical professionals you and your colleagues are proposing to use for the CapX 2020 EIS.

I-222-016

A Call to Action: If not now, when? If not the USDA through this environmental review process, then what options should individual property owners use to assess the incremental decisions power companies are making with their power plants, transmission lines, and associated infrastructure which have the potential to cause cumulative and long-term irreversible harm locally, regionally, and nationally?

In your June 11, 2009 letter to property owners you note there are eleven transmission-owned utilities involved in the CapX2020's joint initiative, which we believe to be the following companies:

- Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland or DPC)
- Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM)
- Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation (NSPW) (collectively, Xcel Energy)
- Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMMPA)
- Rochester Public Utilities (RPU)
- WPPI Energy, Inc.
- Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
- Great River Energy
- Minnkota Power Cooperative

## I-222-016

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.



I-222-017

For the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to send out a notice of public comment period that ends on July 24, 2011 and not have their website operating properly to allow citizens to review the proposed action by Dairyland Cooperative was unfair and unprofessional. We have families, careers, aging parents, community responsibilities, and extensive responsibilities in managing our homes and farms. To place an additional burden on citizens by not having your web-based computer systems working was unfortunate and disruptive to our lives. Instead of spending time with our families and attending to the host of other responsibilities we have, we have had to undergo the stress of a dysfunctional website in sight of a critical impending deadline. By its lack of preparedness, the USDA has increased the burden and plight within our community so now again we have had to plow through the data of the proposed action(s) to compare the information sent back in June and assess how the web-based data might have changed relative to what we already thought was the proposed project(s). In the future, as this process unfolds, please ensure that all sources of computer-based systems are up and running before setting deadlines and asking the public to review and comment.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Ann Nimmer William Zollweg*

Barbara Ann Nimmer and William Zollweg, Property Owners, Husband and Wife, Parents of Two Teenaged Children

cc: Town of Gale Board  
Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors  
Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator Ron Johnson  
Representative Ron Kind  
State Senator Kathleen Vineout  
Representative Chris Danou

## I-222-017

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and Meetings.

From: George Nygaard [<mailto:gnygard@mwat.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 10:40 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Durango CO  
Subject: CapX Hampton-Alma-La Crosse EIS

Ms. Strength:

I-223-001

I have recently been made aware that the deadline for statements regarding CapX has been extended to 8-16-11.

I am a member of Vernon Electric Coop, a DPC member coop. I am an intervenor before the WPSC in opposition to the Alma to Holmen segment of the CapX project. I am opposed to the project for several reasons:

I do not live anywhere near the line, but I do sympathize with landowners will be affected by the project. I have attended hearings in Minnesota, as well as open houses and scoping 'meetings' in Wisconsin. I have attended several county and town boards and committees. I have heard nothing but unanimous opposition by both local officials and citizens to CapX. It would seem that rural folk feel that they are to make great sacrifices for the energy greed and wastefulness of their urban compatriots.

I-223-002

For the past few months, I have heard from or read opposition to CPCN plans to do great harm to protected wildlife and wetland areas. Strong opposition has been voiced by Wis DNR, US F & W Service and Mississippi Parkway Commission to cut and maintain 150' swaths through protected environmentally sensitive areas. Wisconsin Wetlands Assoc., Sierra Club, Friends of the Trempealeau Refuge and many others have also voiced opposition to the project. Wis DOT and US F & W are on record opposing the Q-1 line along The Great River Road (Hwy 35), where DOT has acquired scenic easements.

I-223-003

Most importantly, there is a great deal of evidence that we don't need the project. Wisconsin electric usage has only grown 3.7% over the past 10 years and has fallen 6.4% in the past 3 years. An examination of the peak load data that has been submitted to Minn. PUC, RUS over the years and more recently to the 5 CE 136 Docket, reveal a great amount of inconsistency, if not outright fudging. (see the table on 2-40 & 41 of the 6-14-11 redline version of the application on the 5 CE 136 Docket List) When one analyzes the inconsistency of the past peak load data, one must conclude that we should have no trust in their future projections for load demand.

I-223-004

The applicant's appear to reject reasonable alternatives to the 345 kV line. They declined the notion of a 161 kV or 230 kV line from Rochester MN, as well other lesser impact upgrades to the local transmission system. They declined one by one the alternatives of load management, solar, wind and hydro. I believe that if they combined all the alternatives just mention, we could avoid this costly highly environmentally destructive project entirely.

I firmly believe that we cannot afford to continue to send our energy dollars out of the state. Rural folks are waking up to the benefits of energy conservation and decentralized energy production. We are seeing a great revolution in rural energy production. A farm near me installed one of the first smaller scale manure digesters produced by a company in Tomah WI. A Cashton gas station owner put up a sizable wind turbine behind his ridge-top station. A company from Boston has proposed putting new-concept generating turbines at several

#### I-223-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

#### I-223-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

#### I-223-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

#### I-223-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-223-004

upper Mississippi lock and dams with enough capacity to serve the needs of 65,000 homes.

