Appendix T –
Comments from Businesses, Individuals
And
Non-Governmental Organizations
The Minnesota EIS Scoping Route has my deeply concerned. Because you have not taken into account, or you have forgotten that the issue was raised when public comments were invited back in 2009, as Farmstay at retreat business that will be impacted. It is this move another route is established. People come to this business to quiet rest and relaxation plus the beauty of the open rolling prairie and unflatted views of the landscape. These 345 kV towers and transmission lines will impact this business negatively.

Optional Name: Maria Depression Dancing Winds Flemings
Address: 6863 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon 55946

If you would like to take this form with you, please fold it by 2/13/2012 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 and a stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.Strength@wac.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on this 95+5 existing web site:
January 13, 2012

Comments on the November, 2011 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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 on 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.

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.

In addition to the vineyard, Elmaro Farms, Inc. owns over 800 acres of farm land on the prairie between Virden 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
thriveatsol.com.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O04-Other Agriculture.
Introduction

During the past 5 years, there has been increased interest in the use of herbicides for the control of weeds in vineyards and orchards. This interest has been driven by the need to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, which are known to be harmful to the environment and to human health. The use of herbicides has been shown to be effective in controlling weeds without harming the crops they are meant to protect.

Types of Harmful Herbicides to Grapes

There are several types of herbicides that can be harmful to grapes if not used properly. These include:

1. **Amine herbicides** - These herbicides are used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines. They can also harm the soil and its beneficial microorganisms.

2. **Aflatoxins** - These are produced by fungi and can be present in crops. They can cause severe health problems in humans and animals.

3. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

4. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

5. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

6. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

7. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

8. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

9. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

10. **Acorus gramineus** - This herbicide is used to control weeds in vineyards and can cause damage to grapevines.

Herbicide Drift Injury

Herbicide drift is a concern when applying herbicides to grapevines. The drift can cause injury to neighboring crops and plants. The drift can be reduced by using proper application techniques and by choosing herbicides that have low drift potential.

Drift from herbicides can cause injury to grapevines, which can result in reduced yields and quality. The injury can be reduced by using proper application techniques, such as using a wind shield or applying the herbicide under low wind conditions. Proper irrigation can also help reduce drift.

In conclusion, the use of herbicides is essential for controlling weeds in grapevines, but it is important to use them properly to avoid damaging the crops they are meant to protect. Proper application techniques and the use of low-drift herbicides can help reduce the risk of drift injury.
Table 2. Crop injury symptoms to 2,4-D Drift Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>No injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Very minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Very severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The severity of injury may depend on the crop and the exposure concentration. Injury may be more severe at higher exposure concentrations.

Figure 1. 2,4-D Drift Injury Symptoms


Researchers at Washington have found that 2,4-D effects tend to increase with increasing exposure concentrations. Injury may become more severe with increasing exposure concentrations.

Growth Regulator Injury Symptoms: Injury from growth regulator herbicides will appear within two days of the drift incident. The symptoms of 2,4-D injury include chlorosis (yellowing) of shoots, leaves, and flowers. Stunting growth, reduced plant vigor, and reduced yield may also be observed. Exposure of developing fruits may result in smaller or no production.

Example injury symptoms observed in a study included:

1. **Chlorosis** (yellowing) of leaves, shoots, and flowers.
2. **Stunting** of growth, reduced plant vigor, and reduced yield.
3. **Reduced fruit size** and **stunting of developing fruits**.

Researchers have found that 2,4-D effects tend to increase with increasing exposure concentrations. Injury may become more severe with increasing exposure concentrations.
Figure 2. Circaea Drift Injury Symptoms

Leaf stippling present
Leaves notching removed

Glycinebrom IC Herbicides Injury Symptoms
Symptoms vary, depending on the rate of application. Injury is most severe at rates of 0.6 to 1.0 L/ha and 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, partial or complete plant death may occur, resulting in a growth of lower-ranked or sub-equal-sized foliage growth. Other symptoms include leaf, flower, and stem distortion, and abnormal development, with (or in some species) more frequent symptoms (Figure 4). Full-season sprayer Banding symptoms include symptoms showing the following year, spring sprayer commercial include stunting of leaf shoot growth, leaf size and thickness, and discolored, varying from yellow to brown, or brown to black. Early spring symptoms may be confused with viral or fungal diseases (virus-like disease). Injury may occur, but injury can occur from either Banding or ASL in B-02D, although it is uncertain if the amount of injury is similar in both long-term implications. It is generally believed that drift injury from ASL in mailing herbicides is more likely than drift injury from Banding.

Table 1. Alternatives Herbicides for Circasia Drift Injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weedex</td>
<td>Early</td>
<td>1 L/ha</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Apply earlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>0.6 L/ha</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Apply earlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late</td>
<td>0.3 L/ha</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Apply earlier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protection from Herbicide Drift Injury

Avoid Herbicides in Areas with High DRIFT HAZARDS. The best way to approach herbicide drift is to prevent it from occurring in the first place. People concerned in producing quality products should avoid areas of the field where herbicide drift is likely. In some instances, it is impossible to grow quality grapes in certain regions and to avoid drift is not possible. In other cases, the grower must prevent or reduce drift at a site by investigating and eliminating the potential sources of drift. When you establish grape plantings select a site that is protected from surrounding fields. Maintain buffer strips of at least 25 ft. surrounding your vines. Keep at least 200 ft. between the vines and the buffer strips. The buffer will allow the drift to be diluted and the windbreak will slow the wind and reduce the distance that drift may travel.

Maintain Good Relations with Your Neighbors

Make sure that your neighbors are aware that you are growing grapes and that you are growing them properly. This can be accomplished by providing maps or aerial photographs of your yard or letter to your neighbors. Aerial photographs are usually available from your supplier of herbicides or from many companies that produce aerial photographs. Make sure that your neighbors are aware of the potential for drift of your chemicals and how it can affect their crops. Work with your neighbors to encourage them to select herbicides that are less likely to injure your neighbors (Table 1). Table 1. Alternatives Herbicides for Circasia Drift Injury. Make sure that your neighbors are aware of the potential for drift of your chemicals and how it can affect their crops. Work with your neighbors to encourage them to select herbicides that are less likely to injure your neighbors (Table 1). Table 1. Alternatives Herbicides for Circasia Drift Injury.

Minimize Drift Injury from Herbicides Used in the Vineyard

Glycinebrom is rated for use in grapevines. However, if not properly applied according to the label, it can injure grape vines. Growers should follow these guidelines: Avoid...
### Reporting Drift Complaints

Herbicide injury is usually identified by observing physical signs or from the injury symptoms appearing on the plants. A common sign is that the herbicide in question causes a particular herbicide resistant crop to be affected differently than a non-resistant crop. If you have a crop affected, submit a sample to your local pesticide agency to determine whether herbicide drift caused the injury. For more information, visit [Your State's Agriculture Department's website](www.agriculture.state.gov) for contact details and test guidelines.
Figure 4. ALS herbicide injury symptoms from Sulfonilureas (Pentim) Spray Drift

Additional Herbicide Drift Resources

These are several resources available to help minimize herbicide drift. You can access the University of Illinois herbicide drift through the University of Illinois Herbicide Application Training Program site at [http://extension.illinois.edu/managedlandscaping/driftcontrol](http://extension.illinois.edu/managedlandscaping/driftcontrol). Another important resource is the University of Illinois Pest Management Guide which will include a sample herbicide list and will explain their associations if reported herbicide drift issues occur. You can call the Clinic at 217-333-1519 or visit their website at [http://extension.illinois.edu/icet/](http://extension.illinois.edu/icet/).
From: Andy Ferguson (mailto:ferg07145@gmail.com)
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 3:30 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
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 27th, 2011 open house in Etrick, 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
magnetic field exposure is associated with an increased risk of childhood leukemia" and that "precautionary measures are warranted." (DEIS Appendix B, p. 29). 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

- 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.

- 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
From: Jane Adams [mailto:janeadams@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 11:23 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RE, Washington, DC
Subject: Cap X, Hampton Rochester

I live on Lake Bylesby just outside the city if 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.

Jane Adams
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.
I-003-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-003-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-003-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-003-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.

Dear Mr. Streight—

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 to the DEIS is out of date and underdeveloped. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as “Efficiency Vermont” and others which are significantly reducing electricity growth, creating many valuable jobs, lowering costs, improving 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.

The stated purpose of “Regional reliability” depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional cost 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 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 latter 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:

Signature

Print Name

Address

If you need this in a printer-friendly format, please call 202-720-9111 or send an e-mail to Stephanie.A.Streight@usda.gov.


Stephanie.A.Streight@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.
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 A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

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

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

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.
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.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.

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

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

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

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

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for Highway 88 Alternatives.
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 A: General/Other, A08-Future Addition of Circuits.

I-007-028
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K02-Great River Road, Wisconsin.

I-007-029
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A08-Future Addition of Circuits.
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-007-038
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-007-046
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.
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.

Dear Ms. Streng --

I-008-001
In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided for 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 to the DEIS is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent advancements in energy efficiency programs such as “Efficiency Vermont” and others which are significantly reducing electricity growth, creating more sustainable jobs, lowering household and business costs, and reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTPEP I1 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 Plus I and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTPEP 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 MTPEP II investment and compare this to an investment of equal value in Aggressive Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management, and development of distributed generation. I feel that the lower investment 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-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.
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.

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

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

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

CHERYL BAKER: I'm Cheryl Baker.
I live on Highway 88. Our address is W1166 Meyer Road. We were informed just a couple of weeks ago by Susan Ruhr, who was a neighbor of ours, of the
1. CapX2020 coming through. And also, with Sue, we’ve been farming, we bought a farm in 1982, and then later we went through a major, major stray voltage. And like Sue, many of our cattle had to be disposed of. Jumpy, didn’t give any milk. That imposes a great loss on a farmer. You have to replace the cattle, and nobody does anything about it. If this line would come through on 88, on our property, we ourselves would have seven poles. Part of it is wetlands where the CCC camp was, in which my grandfather used to be there. Excuse me. The town of Waumandee had approached us with the historical society and wanted to move the chimney. We have many people who have come through there riding horses wishing to take pictures. We had a gentleman that came through that was at the CCC camp, and reminisced about what happened during the days. The only thing left that stands there is the chimney and is the artesian well that still remains. The poles would be directly outside of our house. We would be able to see that.

2. How will that affect our machinery as we try to get through? It’s not like we have thousands of acres that we farm either. We’ve only got 160 acres open,
I-011-005
I believe. And will some of those lines require
guidelines because we are on the curve?
I-011-006
I suffer from tinnitus, and I have
enough -- my ears are ringing in here. If the lines
are going to give any kind of noises, what is that
going to be like when it’s right straight across the
road from our house. Our son would like to take over
the farm, and who’s to say that any of us would
develop cancer or any of the other things that come
from stray voltage. We put up with this in the past,
I don’t hope that we would have to do it again in the
future. But that would be an everyday occurrence.
I-011-007
There are also air strips out
there that no one is taking into consideration. Our
neighbor Fred Gleiter flies in there all the time.
And he has other people that fly in. We also have an
air strip on ours that was not included. We haven’t
used it in a number of years, but it was still
readily available.
I-011-008
Our family opposes the CapX2020
line coming through on the Highway 88 corridor.
Thank you.
I-011-009
MS. RICHTER: Okay. We have Steve
Willemsen.
I-011-010
STEVE WILLEMSEN: I’m Steve
Individual Comments

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.
Thank you.

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

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

What was not examined in the statement was a combination of renewables, rather they examined each renewable such as wind and solar separately without looking at the combination. If a
need is demonstrated, what I did not see was an examination of both local renewable and conservation strategies rather than use of a high voltage power line. As an example, the Wisconsin Public Service noted that there was a generating plant at French Island which could meet demands in perhaps five days in the summer in which a need might be demonstrated rather than building a high voltage power line. It does not make sense to build a power line when a peaking plant certainly could meet that need.

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

MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Jeff Falk will be followed by David Petting.

JEFF FALK: I'm Jeff Falk, F-A-L-K. I live in Fountain City. If you look at the sheet here, it starts out with purpose and need. I want to talk about purpose and need. Because the
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-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-014-001
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.
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.
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

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
The question then is what is this line about? It is about overcapacity and overbuilding in the Dakotas. They will speak of congestion of capacity because of overbuilding. With the plan being that power will be exported for profit, even against popular opposition, to Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

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

Thank you for your time.

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

MS. MILLER: My name is Sally Miller. Town of Gaylesville. I don't have an opinion either way on this, other than to say that my concern is
I-015-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-015-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-015-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-015-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-015-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A07-Questions Related to USDA Funding.

Dear Mr. Strieby,

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for this proposal 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 to the DSR 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 reducing electricity growth, creating more 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.

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.

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 latter investments could produce greater benefits that are also more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economic and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments:

X The CapX Project should not go forward. The no build alternative is the most realistic choice. The RUS study clearly demonstrates that western Wisconsin is not in need of additional transmission or Dairyland Coop customers will not benefit by this project. Given this the USDA should not provide federal loans for this project.

[Signature]

Date: 2-5-12

Print Name: Firoz Bajwa

Address: 2451 Hillside Dr

Cherryburg, WI 54621

T-37
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.

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


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-016-005
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-016-004
occur. They want to run the power line near the Holmen High School and a grade school. And I'm on the facility committee for the school district of Holmen and have been very involved in putting together a resolution to the state stating that we do not want these power lines in LaCrosse County.

I-016-005
I have been involved as well with the resolution that the County of LaCrosse has passed, and that they do not want the power lines as well. There is also Farmington Township and Holland Township also. Holland and Farmington Townships have both signed resolutions that they do not want them. Because there is some real disastrous impacts on people with the power lines.

I-016-006
Very frankly, I'm not so sure if I believe some of the information that I received, especially as I have been able to dissect this and pull it all apart and look at it over the last four years. Some of the stories are changing a bit.

So, I highly recommend that they vote against it and that we do not have the power line coming through here. And there is no -- there is no question in my mind that this is just a means to an end to get this power into Chicago and to get it into other parts of the Midwest, and even further out.
I-016-007
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

east.

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

I think that's it.


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

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

And I would like to mention this as well, but you don't want to write the whole thing,
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.
decrease in livestock production and health.

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

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

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

LINDA VANART: Hello, my name is Linda Vanart. I live in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I’m a member of Citizens Energy Task Force, a bunch of volunteer citizens in Minnesota and Wisconsin who are opposing the CapX2020 project. Just two years ago in 2009 Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar announced that the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge had been designated a wetland of international importance. Refugee manager Don Holtman said the designation was aimed at strengthening public awareness and appreciation of the role wetlands play in sustaining environmental health, economic enterprise, and recreational well-being. And yet,
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 A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.
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.

---

MR. BRADY: Hi. My name is David Brady. That is B-R-A-D-Y. I live at north N -- I'm sorry, 86378 County Highway XX, Holmen, Wisconsin. They want to put this line, hook it up to a substation very close to our -- our little chunk of land. The little chunk of land has been in my family for over 70 years. I plan on building habitat and homes for disabled vets. I am a disabled vet myself. These power lines, it comes down to what Chuck had just said, it is about big companies, with big money stepping on anyone they have to to get what they want, which is more money.

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

We have got a great resource, the Mississippi River. If they want to put up something that will contribute and be local energy, they could put a hydrodam on the river with very minimal costs, compared to this monstrosity of a project.
We don't need it. We don't want it. It is bad for us, bad for our kids, bad for our neighbors. And there is a lot of better ways of doing this, people. And Chuck is right, grab a pen and just write, "I don't like it" or "I don't want it," because everybody here needs to stand up when you have a chance and let your people know that are running this country or running this state or county that you don't want this and you are against it. And they have to listen; otherwise, we can throw their asses out.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: John, is it Frie or Fry?

MR. FRIE: Frie.

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

MR. FRIE: My name is John Frie. I live at 82699 State Road 88. And the reason I come back down tonight is I am passing through, and also, we heard a lot about the Great River Road, which I know is a long corridor, but that is the reason that it affects us, is because on 88, we have a great scenic road also, it is called Highway 88, State...
the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved this in Minnesota, CAPX immediately filed to try to block required renewable energy that Minnesota required on the line, in the line that backs up with this one in Hampton, Minnesota. And the reality is that if we want to do wind is that the best wind power in the upper midwest is offshore on Lake Michigan, right near Milwaukee and Chicago, where a lot of this power is needed. And we also know that it's not about coal because the Attorney General of North Dakota has sued the Attorney General in Federal Court because in 2007 Minnesota enacted a law allowing no new coal power to come into Minnesota because we want to have renewable energy. North Dakota is wanting to overturn that law in Minnesota to the Federal Court so that they can get coal power through Minnesota.

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

MR. BRADY: I am David Brady again.

A couple of points.
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-020-004
I was invited to a show in Stony Creek Inn and it was funded by the CAPX2020 people. They had us sit down and watch this real pretty little, I don’t know what you would even call it, advertisement I guess, for their line. All they said was, “Wind, wind, wind.” Coal wasn’t mentioned once. So, from the start they have tried to evade the entire thing and keep it from the public.

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

But the Stony Creek Inn, they never once, not once mentioned coal. And that should kind of set the attitude for the line. I don’t know if they just need more electricity down in Chicago for -- for expanding. It doesn’t matter. I don’t care. We don’t need it here and let them produce it there.

They have got a river. They can put a hydro damn up. And Joe is right, this is one big extension cord.

And I asked the gentleman from Dairyland Power, if any of these towers ever fell, and he said yes. What would happen if one of those towers fell on the bleachers behind Holmen High.
School? The bleachers behind Holmen High School, what would happen to the students and the teachers and the fans? They would be fried. Don't do it. Don't do it on our backs. They want it done there, they can figure it out. I mean they produced a president, so they can produce some electricity. You know, neither one are working damn well.

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

MS. WOOD: I think that I am the beginning cover and the end cover of a book. I am just going to continue so that you know what LaCrosse County did in their "be it resolved" part. But the two other issues. Whereas a new transition line will result in increased electricity costs for all of the rate payers, loss of property value and tax base because of the impact on view and the dangers that high-voltage power lines inherently carry, and...
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.
section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section organic farming was not even identified at all. This line would compromise our right to farm in a matter for good business properties and economic practices. We are also very concerned about the effect of any or all stray voltage from the proposed line on people and animals. If we are not careful in the future, stray voltage will put us humans as the No. 1 thing on the list of endangered species. Our family is working towards a century farm status, and we are very distressed about the proposal of this line to come through, and that on top of all our efforts lose the value that we are now trying to build.

We do not agree with the proposed line that is supposed to come through on 68. My husband and I would definitely vote no on this project. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Gary?

GARY BROWN: It's all been covered. But I strongly feel the no action alternative is the way to go. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: David Harzberg, and he will be followed by Kay Lockstein.

DAVID HERRBERG: David Herrberg,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1995
From: Mark Brone [mailto:mark@brownesbikeshop.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RDI: Washington, DC
Cc: Gary Brone  
Subject: CAP%2020 Do We Need It

Stephanie,

Gary had asked me to send you this.

Sincerely,

Mark Brone  
Brown's Bike Shop  
615 S. Main Street  
Fountain City, WI 54629  
608-687-8601  
507-458-9861 (cell)  
www.brownesbikeshop.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.
Stephanie Strong,

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. Strong, 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-025-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-025-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-025-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-025-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-025-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

I-025-006
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).
thinking of things that could give us jobs locally here? And the people in Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison can have energy produced there and they can produce their own jobs there.

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

I don't envy David O'alker's job of trying to figure out how to provide power in the next few decades because we are a selfish society that
I-026-001

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

   The federal government, through mandates, through squeezing coal power generation and making it almost a dirty word, dirty coal, dirty word, nuclear power and no forth, we have come to the point where we are looking out of our own country to find ways to produce power. So that is the macro view.

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

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


I-026-002

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

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
I-026-003

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

Individual Comments

T-58

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

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

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, Charles.

And then he will be followed by David and Beverly

BRADY: So David. Did both of you want to speak?

MRS. BRADY: No. Just David. David

will speak.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, fine. You

will follow Charles then. Thank you.

MRS. HANSEN: Thank you. My name is
I-027-001

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Next is Randy Campbell, followed by Charles Hassan.

MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Randy Campbell. C-A-M-P-B-E-L. I live at 820578 Howell Lane. One of the proposed routes is directly across from my home.

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

I don't envy David Galkers' job of trying to figure out how to provide power in the next few decades because we are a selfish society that
I-028-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-028-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-028-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-028-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.
I-030-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C07-Opposition to or Preference for a Specific Alternative.

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 come to date any development near the intersection of highways 19 and 55 as well as the southern interchange site south of Cannon Ball Road. Cannon Falls is suffering from economically 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 leave the property taxes per capita.

Many areas west of Cannon Falls would be the best possible route joining highway 55 well south of Cannon Falls. This route should be considered.

Optional: Name: Henry J. Beam
Address: Cannon Falls, Minnesota

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 stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wbd.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:
problem didn't even exist.

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

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you,

Joanne. So Rob Danielson, and then you will be
followed by Steven Dorr.

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Talk louder.

They would like to be able to hear you speak.

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

I will provide you with a list of the
information that is needed in this study, which we feel is missing, in a separate letter.

Basically, with the three minutes to talk here, I guess the simplest thing to say is that the draft study at this point is a study of only one business plan. That is to say that if we look at the CAPEX 2020 line, we are supposed to see it as a critical piece. We are supposed to see it as an individual transmission proposal, but indeed it’s more accurately a critical first piece of a 85 to 200 billion dollar plan to expand the wholesale transmission system in the entire midwest. And that plan and that amount of expenditure is compared to what?

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

I would simply point to one section here in your alternative energy studies, on Page 314, “Conservation measures.” I am quoting the report here, “Conservation measures will not reduce or obviate the need for the proposal to address...
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).

---

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

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

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

So thank you.
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.

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.
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.
Individual Comments

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.
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.
problem didn't even exist.

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

Thank you.

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

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Talk louder.

They would like to be able to hear you speak.

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

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

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thanks.

MR. NYGARD: Thanks everybody.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

Phillip will be followed by Linda Van Art (phonetic).

MR. DeMASTER: My name is Phil DeMaster. I live at N1739 Wright Road, Gaysville. It is right over here on the prairie, in the town of Trempealeau.

I don't have any prepared statements. All I have to say is that this is a transmission line. I don't believe that it is intended for any local distribution and I think we are just being
pawning in the whole thing and I would urge you to take an alternative action and believe that this isn't 
needed.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Is Linda here?

MS. VAN ART: Yes.

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

MR. GELKERS: Gelkers.

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

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

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

We live along the proposed CAPX2020 southern route in southeastern 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".

The latest Draft Environmental Impact Statement brings up several points that have been stressed over the lengthy comment period for this project.

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.

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 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.

4) The actual EMF exposure is not calculated correctly by the applicants.

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.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

I-040-001

Barbara Dietrich, and I am nine years old. Section 3, 11.1 eviction and environment. This impact will occur only very close to transmission lines. This will be entirely Highway 88. This will be my barn, my house, my pets, my cows. This affects me, and I don't want this coming by my farm. I like my farm just as it is. Please don't change it.

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

ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I would first like to start out by saying thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there. We were very distressed to find out about the proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have numerous concerns about this line. On page 321,
DEIS, there's this cute little chart talking about the river crossings and why they were eliminated. The chart reflects that all are affected. So check that out. I'll have more on this tomorrow. Stay tuned.

MS. RICHTER: Billy will be followed by Don, Jordan, Karen and Barbara.

BILLY DISTRICH: My name is Billy Districh, and I live on Highway 88. I am the mother of seven children. Their ages are four weeks to 13 years old. I also live on a registered dairy farm with 150 milking Holsteins. The USDA's website states that rural development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America. How will these lines help my rural life?

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

MS. RICHTER: Okay.
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.
ground rods to metal fences in order for my family to
safely do daily farm operations, and also the effect
on machinery and electronics.
Should this line come through, I
extend an open invitation to anyone who supports this
project coming through my property, the town of
Waunakee and the county of Buffalo to publicly have
themselves tied to a pillar for just one day, because
it would be strapping my family and myself to it for
a lifetime.

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

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

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-522-1955

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

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

JORDAN DIETRICH: I'm Jordon Dietrich and I'm one of the sons. — I'm a son from Billy. I'm in the eighth grade of Cochrane Fountain City School, and I would like to address page 236. Nowhere does it mention Highway 88 impact. This would include the dairy farm I live on and the beautiful woodlands that I hunt on. I oppose the Highway 88 corridor.