I urge you to reject any financial help to Dairyland Power Cooperative to join in the CapX Project (Alma to Holmen). DPC and it's now 25 member coops have had a bad business model for the past 30 years resisting the renewable energy mandate provided by PURPA. I would urge you to use whatever power you have to move us toward a clean, safe and economically viable energy future.

Sincerely,  
George R. Nygaard  
S2126 Wing Hollow Rd  
Chaseburg, WI 54621

**I-224-001**

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A:  
General/Other, A01-Miscellaneous.

From: [Caraway57@aol.com](mailto:Caraway57@aol.com) [<mailto:Caraway57@aol.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 3:17 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Durango CO  
Subject: RRTT and CAPX

Dear Stephanie,

I hope this finds you well.

**I-224-001**

I have been involved in the CAPX2020 project here in MN for three years. You have received correspondence from me regarding this Project more than once. I am concerned, and confused, about the latest developments regarding energy, and "fast tracking" the HVTL. And I see that the Federal Agency "in charge" of our project via the new RRTT is the RUS.

I have significant concern. We have been told MULTIPLE times that a DEIS would be conducted and coordinate with our state process as suggested by law. It has been delayed numerous times. The MN process is nearly ended, and citizen input is complete. Will the RUS now supercede and delay this project?

Many lives are on hold, and have we have participated fully in the state process. We know our state.

I would greatly appreciate some clarification regarding this recent development. What does it mean to individual landowners? How will this "fast tracking" and "streamlining" help Obama's attempt to "protect the environment"? What about private citizen input and task forces? And how can this jurisdiction encompass more than Federal land... what does it mean to "expand the scope of activity beyond federal lands"?

I appreciate your consideration and response.

Respectfully yours,  
Suzanne Rohlfing



From: Betty Wolcott <mailto:bwolcottsf@riwest.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 9:29 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Durango CO  
Cc: Betty Wolcott  
Subject: Fw: PSC docket 05-CE-136

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

From: Betty Wolcott  
To: [kenneth.rineer@wi.gov](mailto:kenneth.rineer@wi.gov)  
Cc: Betty Wolcott  
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 10:08 AM  
Subject: PSC docket 05-CE-136

Kenneth Rineer  
EIS Coordinator-PSX Scoping/CapX2020

**I-225-001** | I wanted to speak at the Centerville Community Center meeting, July 20th. Due to the extreme heat index forecast for tomorrow I do not feel it is safe to travel that far. So I have just a few comments about the EIS for CapX2020.

1. The most important consideration is the protection of our land, water and all the life that will be affected by installing this transmission line. We can live without a lot of amenities but not without healthy and flourishing "environments" --ecosystems.

**I-225-002** | 2. It is wasteful to transport electric power over long distances. We lose a significant amount of it. The lines are disruptive and often do not even serve the communities they disrupt.

**I-225-003** | 3. The first step would be to do a very detailed and serious needs assessment. Energy efficiency and retrofitting as well as more locally situated energy sources and transmission lines would do much to cut down on the need for huge lines such as CapX2020. (Right now--during this heat wave-- buildings that are well insulated are using much less cooling. (In fact, one of our buildings needs no air-conditioning. It does have infloor heating so that adds to the cooling, BUT I believe we could cut our energy needs in half if we figured out and implemented all the ways we could save energy. This would include all electronics and unplugging them when not in use, etc.)  
**I-225-004** |

**I-225-005** | 4. Another consideration is the beauty of natural landscapes. Beauty lifts the spirit and is a basic human need. Its importance cannot be denied because we think we cannot meet energy needs without huge technological fixes. The horizons should reflect that we are inventive and responsible people who recognize this human need.

**I-225-006** | 5. While building transmissions lines might add jobs in the short term, many more would be created by making all homes and buildings energy efficient and would be environmentally friendly.

**I-225-007** | 6. Solar panels and other small more localized energy sources are more effective and much less intrusive.

**I-225-008** | 7. Environmental Impact Statements take time. Please do not cut corners. Do the first things first! Assess, involve many more people. The decisions being considered affect all of us. Every thing is connected and interdependent and must be included as we make big and far-reaching decisions.

Thank you, Kenneth.

Betty Wolcott, OSF  
N47475 Woodland Lane  
Osseo, WI 54758-6602  
(715-597-2711)  
[bwolcottsf@riwest.net](mailto:bwolcottsf@riwest.net)

July 19, 2011

## I-225-001

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

## I-225-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

## I-225-003

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

## I-225-004

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

## I-225-005

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

## I-225-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

## I-225-007

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.

## I-225-008

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.