KOREN DIETRICH: My name is Koren Dietrich. I'm in fifth grade, and I live on a dairy farm that I hope to be in charge of when I graduate from Cochrane Fountain City School. I would like to address Page 321, 3.11.1.1 that specific locations of dairy farm where not identified. I am hoping that my right to farm will be there when I do
I-044-001

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

Individual Comments

T-82
get old enough to do so. But you do not even include
my parents' farm on Highway 88. I oppose the Highway
88 corridor.

MS. RICHTER: And this is Barbara.

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

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

ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I
would first like to start out by saying thank you for
the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann
Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband
Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is
S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there.
We were very distressed to find out about the
proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have
numerous concerns about this line. On page 321,
the loss of cropland, the -- you know, the health
dangers, and all the other issues. I'm very opposed
and I'm not sure that the power line is necessary at
all. But if it has to be that, it should go down
existing corridors where the right-of-way -- either
the Highway 35 or the overland route where they
already have the right-of-ways.

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

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

* * *

GREG DITTRICH: My main concern
is the high voltage near my house. The health hazard
problem. And I already have a high line near my
house on my property. It will decrease the value of
my house for resale. And it should follow the route
already established if they want to put this line through. And it's foolish to follow Highway 88.

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

* * * *

(Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

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

MS. STRENGTH: Hello, everybody.
I-046-001

Moderator Richter: Thank you. And Stephen, I am sorry if I said your name wrong. Stephen will be followed by Carol Overland.

Mr. Dorr: My name is Stephen Dorr. D-O-R-R.

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

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

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
I just started gathering data myself. But at the same time, I know that we need energy. And if, indeed, Illinois and Ohio need energy, that they don't have the ability to create it locally, if some of us want to travel there, we will take it for granted that there is going to be electricity when we get there. We will go get in our car or get in a airplane and fly to Chicago, and we will probably take it for granted that we have all of the power that we want when we get there.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

MR. DORK: Thank you.

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

MS. OVERLAND: Carol Overland.


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

It is good to see so many of you here. And I wanted to address the NEM issues which I
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 statute 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 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.
From: Denny Dunker [mailto:denny.dunker@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 10:41 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Cc: Denny Dunker
Subject: Cap x route 2020

Stephanie. My name is Dennis Dunker. My wife Jan and I live at 5382 Spice Lake, Cannon Falls, MN. I am writing to express our opposition to the alternative route 1p-003 Map 8.1-11. I have carefully followed the proposed route and I find it turns East as shown on map 8.1-11. It would directly pass 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 2 miles 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.

May 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
800-657-8727
find us on Facebook
I-049-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.

1. Utility ––

   MS. RICHTER: I want to thank you all for your cooperation with the time limit.

   DAVE ROBB: I'm Dave Robb. I live in Mondovi, but I'm a Buffalo County supervisor, district six. I'm against the Highway 88 corridor alternative, and I'm glad they explained MISO. They have 229 projects, and of those projects they will produce 4,511 megawatts of coal, iron energy; 1,805 kilowatts of gas, fuel generation; and 1,008 kilowatts of wind power. I think that's a little high for coal. In addition to the problem of using the coal, more than others, is applicants that have no particular right to transfer renewable energy because they have contracted with a renewable energy contract or plan to construct a utility owned renewable energy project. This means that they are going to –– they are going to stand in the way of renewable projects.

   And for Dairyland -- I'm kind of skipping around here because I'm trying to cover new stuff. For Dairyland, whatever their investment is, it'll be borne by -- entirely by the retail customers. So I question the ideas behind spending all this money when they should be spending it on
things like French Island, which is an Xcel company, and it works. You take our refuse from our throw-away society and turn it into electricity. And we need to concentrate more on those types of things. Alternatives.

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

MS. RICHTER: Susan will be followed by Joan Schnaible?

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

We feel that it is USDA's responsibility to support our local agriculture and
I-050-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-050-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-050-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-050-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
I-051-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-051-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-051-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-051-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Dear Mr. Streng—

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 system.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached to the DEB is out of date and under-developed. The assessment should include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as “Efficiency Vermont” and others which are significantly reducing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering fuel, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over three times more significantly than those projected by the MTEP1 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

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

In order to provide Darien Power Electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/MTEP I11 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 latter 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:

(Signature)

Print Name: Jennifer L. Kelly
Address: 1234 Main St., Darien, CT 06820
Date: 3/1/15
To: Stephanie A. Strength
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs
5400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244
Washington, D.C. 20250-1576

From: Lori M. Endres

Subject: Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 145 kV Transmission Improvement Project

Dear Stephanie A. Strength,

My name is Lori M. Endres. I attended the public meeting held in Cannon Falls, MN the week of January 9th, 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 71 and 340th 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.
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 Hay 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 or 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 Capn2020/Xcel groups agree that type of power line is totally compatible with Industrial and Commercial Zoning. The area north of the current businesses is farmland. Residually 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 3/4 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/farm land 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, farm land, natural resources, and karsts features. Please reference the attached map from Capn showing the intersection of Hay 52 and County Road 47 with the cleared area identifying the four homes in 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 Capn/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 D05 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 30 years. They are now 80 years old respectively and still depend on their prime agricultural land, as necessary rental income during their retirement.
The Alternate Route when it turns south would essentially split their property. TheAlternate route would negatively impact and divide two quarter sections of land. (Reference the NE 4 of section 6 on the attached ALCOM 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 1P-008 Scoping Route. 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.
Individual Comments

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 ¾ 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, karst formations, woodlands, wildlife, and ground water.

I hope this correspondence adequately expresses my 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: 612.382.1134
Work: leendres@pol.com

Individual Comments

T-98
To whom it may concern we are against this big new electric line being built here. Because we have in the past experienced much stray voltage due to electric power.

That did cause us a lot of income loss and all kinds of stress.

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

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

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

MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Jeff. Fall will be followed by David Petting.

JEFF FALK: I'm Jeff Falk, F-A-L-K. I live in Fountain City. If you look at the sheet here, it starts out with purpose and need. I want to talk about purpose and need. Because the
700-pound gorilla in the room -- and I don't mean to
degrade gorillas -- is MISO. MISO is the Midwest
Independent Supplier Organization which controls the
grid for the Midwest.

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

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

Okay. The local need is
unacceptable. What does that leave us with? Well,
regional need. Who determines regional need? Who determines what the region is? Well MISO does. Does the Rural Utility Service question what MISO says? If MISO says it, how can you question it? Who's the expert? Who's not the expert? What kind of information does MISO supply to back up their forecast. If they have a need in Ohio, does that become a regional necessity for western Wisconsin or eastern Minnesota? How do you determine that? How do you figure those interests in?

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

My goodness, I said that all and I haven't hit the time limit yet. Where do I go from here? Again, MISO, MISO is a problem. The Rural Utility Service, Wisconsin PEC, the Minnesota Public
MS. RICHTER: I want to thank you all for your cooperation with the time limit.

DAVE KBHE: I'm Dave KBhe. I live in Mondovi, but I'm a Buffalo County supervisor, district six. I'm against the Highway 88 corridor alternative, and I'm glad they explained MISO. They have 229 projects, and of those projects they will produce 4,511 megawatts of coal, iron energy; 1,805 kilowatts of gas, fuel generation; and 1,008 kilowatts of wind power. I think that's a little high for coal. In addition to the problem of using the coal, more than others, is applicants that have no particular right to transfer renewable energy because they have contracted with a renewable energy contract or plan to construct a utility owned renewable energy project. This means that they are going to -- they are going to stand in the way of renewable projects.

And for Dairyland -- I'm kind of skipping around here because I'm trying to cover new stuff. For Dairyland, whatever their investment is, it will be borne by -- entirely by the retail customers. So I question the ideas behind spending all this money when they should be spending it on
From: sfecarotta@global.com
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Frenh, 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
Dear Ms. Strength,

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project provided by the utility based on their local 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 to the DSS 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 home 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.

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 would 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 meets to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020 MITPEP 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 latter 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-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.
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.

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

* * * *

DAVID W. PETTING: My name is David W. Petting, State Highway 88, Cochrane, Wisconsin. And this is a reply to the USDA on 88A or 88B corridor. Should I refer to page numbers and all that stuff? Page 8, HRL 345kV draft EIS, executive summary 12.8.11. Q1 line needs to be updated anyway.

If this 345 line does need to be built, do it on the existing right-of-ways, not disturbing the agriculture, the conservancies, and the air strips that are currently in practice in Wausamande Valley.

Page 47, l.1.2. Purpose of and the need. From the information of the public service docket 5-CR-116, volume one, pages 18 and 18, it is questionable if the electric demand would be large enough to justify this line. The current generation resources to meet the needs of the area appear adequate.

Page 298, 3.03. Airports and Airplanes conflicts. My neighbor Fred Gleito has an airport. This line will not give him the proper clearances for takeoff and landings.

Page 313, l.10.1. ICP.
I-057-005
1 Electric fields are easily shielded by solid objects, but magnetic fields are not. If a person can feel the static electricity, example, hair standing up on your head or arms, the current is strong enough to affect the electric relays on equipment from the 1980s to about 2005. Newer equipment have safeguards on them. Hence driving under or along those lines could cause your equipment or tractor or vehicle to malfunction. I drive mules in the field and on the road along this proposed line. Can you assure me that they will not be affected by the presence of EMF and cause behavioral issues while being close to these lines?

I-057-006
Page 320. 3.11.2.1 environmental consequences. Property values and tourism. There will be a pole right across from my house, I think within 150 feet. This will potentially reduce the value of my property plus greatly affect the scenery from my house window. We see many car clubs, motorcycle clubs, bicycle groups, horse riding, and driving clubs take a slow ride up and down 88 to enjoy this beautiful Waumandee Valley. This line will certainly change that scene. Thank you. David W. Fetting, 82317 State Road 88, Cochrane, Wisconsin 54622. Telephone 608-626-2931.

I-057-007

I-057-008

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

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

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

EDWARD KLIES: My name is Edward
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.
are they going to hang more lines on these towers to
get more power?

GRANT STEVENSON: I would have to
deffer to Stephanie.

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

EDWARD FLIES: Okay.

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

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

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

CAROL OVERLAND: I would like to.

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

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

---

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

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

JOHN FRIE: I spoke in the past to
both Stephanie and Tom regarding this, especially
Highway 88 option. And we can talk for hours on
this, but I'll keep it to three minutes. My name is
John Frie, F-R-I-E. I live on 82699 State Road 88.
After reviewing the RIS draft in detail, one needs to
question why on earth the USDA would want to be part
of any electric transmission line given the past
history of stray voltage issues among our farming
community. With all the past stray voltage issues
the USDA has been informed of, from particularly the
dairy industry, one would think a better investment
for RUS and USDA could make it clean up existing
distribution services serving the farming segments.
This 345,000 volt transmission
line using the Highway 88 route running clearly
through the prime agriculture and dairy setting would
do nothing to make the existing infrastructure of
early electric services any cleaner, safer, or better
off. In fact, the 345,000 volt line will make the
rural electric system worse off. Therefore, we
extremely oppose the CapX2020, in particular in
Highway 88 options.

On page 292, section 3.7.2 states,
"The CFCN applicants prepared a Great River Road
visual impact assessment, including before and after
photo simulations along — simulations along the
Great River Road. The photo simulations are included
in Appendix K in the NCIS study. After reviewing the
Appendix K, the photos are all of the 35 corridor
from Alma to La Crosse. There were no photos of the
Highway 88 corridor.

So I had a civil engineering firm
impose some scale towers, 150-foot towers, on these
drawings I’m showing you. And since there were none
of the 88 corridor, I decided to go ahead and do
that. Keep in mind, these 150-foot towers are route
in 88 are slighted for 135- to 160-foot towers. So
got your EIS study, and do your facts, and get your
comments in. I took some before photos. There is my
before, because I had my before, and here’s with
150-foot towers imposed on it. This 150-foot tower
is one foot shorter than the Statue of Liberty.
That's not the whole thing, that's from her feet to
the torso 151 foot. So this is the Statue of Liberty
sitting right in front of my driveway. I'll see it
right out the front of my front window.

This is looking south out my
driveway down through Bob Kamrowski's -- you know,
again, lake cabin he has down here. And here's a
150-foot Statue of Liberty towers again located 25
feet from his property, from that getaway. And the
last drawing I have here is a little farther south --

MS. RICHTER: Preston is next
followed by Alan Mueller and Carol Overland. Okay.

Preston?

PRESTON: Preston Friis, P2699
State Road 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629. I
looked through the environmental impact study and
have concerns regarding the 150-foot structures along
the EMF lines which were imposed on the community.
I'm not convinced the electrical needs are as large
as the studies states, and I question the needs for
these transmission lines. Of great concern of mine
is the impact of wildlife.

Page 10 does not speak of the
so we have no lapse of time here. Let's quickly finish any comments you would like to get on the record. No more than three minutes each, and we'll have John first.

JON FRIEZ: I thought I would continue where I was because as I say a picture is worth 1,000 words. This is actually standing on Wauwanteo Creek Road and looking South out the valley. Beforehand picture. And this is the after picture with the 150 foot Statue of Liberty towers in there. For reference, this is Laura Schiffel's new dream home, energy efficient home right here. I'm sure she didn't notify her before she started building this on the proposed route.

All I wanted to come back and say is that everybody needs to get involved. I mean, you got the mailings, get on the website, get your information and go through it. I spent, I don't know, hours and hours going through this stuff, and there's so many things not even mentioned on the Highway 88 corridor. There's no mention of wildlife on there, species, Al Kuhe's conservancy, there's two airstrips that aren't mentioned, the CCC camp is not mentioned as stated tonight. There's so many things not mentioned. It says it will not cross any stream.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
any trout stream. Well Waumandee is a class A trout stream. They said in Wisconsin there would be no trout streams crossed in this plan.

It's appalling. This whole study is, like Minnesota and down 35. There is no pictures of it here. I got pictures of 88. I mean, we need to get involved. If not, I have nine pages of stuff here I could read all night, but I'm not going to bore you. There's nine pages here. I got 65 items, 65 pages, 65 sections, and they make no mention to our 88. Please read through it. If not, you are going to have a Statue of Liberty out in front of your driveway every morning when you go to work. Get involved. Get your information. Read through it. You are going to be amazed at what you find. There's like 1,200 pages, but those first three sections go through it, like 300 pages there.

I just can't say enough of this stuff that's not in there. No mention of dairy farms at all. They veer around the stray voltage issue. I asked Stephanie and Tom on the phone, I talked to them quite in depth, and I asked where the mailing was because I wanted more information. And I posed the question I had talked to on any commission, even Bill from PSC. Have you driven 88 lately? Yes. How

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-522-1955
long ago? About a year and a half. Is that the highway for a transmission of 345,000 volt to come down? When typically we have just right now 7,200 distribution line, the poles, the transformers starting in residential areas. That's where you have every city and every house. They can't say it for the record, that it shouldn't be, but they say it's a very a picturesque scenic valley. But drive -- again, I'll ask the whole table up here, drive 88 again. Take a look at it.

These towers are half the height of our hill. These towers are a third as tall -- if you lay it down, a third as long as the valley is wide. So please look through it again. Any questions, I hate to say it, but give me a call:

MS. RICHTER: Preston.

PRESTON FRIE: Preston Frie. I would like to continue on to the trout, how I mentioned in section 3.2.1.4 on page 187. It says no trout streams will be crossed, and there's actually nine stream crossings. And like I said before, the removal of vegetation will increase the temperature of these streams, and trout have a specific temperature they have to survive at, otherwise they will be pretty much nonexistent. And with that, the
We don't need it. We don't want it. It is bad for us, bad for our kids, bad for our neighbors. And there is a lot of better ways of doing this, people. And Chuck is right, grab a pen and just write, "I don't like it" or "I don't want it," because everybody here needs to stand up when you have a chance and let your people know that are running this country or running this state or county that you don't want this and you are against it. And they have to listen; otherwise, we can throw their asses out.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: John, is it Fri or Fry?

MR. FRIE: Fri.

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

MR. FRIE: My name is John Frie. I live at S2639 State Road 88. And the reason I came back down tonight is I am passing through, and also, we heard a lot about the Great River Road, which I know is a long corridor, but that is the reason that it affects us, is because on 88, we have a great scenic road also, it is called Highway 88, State
Highway 88. Currently it has no transmission lines, just distribution line, 7,200 volts. Transformed by a pole, seen throughout the city. The tallest structure on that, probably 24 to 30 feet is what the cross arm is. The poles representing on our route are from 135- to 160-feet tall. You see those things outside of a 150-foot pole. That's one foot shy of the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty from the feet to the tip of the torch is 151.

We moved to this area and chose this spot because of the scenic beauty on Highway 88. We didn't choose to build on 35 because of the browning grass and the railroad, and just there is nothing else you can see out there. Highway 88 is more scenic than Highway 35.

To look out my window, you can see the other side of the valley and see the Minnesota bluffs. I see the wildlife all times of day: deer, turkey, or whatever it is. I don't think they want to look out my window and see three big 150-foot poles every day, just like at the Statue of Liberty. When I go to work, I don't want to wave at the Statue of Liberty, I want to look at a deer.

You know, there is a lot of figures in there. I gave up trying to follow figures in the
book. Yeah, this study is so incomplete. The
Highway 88 was thrown into the mix in June and we
didn't know about it until December 21st at a town
board meeting. So we have been scrambling and we
have dug through over a thousand pages in that short
time. If you look at for Highway 88, there is
nothing in there mentioning the wildlife, the
wetlands, or any detail. I feel the wetlands are a
necessity. They don't list the private air strips
that are in there or any bear amounts that are in
there. So when I do my drive, I want to see some
wildlife. When I want to go to the country and
relax, I go up 88.

Su, if it just has to go somewhere,
I just recommend it goes along the existing corridor,
where the transmission line is. Either way it goes,
you know, Arcadia or whatever, it goes over my family
or my friends' property. So all I say is rethink the
Highway 88 route. It is not where it should go.
These poles 150 feet tall would be, at some points in
the valley, if you lay them down, a third of the
width of the valley.

So please look at Highway 88 again.
because it is not the spot to be. Thanks.

MODOCTOR RICHER: Thank you. Okay.
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

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-062-004 | 1 | Highway 88a or b corridor option for the wetlands or of the wildlife refuge the line will cross. The Highway 88 route is a sandhill crane migratory route. There are multiple active eagle nesting sites near the Kube conservancy and visible from the old CCC campsite while driving along Highway 88. The eagles use the Highway 88 route to go up the Valley to local chicken coops to feed. The Highway 88 route is also a migratory Canada geese flyway. Page 176, figure 3-1, slopes and prosess areas, has the hills and valleys listed at being anywhere from 58 to 100 percent sloped for the Highway 88 corridor. On page 178, figure 2-3, the erosion potential has the Highway 88 corridor listed as low or the lowest potential risk. How can figure -- two figurative maps indicate those topics be so far off? And I have assisted in assessments of the Waumandee Creek for wildlife. We have found the erosion has filled in many of the trout habitats. I have assisted the Wisconsin DNR along with the Waumandee Rod & Gun Club in repairing the stream where the trout are thriving. We have also installed 15 lunker structures to aid in the trout colony habitat near the streams. I found no mention on the impact study which states during the

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
construction how much vegetation will be removed near
streams. The acres of forestland or permanent
wetland impacted does not indicate the stream banks
conservation process. Clearing
for the 345,000 volt transmission line requires trees
to be removed in each right-of-way, and it will be.
In addition, the nine additional trout stream
crossings in table 2-5, page 154 for the Highway 88
route. Each time you clear a path down the stream,
it’ll raise the trout stream water temperature. And
once the trees and vegetation are removed, the sun
has a direct path to the stream, and that increases
the temperature. Therefore, it would raise the water
temperature, which drastically has a negative impact
on the homeostasis of the fragile native trout
population.

In one of my C-PC science
projects, I placed data loggers on the bottom of the
local streams, including the Waumandee Creek, to
monitor and record the water temperatures throughout
the summer months. These readings of the Waumandee
Creek, which is classified as a class A trout stream,
and has a ideal temperature readings which support
the class A designation, because it has strong trout
population numbers due to the ample food supply,

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1959
sufficient habitat cover, and ideal temperature ranges.

Section 3.2.1.4, page 187

states --

MS. RICHTER: Allan Muller

followed by Carol Overland.

ALAN MULLER: My name is Alan Muller, and I live at 1110 West Avenue in Red Wing, Minnesota. This is a proceeding under the National Environmental Policy Act, and one of the requirements there -- one of the key requirements that is kind of generally neglected is evaluating alternatives. And this obligation is called out accurately on page 83 of the draft EIS. It's section 2.1.1. And I would like to read it. "Under the CEQ regulations, RUS is required to identify and evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposal as well as the no action alternative." And let me stop and point out that alternatives are not the same thing as a no action alternative.

Okay. "Reasonable alternatives are those that are, quote, practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint in using common sense rather than simply desirable from the standpoint of the applicants." Now let me reread

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
long ago? About a year and a half. Is that the
highway for a transmission of 365,000 volt to come
down? When typically we have just right now 7,200
distribution line, the poles, the transformers
starting in residential areas. That's where you have
every city and every house. They can't say it for
the record, that it shouldn't be, but they say it's a
very a picturesque scenic valley. But drive --
again, I'll ask the whole table up here, drive 88
again. Take a look at it.

These towers are half the height
of our hill. These towers are a third as tall — if
you lay it down, a third as long as the valley is
wide. So please look through it again. Any
questions, I hate to say it, but give me a call:

MS. RICHTER: Preston.

Preston Frie: Preston Frie. I
would like to continue on to the trout, how I
mentioned in section 3.2.1.4 on page 187. It says no
tout streams will be crossed, and there's actually
nine stream crossings. And like I said before, the
removal of vegetation will increase the temperature
of these streams, and trout have a specific
temperature they have to survive at, otherwise they
will be pretty much nonexistent. And with that, the
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-062-010

class A designation to our trout streams would strongly and rapidly decrease. And so up and coming tourist pastime, I guess -- I know a lot of fellow community members go fishing, it's what we do. Even if you don't catch anything, it's just something fun to do, and spend time telling stories.

Someday I hope to purchase my parents' property, and due to the location and the wildlife and the scenic beauty, each year I spend about 95 days in the outdoors enjoying sights, sounds, scenery, and the sensations of the outdoors as they are in its current state. I also hope to someday build my home on the property, and continue to be a steward of the land.

With the proposed Highway 88 route and the 345,000 volt transmission line would diminish and dwindle my dreams to continue to enjoy all the majestic beauty that the Highway 88 corridor offers. It's not fair to take that right away from me. I strongly oppose the Highway 88 route. It needs to stay where the existing high voltage routes are located, or no option.

Another point, I worked in conjunction with the DNR and the Fishing and Wildlife Service to help biologically control invasive species.
out of the marshes. And there's a couple of
pinpointed spots that would be crossed with the
equipment which can stay on the equipment. And when
it moves to further locations, it can spread this.
And right now it's spread via wind, or via wind. So
it can further spread the seed, and with the seed it
multiplies at an exponential rate. And if you cut
the rate in half, you have two times one million.
You have one million times. And it smothers out any
native vegetation, it's like putting a blanket over
whatever is there and growing up. It's just a
ruthless invader, and it's nowhere mentioned on there
that this is present. Thank you for your time. And
I highly oppose this.

MS. RICHTER: All right.

CATHY SCHMIDTKECH: All right.

I'm Cathy Schmidtkecht. I've been asked to come up
on top here to ask for a vote of hands for all of
those in the group that are here tonight who are
opposed to the CapX2020 project? Can you show your
hands if you are against it going through? So I
would say what, 95, 97, 99 percent. Oh, maybe 100
percent, except for our board. And those that oppose
the no action alternative on County Road 88. Can I
have a hand for that? And I would have to probably
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.

1. **Ms. Garavalia:** Hi. My name is

2. **Moderator Richter:** You will have to pull it closer. Thank you.

3. **Ms. Garavalia:** My name is Denise. I currently live at 1618 Northfield Road in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This power line is prohibiting us from building.

4. Back in 2008 my husband and I bought 49 acres of land to build on to move to with our two daughters. We found out only just last year, when we were starting to look into building, and we already had the building permit, and we had it permitted, that -- sorry -- that they want to take pretty much the entire property to put a line as one of the proposed lines. I really don’t feel like it is necessary. I didn’t think it was necessary before I found out that they wanted to take my property.

5. Even a hospital, Gundersen Lutheran, is planning on going energy free by 2016, off the grid. Their own way is through wind power that would provide like 1400 homes power. Organic Valley in Cashton is also doing wind power, which would power a thousand homes for a year. So I really don’t see an alternative.

---

**Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955**
I mean people say, "It has to go here, it has to go there," I don't think so. Not just for people, but for the environment as well. Everyone isn't affected. No alternative. People will build their own.

If we get a chance to actually build, we are going to do everything we can to be off the grid ourselves with personal windmills, with solar energy panels. They have come a long way in 30 years, from just like a computer. How big was a computer 30 years ago? How big is it now? Same thing can be done. Upgrade the system, sure. You can get better cables nowadays and more efficiency that way. Not necessarily you don't have to come through and build these high-power lines.

I probably have more, but I'm very nervous, so thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Could we have your name for the record, Denise? It is G-A-R?


MODERATOR RICHTER: No, that's alright. Thank you, Sheryl Hanson.

MS. HANSON: My name is Sheryl 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@lacrsstribune.com | Posted: Saturday, August 20, 2011 12:00 am

The state awarded Gunderson 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 Gunderson 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 Gunderson 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 Gunderson Lutheran,” Walker said.

Boiler construction will begin in summer 2012, and it should be operational by fall, saving Gunderson Lutheran more than $500,000 a year, said Jeff Rich, executive director of Gunderson 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 Gunderson Lutheran’s gas consumption.

“The best way to be green is to make green or save green,” Walker said.

Gunderson 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
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 funding 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 | 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 Gunderson 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, Gunderson’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. Gunderson 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@joc Nikkep理念.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 Luthern 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 Cashon distribution center.

“We’re within days now of ordering our turbines” for the estimated $11.5 million project, said Jeff Rich, Gundersen Luthern 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 Cashon 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 Cashon, 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-R-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, Gil 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 | 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.
the windy city! It is Chicago! There is no
solution. I mean I will pedal a bike, you know.
This is just so that Xcel can make money. And I have
also listened to them do their statements, and what
I found is every night they revise it because they
are caught in another lie, and another lie, and
another lie, and it keeps going on and on, and on,
and every meeting that I go to, somebody brings up
another point that Xcel can't quite cover.

One time they even opened with the
expansion in the sizes of Winona or Alma. And
everybody around here knows that the small towns
around here have one problem, they can't grow because
they are surrounded by bluffs and the river. Where
are they going to go? You can't build up the bluffs.
We're not building more. We are not needing more
power. Our officials are saying we aren't needing
more power. I can't even understand why this is
ever not finished.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

Before I even saw your hand, I saw the gentleman's
hand in the back, please. Then we will come to you
next.

MR. GARAVALLA: My name is Gary.
I-064-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-064-001
Garavalia.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Could you spell your last name, please.


My wife spoke a little while ago.

Yeah, 2008, we found what we thought was the most beautiful place. We were going to build our house. We got two beautiful young girls. And it is just sad. We can't do anything. Our hands are tied. We are currently trying to sell our home, but if we sell it, where do we go? Do we have to rent for a year and find out what is going to happen? It is sad. Since this begun, I’m on high blood pressure medication. And you can even ask my wife, I’m a real SOB most of the time. There is no need for it.

We don't want it. Just tell them where they can shove it. That's the way I look at it. Thank you.

MS. HORTON: My name is Nancy Horton.

O-N. I am from Rockridge (phonetic) Township. And I have one thing that I would like to agree with, pitting people against each other.

I mean I live on the edge, over by the electric line, which is the right-of-way will come into our farm, which is a second generation organic farm, so we have to deal with chemicals in
that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go
over the school that my grandchildren are attending,
so it is going to affect us all.

So I guess I am angry, also, that we
have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in
this area. And why do we have to deal with it and
why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that
technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind
of technology into something that is already dated is
not a wise thing to do.

We can give everybody a solar water
heater for what this is going to cost. I mean it
is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I
really do object to the whole, "Let's put it here.
Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people
over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair.
And there has got to be alternatives than what is
in that report. Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay,
now I'm going to ask again, are there people here
that have not spoken yet that would like to have
three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay.
Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

MR. WOLBERG: I am Ed Wolberg. I
live down on Harris Road. When we first started
Dear Ms. Strength—

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 to 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 reducing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering industrial and household business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTIP's 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 Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the costs of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTIP projects.

In order to provide Daisylaw Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020 MTIP 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 latter 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-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.
say about 75, 80 percent — yeah, about 100 percent there again, hun. Okay. And I wanted to go on record that I do also support the no action alternative. So thank you.

DAN JUNECK: I just wanted to make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when they rated the Great River Road, the portion that goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard, and it was listed as poor back in ’71. So if it was poor then, there’s been no upgrades since 1971. If it was poor then, it’s poor now, so why wreck a beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it’s the nickname of Waukesha Valley, not silicone valley. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Was there one more individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

FRED GLEITOS: I'm Fred Gleit of Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road, Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100 percent during a national survey this fall. There are quality milk producers in this Valley. The proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house, dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle
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.

---

1. We cannot support any poles and access roads in our fields. All the feed that we raise is needed for our cattle. We have to makes our living from this farm.

   There is an air strip and a licensed airplane based there. Our family has been flying airplanes in Schoepps Valley since the 1940s. This proposed transmission line would interfere with the approaches. Thank you.

   MS. RICHTER: Thank you all for coming.

   (Whereupon the proceeding ended at approximately 8:20 p.m.)

   * * * *

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
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.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
We are now at the point where I have gone through the list of the original people coming in and signing it.

MR. GUNDERSON: I was just wondering if you were going to do any more afterwards?

MODERATOR RICHTER: Yes. But I first want to make sure we did not miss Wendell, if he came back to speak.

MR. GUNDERSON: I signed a list and didn't get my name called.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Well, that's where I want to move next, so those that were missed, or alternatively, you changed your mind and would like to speak, would you please come forward. And I think you should be the next person. I apologize if I missed you on the list.

MR. GUNDERSON: My name is Ken Gundersen. I live in the town of Gaysville/Trempealeau, Wisconsin. A little history. It took 400 years to get 250 million people in this country. Between 1900 and 2000 we got another 100 million. We estimate that we are going to have 400 million by 2050. Now, this, saying all of the other things that we are talking about, but we are going to have to have electricity and it is going to have to be moved somehow. Right or wrong, it is...
going to happen.

Now my thing, since this is a federal comment, I want to see the line on the existing line. I'm sure that 60 years ago, when they put this in, they sat down and had the same debate that they are having tonight, "Where do we put it?" 60 years ago, they made the decision to put it where it is. I don't know what they call it. 01 or something like that. My suggestion is that we continue to use that.

But what bothers me is down by the Black River, where we have the DNR wants to reroute it to around there for some reason. I think that the federal people should look into that. Why should we have to go around that one position?

The second thing is this electricity is a flow-through type of thing. We don't need it here in western Wisconsin, but it is going to go through. My thing here is why should we, the people in western Wisconsin, have to finance the thing? Why not the people east, that are going to get the benefit of it, put the money in it? Because they are the ones that are going to go see the total benefit of it.

So my electric rates from 11 years ago went and increased approximately 30 percent in
the last five years. I don't want to see it going up
to 50 percent in the next couple of years. So my
question is, for the federal, bring in some of this
extra money from further east to cover the costs so
that the local people here don't have to finance this
thing.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Is
there someone that would like to speak that has not
spoken yet? You have not, okay. Anybody else? Just
so I have a sense of how many people that might be?
Can you raise your hands? (Reviewing.) Two. Okay,
Thank you.

MR. KOCAN: My name is Trevor Kocan,
K-O-C-A-N.

I have been attending these meetings
up and down the river. Everywhere I go people are so
against this, it is amazing. I can't even believe we
are discussing this anymore. On and on we keep
seeing our government officials that have done
studies, and turning around and basically calling
them liars, and saying, "Hey, you know, we don't need
this thing." I have got a great idea. We have got a
million carpenters. I, as one, are out of work in
this country. Let's build them a new power station.
writes her comments. Okay. That's it.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Carol.

Would anybody else that's come to join us tonight like to say a few words? Comments on one of the routes? Comments on the EIS aspects of it? Content? Completion of it? Concerns you may have? Concerns you may have heard from fellow residents? Neighbors? Others?

STEPHEN HACKMAN: I will.

MS. RICHTER: Please come forward.

And if you could give us the name, that would be great.

STEPHEN HACKMAN: My name is Stephen, S-T-P-E-P-H-E-N, Hackman, H-A-C-K-M-A-N. I live in rural route Mooseppa. And I was just looking through the document here on reliability, the first section, and I was wondering — to me it seems like it fails a little short as far as -- reliability is not simply the number of faults, but the duration of faults. And I think our reference to how long we can get -- will it take to get the system back online if something should happen. Which to me would be a direct -- is it by a road, for example? Is it by a road? Can we get to it? And I think that -- I'm basing my -- I spent 20 years as an aircraft...
electrician, so I understand electrical systems. Maybe not the high-voltage transmission, however, I don't mean to bore you with stories about aircrafts, but it's the best way that I can maybe communicate the concept.

The last aircraft I worked on was the DC10 for Northwest Airlines, three engines, three identical systems. In other words, the load controller, the generator, all could be interchanged. If I was dispatched to the gate, say, a fully loaded aircraft ready to go, and there was a generator fault, the first -- immediately what they asked me is, "Steve, how long until we can get this back in service." First question out of my mouth, "Was it engine No. 2?" Because if it was engine No. 2, it's 30 feet in the air, I can't possibly get up there. I can guarantee it will be a delay. It will be a lengthy delay. If it's one or three engine, I can change it almost immediately. With ops check, we can change a generator in four hours. If it was No. 2, that was unacceptable. It was at least a shift, possibly two, because we had to move -- first we had to take all of the people off the airplanes. Now, the price is running up rapidly. Then we have to find the ground support equipment to get up there.
And I think every electrical
system is the same in that regards. I think if --
first of all, it's going to be easier to find the
problem. Second, it'll be much quicker, especially
if we have four feet of snow on the ground. If it's
near a road or on a flat surface that we can go from
the road to the fault, fix it, and bring the system
back online.

That's my first general comment.
And I didn't see that in here. And I just was
reading through section one on reliability. So I
think just on that -- and I noticed the purpose of,
or the mission of this process, the first two items
were reliability based.

MS. RICHTER: So can I stop you
there, Steve?

STEPHEN HACKMAN: You can.

MS. RICHTER: First to be sure
that nobody else wants to make any comment and has
anything else to say during this initial three minute
sharing time. Anybody else? Okay. Steve, would you
like to continue then? You don't have to.

STEPHEN HACKMAN: Well, maybe I'll
just stand by and stand down for a second.

MS. RICHTER: Okay.
important eagle use areas, were the terms they use.
I would submit a copy of that for the record.

But clearly from that, in the Alma
crossing, two active eagle nests on the Minnesota
side, one adjacent to the existing line, and one
1,800 feet from the corridor, that is a little --
not quite two miles. So there's a problem there as
well as with the other sites. Anywhere you cross the
Mississippi River, you are going to be having these
eagle problems. And that's not taken into account
here. And none of these sites are in compliance with
the U.S. Fish & Wildlife guidelines there. And
that's it for now. Next?

MS. RICHTER: Okay. Steve, would
you like to comment further? Your comment on
reliability or something else.

STEPHEN HACKMAN: I thank for the
time being, I've probably covered the reliability. I
want to make sure -- I don't know where we left off.
Maybe summarize again. In my experience, access
ability means shorter duration of faults, which is
cheaper. I have -- it's better for the ratepayer,
and now I understand the federal taxpayer is going to
be involved. And maybe there'll -- that would end the
reliability comments.
But as I came over here, as I left Mazeppa, I did make one observation, maybe I could share. Because at some level we are asking the taxpayers, the United States to fund this project at some level. And as I walked through the United States Department of Agriculture and as I drove over here, as I left my home in rural route Mazeppa, it was dark all the way over here until I hit 52, or what MnDOT calls the interregional corridor. Then there was lights. I saw car dealerships, billboards telling me what I need to buy. As I left 52 into rural territory, it got dark again. Why's that important? What's turning on those lights? Kilowatts, and a lot of them.

My concern, and maybe I'm getting into -- well, I will. This is not a rural project. It's an urban project. It's in the title. Hampton, Rochester, La Crosse, so as it gets there, the corridor is well lit, they are using it too. The rural areas are not. Not to that extent. And I'm a little concerned that the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be the ones to take money out of their limited, I would assume, resources to fund an urban project.

And maybe I'll just stop there and
Individual Comments

T-169

leaving it at that for a few minutes. But I wasn't
going to say -- well, it was an observation I made
coming here. And I think as you leave, do that.
Look on your way. It's going to be dark all the way
to the corridor. That's where this belong, so.
Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Okay. Well, as part
of our process, we are going to remain until 8
o'clock. You certainly don't have to remain with us,
unless you would like to. We'll be here and can at
any time take your comments.

(Upon the proceeding ended at
approximately 8:00 p.m.)

* * * *

Kirby Kennedy Associates
952-522-1955
were basically the same ones that had been used.

MS. STRENGTH: When she's referring to the two different ads, the first is what you call a display ad, that's what's draws your attention to it and then leads you to the legal section where you can get more detail.

CAROL OVERLAND: Right.

MS. HAGERTY: And the map.

CAROL OVERLAND: Got it. So that's why people didn't receive notice?

MS. STRENGTH: That's not standard practice, yeah, correct.

CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. Got it.

And that's it for now.

MS. STRENGTH: Okay.

MS. RICHTER: Would anybody else like to make any comments? Yes, please.

STEPHEN HACSMAN: My name is Stephen Hackman, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, H-A-C-K-M-A-N. I just have one area, page 84, you are talking of use of existing generation and new generation. One of the items I noticed is there's not a lot of discussion about gas, gas fired generation. It does talk a little bit about the ramp-up times for the coal units. And it's my understanding there was an
article in maybe the Star Tribune or the Post
Bulletin, about conversion of coal units to natural
gas. And I think possibly -- well, you should
explore that a little bit further. Because later on
on page 85 you say that new transmission -- or new
generation, I'm sorry, would be counterproductive --
let me read it exactly. Because it doesn't meet the
renewable energy. However, renewable energy, the
limitation is as the wind dies down or the sun sets,
there's no way to store it. A gas fired unit may
have a quicker response time, so it could be brought
online as a renewable, that the power from the
renewables decays, the gas powered plant, either
converted coal or a new one, may be able to fill that
gap. And I think you should at least address the
issue of gas.

I also understand that gas is
actually starting to move at a national level from
east to west when it was traditionally west to east.
So perhaps there would be an opportunity in either
conversion or new generation to utilize that. You
know, that's what I would like to suggest or ask you
to consider.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you. As I
mentioned earlier, we will be here until 8:00, and we
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.

From: les haney [mailto:les.haney@yahoo.com]

Subject: Draft EIS

Stephanie:

We own a farm located between segment 2E2 and 2F. The land is located in the Township of Milton. The land is located at a 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.

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. Cochrane-Fountain City School has been at this location many years and this takes large tax 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 some 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 is so close that we do not need more power poles and lines running across our beautiful area with no purpose for our residents.

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
Cochrane, Wisconsin 54629
the last 20 years. And whatever underlying causes
that may be for that, I just hope that we are
on the side of caution and the best information that
we have to do that.

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

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

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, Charles.

And then he will be followed by David and Beverly

Brady. Did both of you want to speak?

MR. BRADY: No. Just David. David

will speak.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, fine. You

will follow Charles then. Thank you.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you. My name is

I want to thank everybody for just being here tonight and I have learned a lot just tonight from everyone about what you said or had to say about what I think is a very, very bad idea for our area.

This is what democracy is supposed to be about. We come out and urge one another. But I would urge you tonight not to just be content with what is said tonight. There were some of these sheets that you were handed when you walked through the door that you could put your own comment on, which many of you didn't. Even if you said you don't like the idea, even if you didn't, just put your thoughts down, even if it is being recorded. You all have federal senators. You have got state representatives, in this assembly and in the state senate. You should call them and you should write them and let them know. Make your voices heard. Because if you don't make your voices heard, then these big companies making their big profits will run right over you.

The project that is proposed will do no good for western Wisconsin. Our natural resource,
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.

1. folks, is the natural beauty of this area. No one is talking about what is one of our major industries.
2. What is that? Tourism. That's what is going to jobs. If you think the tourists are going to come to watch 150-foot electric towers, then you are crazy.
3. If you want to start protecting jobs, then let's start protecting the jobs. We came to this area, our families came to this area because of the beauty of this area and the major attraction of this area is our beauty. This line being put through this area will permanently scar it. We are not talking about just personal damage. We are talking about the livelihood of western Wisconsin.
4. If you don't stand up for it now, then you have nobody to blame but yourselves if it goes through.
5. This line is not needed. It will cost jobs and tourism. It will lower your property values. And to boot, they want us to pay for it. Do they think we are really that crazy?
6. Thanks for your support in helping to defeat this.
7. MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.
8. David. And then the last name I have on my list is John Fry or Fry.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952-922-1955
I mean people say, "It has to go here, it has to go there," I don't think so. Not just for people, but for the environment as well. Everyone isn't affected. No alternative. People will build their own.

If we get a chance to actually build, we are going to do everything we can to be off the grid ourselves with personal windmills, with solar energy panels. They have come a long way in 30 years, from just like a computer. How big was a computer 30 years ago? How big is it now? Same thing can be done. Upgrade the system, sure. You can get better cables nowadays and more efficiency that way. Not necessarily you don't have to come through and build these high-power lines.

I probably have more, but I'm very nervous. So thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Could we have your name for the record, Denise? It is G-A-R?


MODERATOR RICHTER: No, that's alright. Thank you, Sheryl Hanson.

MS. HANSON: My name is Sheryl Hanson. I live at N2019 Stonecrest Road, LaCrosse.
Wisconsin. I don’t have prepared remarks, but I do know that from what I have read and certainly from testimony of people tonight there has not been presented a clear and convincing need for this project. Nor would anybody argue that this kind of a project is setting us on the way towards the sort of energy sustainable use that we all need in the future.

One of the potential lines cuts across the property that my husband and I live on, so obviously from a personal standpoint, we are adamantly opposed to this. But I am no different from anyone in this room who loves living there. This is beautiful, just a blessedly beautiful part of the country, and I can’t even say how strongly I oppose this.

So, I do appreciate the opportunity to come and state my opposition and I urge you to listen to the will of the people which is being stated so clearly tonight.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Mary, Mary, could you spell your name for the record, too? Because I have a feeling I didn’t pronounce it correctly.
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 Helmuelter [mailto:edmary@mwt.net]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Cc: john_medinger@kohsenate.gov; ron.kind@mail.house.gov
Subject: Comments to USDA regarding CapX2020

Ms. Strength:

My comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Harenton-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 Helmuelter
Cochrane, WI
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.

---

I-075-002

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.
- 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 not more than one-third the height of the bluffs and would be clearly visible from both land and river.
- 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 sightline to surrounding bluffs.


Ms. Strength:

I-075-003

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 corporate welfare that so many oppose and can ill afford.
- 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

Individual Comments T-180
as health risks, environmental impact, and personal financial burdens may be seen by many people as monetary issues only. But more importantly they are negatively life changing.

I hope the business of putting this together, putting this project together, will see that people's lives and livelihoods are more important than the money made by this project. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Okay. That is all of the names that have been provided to me of individuals that wanted to speak. I believe we have about time for three more people that maybe didn't get their name on a list and would like to speak. I would like to first ask if somebody who did not speak prior would like to speak if we missed getting their name, and then if we still have time, we could allow three minutes for another person. Thank you.

THERESA HENDERSON: Hello, my name is Theresa Henderson. I live at W158 Henderson Road just off of 88. And I just would like to say I'm against the 88 corridor, and personally I don't like the idea of mass amounts of energy come from one source and getting distributed to another area because I just feel like the local energy could be a better option. Thank you.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-522-1935
Individual Comments

T-182

communities or else the communities closer should
find a way to make their own energy. And that's all.
Oh, I think it's great that North Dakota has all this
coal, but maybe they should assign someone else
closer to sell it. Maybe Canada. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Is there anyone else
that did not get an opportunity to speak before?
Yes, please.

TREVOR HOGAN: My name is Trevor
Hogan, we live in Trempealeau. We've attended
several of these meetings, and what we are finding
out is that -- I mean, I'm listening to all you
folks tonight, and it's all the same story every
place we go. We don't seem to have a problem getting
a bill in the mail for electric, but we do seem to
have a problem getting informed about this thing.
And that's all I wanted to say.

MS. RICHTER: Anyone else that
wanted an opportunity?

GEORGE NYGARD: My name is George
Nygard. I wasn't going to say anything tonight, and
I was going to wait until Friday. I just want to
make it really short. I'm so impressed by the
statements you people made, and I want to remind
people that with the PSC statements, that for their
section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section
organic farming was not even identified at all. This
line would compromise our right to farm in a matter
for good business properties and economic practices.

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

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

MS. RICHTER: Gary?

GARY BRONK: It's all been
covered. But I strongly feel the no action
alternative is the way to go. Thank you.

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

DAVID HERZBERG: David Herzberg,
H-E-R-Z-B-E-R-G, and now I was going to start from
the top, but kind of listening here, I might start
from the bottom. And they say about this research
and stuff -- I was electrocuted to the silo, a big
silo. The electrician come down, I was having
problems with it. I touched the silo, I was stuck
onto the silo from this electricity. If nobody would
have been there, that would have been it. So I just
thought that was really important and to bring that
up. There is things that do go wrong that you
probably don't anticipate. No way did I think that
silo was going to leave me there. So okay.
I'm concerned about my cattle. I
farm. It's a family farm. I'm concerned about the
cattle and all this here. And I'll just kind of skip
through this here and try to get into -- farming is
my life. The farm has been in the Herzberg name for
119 years. My uncle, Dad's brother, started a family
reunion picnic, and it's going -- I don't -- we tried
to find out how many years it was in process. It had
to be a long time because when he come out, he come
out with beer in a wash tub. So this has got to be,
you know. And I'm keeping that going.
And we got a pumpkin patch for the
kids. We got a hayride. And we started a tractor
ride. And it's the first Sunday in October, and that
is kind of a scenic view, supposed to be anyway if
the leaves cooperate with me. But it's always the
first Sunday in October. And it's supposed to be --
when they come out, the old farm, that's what my
uncle wanted, come out and see the old farm every
year. And it's supposed to be a scenic ride out
there. And we got, you know, a really a nice time
out at the farm. And I hope, you know, that your
concerns are kind of about us.

And I just kind of slipped through
this here, and I think I will -- and I oppose the
line.

MS. RICHTER: Kay will be followed
by Susan Pronschinske. Okay. Susan will do online.
So then it's Christine Jumbeck. Okay. You'll
follow.

KATHY MOCKINGTON. My name is
Kathy Mockington. I'm from Arcadia, Wisconsin. I
have to address the people at the table. Why have
you not hed a meeting in Arcadia? Are the hills too
steep to get over? And I guess the thing I want them
to do is also to drive Tompion Valley Road, which is
an extremely narrow valley, and that is where they
are thinking -- after finding that out several
I-078-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C11-Reasonable Alternatives.

of what this and related transmission projects would
do to the economic viability of our community.

Second, I would like to ask if RUS or
the USDA would allow funding for projects in
economically deprived areas.

MODERATOR RICHTER: thank you. Are
you finished or would you like to submit your
comments?

MS. KENT: I will submit them.

(Off the record.)

MODERATOR RICHTER: Victoria will be
followed by Peggy Paskert (phonetic) and then Chris
Stark. And to get a sense of how we are doing this
evening, following those three individuals, we still
have seven others that have indicated that they would
like to speak.

So Victoria. Thank you.

MR. KIRSCHEVSKY: My name is Victoria
Hirschboeck. H-I-R-S-C-H-B-O-E-C-K.
I live at
N15094 Delaney Road in Trempealeau and I am speaking
as a private citizen here tonight.

I have read the Draft EIS and I will
speak specifically to the Draft EIS, and I will
submit complete comments in writing.

One comment that I would like to
I-078-002

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C12-Blair Route.

I-078-001

make here tonight is that I found that the draft is
deficient in one very important aspect that is
required by the National Environmental Protection
Act. It is that it fails to provide you with
reasonable and prudent alternatives. There are more
alternatives than two. What has come about is that
the preferred alternative, the Q1 route, has been
put up against the Arcadia/Gaylesville route. So if
you are the applicant, if you want to run your line
down the Mississippi River, what is the best way of
doing that? So, propose a second route to compare it
to that impacts the most residences that you can
find, and that's what happened.

This document pits people's interest
against the interests of our scenic byway, our
wildlife resources and the treasure of the
Mississippi River.

There is another alternative that I
have asked specifically in scoping to have evaluated,
which has not been evaluated. It was eliminated based
on it being longer, which is not the decision now,
with the addition of the Arcadia line, and that is
the Blair/Atric (phonic) line. That line does not
go through Blair/Atric. It goes around. I challenge
all of you to go Google it yourself; look at that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955

Individual Comments

T-187
existing line. It is called the Trempealeau line. It is owned by Xcel. It crosses very few residences. It takes that line out of the Mississippi River Valley. It is a win-win for both the environmental concerns and for people.

Now, no, personally I am not in favor of this project at all, but if the project is going to be built and the BPU is going to fund it, they must comply with the regulations as put forth under NEPA.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

EXCUSE me. Peggy.

THE SPEAKER: Peggy Daskart (phonic). I am from Lafarge (phonic), Wisconsin, which is Vernon County. I am happy to see this many people here tonight. It has been 15 months since I have been asked to participate in the Stark Planning Energy Committee. And the more I read, the more frustrated I get. There is a lot of information out there. I think the lady that just spoke probably represents 90 percent of the people that are involved in this process.

The companies that are building these transmission lines want to pit each of us against
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.
Dear Ms. Streng—

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 associated with 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 reducing 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.

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.

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 latter 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:

(Signature)

Date: 2/18/11

Print Name: G. Hool

Address: 30612, OPUS 60.

OUTBAD, MN 54451

Individual Comments  T-190
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.

Dear Ms. Strongh—

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 to the DEIS is out of date and underdeveloped. 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.

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.

In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AIS needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEP II assessment 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 latter 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. Hoef
Print Name: Julia V. Hoef
Address: 30503 OPIS, Ed
Oconomowoc, WI 53166

T-191
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.

---

Dear Mr. Streng—

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

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached to the DSR is out of date and under-developed. The investment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as “Energy Vortex” and others which are significantly reducing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering firm, household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MTEP I regional expansion plan as for CapX2020 is a part.

The stated purpose of “Regional reliability” depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I.1 and projects in Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEP projects.

In order to provide DAE utility electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020 MTEP I.1 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 former investment 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:

[Signature]

Date: 3-5-12

Print Name:

Address:

(Additional comments)

[Signature]

Date: 3-5-12

Print Name:

Address:

(Additional comments)
I-083-001

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

From: June Hofschulte [mailto:june@mycleanwave.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:09 AM
To: Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: Oop X
Importance: High

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-084-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D02-Notices and Meetings.

1. communities or else the communities closer should find a way to make their own energy. And that's all.
2. Oh, I think it's great that North Dakota has all this coal, but maybe they should assign someone else closer to sell it. Maybe Canada. Thank you.
3. MS. RICHTER: Is there anyone else that did not get an opportunity to speak before?
4. Yes, please.
5. TREVOR HOGAN: My name is Trevor Hogan, we live in Trempealeau. We've attended several of these meetings, and what we are finding out is that — I mean, I'm listening to all you folks tonight, and it's all the same story everywhere we go. We don't seem to have a problem getting a bill in the mail for electricity, but we do seem to have a problem getting informed about this thing.
6. And that's all I wanted to say.
7. MS. RICHTER: Anyone else that wanted an opportunity?
8. GEORGE NYGARD: My name is George Nygard. I wasn't going to say anything tonight, and I was going to wait until Friday. I just want to make it really short. I'm so impressed by the statements you people made, and I want to remind people that with the PSC statements, that for their
the last five years. I don't want to see it going up
to 50 percent in the next couple of years. So my
question is, for the federal, bring in some of this
extra money from further east to cover the costs so
that the local people here don't have to finance this
ing thing.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Is
there someone that would like to speak that has not
spoken yet? You have not, okay. Anybody else? Just
so I have a sense of how many people that might be?
Can you raise your hands? (Reviewing.) Two. Okay.
Thank you.

MR. ROGAN: My name is Trevor Rogan,
C-O-O-R-A-N.

I have been attending these meetings
up and down the river. Everywhere I go people are so
against this. It is amazing. I can't even believe we
are discussing this anymore. On and on we keep
seeing our government officials that have done
studies, and turning around and basically calling
them liars, and saying, "Hey, you know, we don't need
this thing." I have got a great idea. We have got a
million carpenters. I, as one, are out of work in
this country. Let's build them a new power station.
I would love to build them a new power station in Chicago. Don't take our property. Don't take our homes. I can run coal down there all night long, if that's what you got to do.

I am not here to make light of this either. I am also not here to push this onto somebody else. I don't think that is right either. My property is no less beautiful than your property.

I am going to tell you this right now, I represent the people that live underneath OAL. One of the dots on that map, you can't even see it because they are lying about it. Right across the top of my house.

I see the neighbors out here. They are all out here and concerned about it. And I hear this, the refuge with the snakes, but there are people down there, too, just as beautiful as your property and just as beautiful as your family. And you wouldn't believe my dear. But I got to tell you, it is just sad how we are trying to push this all over the place. Push it onto this guy or that guy. And it makes me want to cry. And I am a really hard person to make cry.

I just want to say that I am firmly opposed to this. I just got to say I think it is ignorant to run a power line halfway across the United States. They don't have water there. It is
the windy city! it is Chicago! There is no
solution? I mean I will pedal a bike, you know.
This is just so that Xcel can make money. And I have
also listened to them do their statements, and what
I found is every night they revise it because they
are caught in another lie, and another lie, and
another lie, and it keeps going on and on, and on,
and every meeting that I go to, somebody brings up
another point that Xcel can't quite cover.
One time they even opened with the
expansion in the sizes of Winona or Alma. And
everybody around here knows that the small towns
around here have one problem, they can't grow because
they are surrounded by bluffs and the river. Where
are they going to go? You can't build up the bluffs,
We're not building more. We are not needing more
power. Our officials are saying we aren't needing
more power. I can't even understand why this is
even not finished.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.
Before I even saw your hand, I saw the gentleman's
hand in the back, please. Then we will come to you
next.

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. 20250-1570  

Re: CapX2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line  

To Persons of Influence:  

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.  

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
rest of their lives and receive absolutely no benefit. The benefit will only include profits for power companies and locations far from the areas destroyed.

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 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-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.

---

that the proposed lines will be in my yard. I'm petrified for my family, my neighbors, and my community.

I leave you with this question, do the so-called benefits that the power companies claim outweigh the devastating and irreversible consequences to our land, our property values, our natural resources, our agriculture, our tourism, our health, and our wallets, and on the future of renewable and environmentally friendly energy?

* * * *

GRACE ROHMAN: I'm a property owner on Highway 88 and Highway E, and my property has been in my family since 1954, and it is actually -- I've put a conservation easement on it to maintain its natural state. And I'm not in favor of the power line, either alternative A or B of the two alternatives. I think it's just plain insane to put this major power line down a valley when there are other existing routes that are already there where they already have the right-of-way. And to tear up what is a scenic natural valley for this power line is just sinful.

And I also -- the effect on my property values, on the neighbors' property values,
the loss of cropland, the -- you know, the health
dangers, and all the other issues, I'm very opposed
and I'm not sure that the power line is necessary at
all. But if it has to be that, it should go down
existing corridors where the right-of-way -- either
the Highway 35 or the overland route where they
already have the right-of-ways.

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

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

* * * *

IRENE DITTRICH: My main concern
is the high voltage near my house. The health hazard
problem. And I already have a high line near my
house on my property. It will decrease the value of
my house for resale. And it should follow the route
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I09-Conservation Easements.

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

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

From: Jeff Hohman [mailto:chohms002@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 68 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 69 alternative routes. A transmission line will be created where none now exists. According to the final EIS, routes using the STH 68 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
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
Garavalia.

MODERATOR NICHTER: Could you spell your last name, please?


My wife spoke a little while ago.

Yeah, 2006, we found what we thought was the most beautiful place. We were going to build our house. We got two beautiful young girls. And it is just sad. We can’t do anything. Our hands are tied. We are currently trying to sell our home, but if we sell it, where do we go? Do we have to rent for a year and find out what is going to happen? It is sad. Since this began, I’m on high blood pressure medication. And you can even ask my wife. I’m a real SOB most of the time. There is no need for it. We don’t want it. Just tell them where they can shove it. That’s the way I look at it. Thank you.

MR. HORTON: My name is Nancy Horton. O-N. I am from Rockridge (phonetic) Township. And I have one thing that I would like to agree with, pitting people against each other.

I mean I live on the edge, over by the electric line, which is the right-of-way will come into our farm, which is a second generation organic farm, so we have to deal with chemicals in

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go
over the school that my grandchildren are attending,
so it is going to affect us all.

So I guess I am angry, also, that we
have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in
this area. And why do we have to deal with it and
why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that
technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind
of technology into something that is already dated is
not a wise thing to do.

We can give everybody a solar water
heater for what this is going to cost. I mean it
is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I
really do object to the whole. "Let's put it here.
Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people
over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair.
And there has got to be alternatives than what is
in that report. Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay,
now I'm going to ask again, are there people here
that have not spoken yet that would like to have
three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay.
Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

MR. WOLBERG: I am Ed Wolberg. I
live down on Harris Road. When we first started
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.

Individual Comments

Sincerely,
Ron Johnson

Date 12/12/17

Ron Johnson
Individual Comments

T-206

I-091-001

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

is a sand mine. And if you know anything about the sand mine in Trempealeau County, it is exploding. I don't know if you want to put the lines up and then take them down again. It doesn't really matter to me.

The other thing is Arcadia is being hemmed in by the east portion because of this transmission line, and they are looking at annexing a sand mine to the city. And I really don't think that your congestion problems in Minnesota should become our congestion problems in this part of Wisconsin.

Thank you.

Ms. Richter: And Christine will be followed by Gene and Cheryl Baker. And could you spell your last name for the record, please?

Cheryl Jumback: Chris Jumback. I live a mile off of Highway 88. And I'm also a schoolteacher at Cochrane-Fountain City High School. I teach high school agriculture and natural resources. And I strongly support no action alternative. We've heard a lot of discussion tonight, and a lot of those things were things I was going to say. However, I wanted to first applaud our community and applaud our kids. Preston Jordan, Corlan and Barbara for having the courage to come up
here and be passionate about such an issue. It takes a lot of courage to speak in front of your community.

And I applaud the community and the entire agriculture community too. We are very distressed. A lot of this has been just dumped on us in the last few days and few weeks. And people have legitimate concerns. And I think we really need to look at that. The USDA is supposed to help us. It is supposed to be promoting agriculture. And I really have a hard time seeing how giving a loan to this CapX2020 project is promoting real agriculture.

We have to feed a growing population. We are 20 -- by 2050, our population is going to double, and if we keep losing farms and we are not concerned about that, we are all going to go hungry. We are all going to be lacking in clothing, et cetera, et cetera.

The main thing I'm concerned about that nobody has brought up today is how will this affect our high school, our elementary school, our kids. I look out my window and the substation is a quarter mile from my classroom. I already have issues with my television being kind of crazy, just turning on for no reason. And we joke about it in the classroom, that it's Herby, the janitor that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-522-1955

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-091-004
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-091-004

1. I-091-004

1. passed away many years ago is causing it. When I really know deep down what's causing this issue.
2. I've had computers for the last two years that fail to work properly, and I have to ask myself what's causing that. We haven't come to a conclusion with that.
3. So we have to look and we have to think about the kids and the substation that's going to be a quarter mile from our classroom and from our school and how that's going to affect the health and the well-being of our kids. And we just need to think about what we teach our kids today. We are teaching our kids about alternative energy systems, we are teaching about being green, and here we are leading by examples is what we are supposed to do, and we want to put up a huge power line right down on a national wildlife refuge, a flyway, it's just ridiculous. Thank you.

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

CHERYL BAKER: I'm Cheryl Baker. I live on Highway 88. Our address is W1166 Meyer Road. We were informed just a couple of weeks ago by Susan Suhr, who was a neighbor of ours, of the
I-092-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K04-Highway 88.

1 say about 75, 80 percent — yeah, about 100 percent
2 there again, hun. Okay. And I wanted to go on
3 record that I do also support the no action
4 alternative. So thank you.
5
6 DAN SCUMBECK: I just wanted to
7 make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when
8 they rated the Great River Road, the portion that
goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard,
and it was listed as poor back in '71. So if it was
poor then, there's been no upgrades since 1971. If
it was poor then, it's poor now, so why wreck a
beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it's the
nickname of Waumandee Valley, not silicone valley.
Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Was there one more
individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

FRED GLEITAR: I'm Fred Gleitor
from Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road,
Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my
brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation
on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100
percent during a national survey this fall. There
are quality milk producers in this Valley. The
proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house,
dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955

Individual Comments T-209
and individuals, organizations, who spent considerable efforts working to protect the bluffs of this area from construction of highly unsightly buildings on bluff sides and ridge lines which can cause erosion, landslides, damage to the visual beauty to the community and contaminate water supplies. The proposed power line would severely detract from the efforts of both private and public organizations to preserve these visual and natural resources and water quality, which are important esthetic and economic benefits to southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The power lines create an unnecessary decrease in property values for many of the landowners in this area. And I would like to just make a mention that earlier one of the needs that was mentioned was was reliability -- I guess that's it. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: The next person is Robert Miller followed by Robert Kamrowski. And I want to apologize up front for not pronouncing names correctly. Bob Miller left. So are Robert Kamrowski, and then he would be followed by David betting.

ROBERT KAMROWSKI: My name is
1. Robert Kamrowski. I reside at 52759 State Road 88 in Fountain City. I strongly oppose the CapX2020 project on Highway 88. President Obama has called for 80 percent of American's electricity to come from clean resources by 2035. USDA should be at the forefront of establishing this goal, not supporting dirty coal and the coal produced energy and then setting 100 miles of massive zig zag transmission lines that create havoc on our land, our property values, natural resources, agriculture, tourism, health, and the pocketbook.

   In my view, for transmission lines, it should follow the Interstate Highway System. Also, it should be unlawful, I would think, to put transmission lines on electric right-of-ways that were intended for local distribution lines.

2. Page 110 2.4.2.1, transmission lines reduces the impact of farming operations. The proposed 88 route will go through my property, throughout multiple fields leaving it dangerous to navigate with the various machinery I utilize. This is absolutely unacceptable to me.

   Page 189 3.2.2.1. There is an adverse impact of waterfowl, from discharges associated with construction and the operation of...
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. power lines. The farm would be greatly affected by water quality.

3. 3.9.2.4, Wisconsin segment four. Potential archeological sites. The Wisconsin 88 option B corridor Page 310. The drains are located on one of our farms, which would require compliance not only with the National and Wisconsin Historic Preservation Act, but also with the Wisconsin Dairyland Site Preservation Act. There’s also Indian Mounds, I think, that comes under the same thing.

11. Alternatives evaluated in detail on page 10 through 13. I do not believe this route was evaluated in detail. The Highway 88 corridor is a migratory home for nesting grounds for sandhill cranes as well as nesting sites for several eagles. It is common to see up to 100 bald eagles surrounding the wetlands on my property in the spring. This 88 corridor is a migratory Canadian geese flyway and it becomes a refuge for hundreds of geese and ducks and sightings of all kind of wildlife have been seen on the property.

22. I own two farming properties on the State Highway 88 with cattle and an already milking operating facility. I utilize best farming practices as I have --

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
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.
the impact on our health. General studies in some areas show hypersensitivity, depression, insomnia, Alzheimer's, cardiovascular disorders, and disorders in human reproduction and immune systems. These studies are inconclusive but point directly to cellular damage. This concerns me as I have children and grandchildren who are active in and around the farm who would be constantly in direct contact with these EMFs. Furthermore, my farms are right next to Cochrane Fountain City schools, which should alarm everyone in our area.

Referring to page 313 3.10.2.3, induced and stray voltage. Stray voltage would be at our expense, and stray voltage is a proven fact. There would be no way for us to have our fields planted, maintained, and harvested as the machinery needed would be difficult to get around and under these lines and poles. Electronics in our tractors and machinery would be in constant jeopardy of the EMF. I would think that the USDA would support the opposition of CapX2020 and pose as an advocate for agriculture and not the utilities.

Referring to page 321 through 325, 3.11.2.1, property values, housing, loans, and tourism. Both of our properties' values would
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O11-Insurance.

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

decrease significantly as the proposed lines and poles slice directly through both farms. The insurance rates or the refusal of obtaining insurance also concerns me. We have many friends and family that frequently stay at our farms for hunting and recreational purposes. Our farms are our life savings.

Highway 88 would be greatly impacted in a negative way. It sports challenging twists and turns, hills and valleys, and is a scenic road of grazing animals, woodlands, sceneries, beautiful running creeks, and various trees. I ask you to support a rural community lifestyle and protect our children, businesses, farms, tourism, and wildlife. I oppose the CapX2020 on Highway 88.

* * * *

RON KALMIECK: Well, my major concern is that we already have an existing route that goes parallel to Highway 35, the towers are there, the right-of-ways are there, now I understand that this will call for taller towers. But the right-of-ways is there, the damage is already done. It's the shortest, most cost-efficient, most cost-effective route to use. Why not use that existing route? To put this little jaunt to go down
Black Hill Road and then come down Highway 88 seems kind of ridiculous to me because you are going way out of your way. Additional miles, the right-of-ways that are going to have to be acquired, additional towers are going to have to be put in. Additional expense for wiring, maintenance, and everything else. To me it just does not make sense to go that way.

Now, I understand the scenic road issue and all that, but frankly, those towers are there now, if they go another 50 or 70 feet taller, what's the difference. I mean, you can replace a dual post tower with a single post tower, and I believe that would be about 50 feet taller. So place the towers where they belong, where they already are. It's not a big deal.

VICKY KAMROWSKI: Well, I'm Vicky Kamrowski, and my parents are Robert and Sandy Kamrowski. And I built a house on my parents' land, so these lines go right through my home, my farmland. So --- okay. I would first like to voice my frustration and ask the question as to why I and everyone else on Highway 88 was omitted from the USDA's involvement in the funding of the CapX2020 proposed Highway 88 route until two days prior to

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1898
this meeting.

It furthermore frustrates me that you people hold these meetings at a time when most farmers are unable to attend and voice their concerns and comments on such short notice. Quite a few people don’t have access to computers or the Internet to have their voices heard. Then top this off with a two-day notice.

So I’m referring to 1.4.1 as a scoping period as I ask the question, were we inadvertently left off the mailing list or intentionally left off the mailing list. 2.3.2, the Wisconsin changes from the final macrocorridors to the final CFCN routes. A study was done stating that the northern parts of the original Q1 route is not scenic. Not scenic, and the Q1 route is used already for transmission lines. Therefore, Highway 88 should be removed from an alternative route and be kept as the beautiful scenic highway that it is.

2.5.2, Wisconsin segment four regarding Wisconsin 88 AB corridor, which is five miles longer than the original Q1 route. Longer and more costly due to the hills, valleys, and the winding twisting road that follows Waumandee Creek.

Common sense says upgrade what exists on the Q1 route
rather than cause havoc and devastation to the beautiful scenic 88 highway.

3.10.1.1, referring to EMFs. I would like to know more specifics on the health effects, and studies to date are inconclusive. Referring to the FSC overview, it states that moving away from a source is a standard response to the effects of exposure to EMI. Patients can shield themselves from EMI with car, building, or the enclosed cab of a truck. I have two mechanical heart valves, and this concerns me as I am outdoors daily. I wouldn’t be protected from the voltage these lines would emit because I would be continually in and under and around these lines with daily farming outdoor life, walking, gardening, field work, four wheeling, et cetera.

3.10.2.3, induced and stray voltage. I grew up and continue to live on what will be a four-generation family farm. My boys and I are very proud of our parents and grandparents, with everything that they have done and continue to do to conserve soil, electricity, and our rural way of life. And I would hope that the USDA involvement for active farms would be an advocate for the agriculture and not the proposed CapX2020 project.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
I've just started to touch on a few things that I feel strongly about, and I know that I am definitely opposed to the CapX2020 proposed Highway 88 route as well as any other route that is being considered.

* * * *

LAURA SCHIFFLI: My name is Laura Schiffli. I reside at 2758 State Road 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin. I'm here to go on record to say no to CapX2020 on Highway 88, and we recommend to abandon the proposed 345kV transmission line and pursue more cost-effective and environmentally sensitive solutions. My husband and I just finished building our energy efficient dream house. My husband, Steve, has not even been able to actually live in our new home because he is currently on military assignment overseas, serving our nation in war efforts in the Middle East. Little did he know when he left that we would have our own war here on the home front. A war against those who propose sending energy through giganic transmission lines hundreds and hundreds of miles through wetlands, farmlands, bluff lands, and small rural communities to markets east of here.

There will be no benefit to us
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.
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.

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

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

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

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

* * *

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1999
decrease significantly as the proposed lines and poles slice directly through both farms. The insurance rates or the refusal of obtaining insurance also concerns me. We have many friends and family that frequently stay at our farms for hunting and recreational purposes. Our farms are our life savings.

Highway 88 would be greatly impacted in a negative way. It sports challenging twists and turns, hills and valleys, and is a scenic road of grazing animals, woodlands, sceneries, beautiful running creeks, and various trees. I ask you to support a rural community lifestyle and protect our children, businesses, farms, tourism, and wildlife. I oppose the CapX2020 on Highway 88.

RON KARMENCIC: Well, my major concern is that we already have an existing route that goes parallel to Highway 35, the towers are there, the right-of-ways are there, now I understand that this will call for taller towers. But the right-of-ways is there, the damage is already done. It's the shortest, most cost-efficient, most cost-effective route to use. Why not use that existing route? To put this little jaunt to go down
Black Hill Road and then come down Highway 88 seems kind of ludicrous to me because you are going way out of your way. Additional miles, the right-of-ways that are going to have to be acquired, additional towers are going to have to be put in. Additional expense for wiring, maintenance, and everything else. To me it just does not make sense to go that way.

Now, I understand the scenic road issue and all that, but frankly, those towers are there now, if they go another 50 or 70 feet taller, what's the difference. I mean, you can replace a dual post tower with a single post tower, and I believe that would be about 50 feet taller. So place the towers where they belong, where they already are. It's not a big deal.

VICKY KAMROWSKI: Well, I'm Vicky Kamrowski, and my parents are Robert and Sandy Kamrowski. And I built a house on my parents' land, so these lines go right through my home, my farmland. So -- okay. I would first like to voice my frustration and ask the question as to why I and everyone else on Highway 88 was omitted from the USDA's involvement in the funding of the CapX2020 proposed Highway 88 route until two days prior to
I-099-001

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

Raised the other day. And I have with me for the record a copy of an affidavit of Bruce McRay, who is a professional engineer. And in the EIS, around Page 315, there is a section on EMFs. It reports that the amp levels to be 106 to 140 or 322 to 415 for double circuit. But the testimony of Larry Schad in Attachment J, from the Minnesota Certificate of Need, that says that, "Twin bundled 954 kcm ACSS, 345 kv have a capacity rating of 3700. 3700. That is a little different than 322 to 415.

We need to show in this EIS for the potential range for EMFs. And going up to that, those limits, yes, that’s a very real potential, and they can run up to that for a half-hour before they have to ramp it down, under the rules.

So that needs to be done. That needs to be corrected here. It is ten times off, make it 20 times off, by that factor. There are many. So, I urge you to do some independent verification.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHARD: And Joan will be followed by Victoria Hirshboeck.

MRS. KENT: My name is Joan Kent. I am a resident of Lafarge (phonetic), which is in Vernon County. The Wisconsin Public Service
Commission has determined that the developer has not provided evidence that the CAPX 2020 high-voltage line is needed in the areas of Wisconsin where it is proposed.

The fact is that Wisconsin does not need this line nor the Badger-Coulee or the other transmission lines planned by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator: MISO. The U.S. Department of Energy has predicted that the rate of growth in energy needs will remain at historically low rates. Significantly less than one percent in the next 25 years. In Wisconsin rate payers have already invested in high-voltage lines. As a result, there are no weaknesses in Wisconsin's grid that could only be answered with more 345 kv lines. But those of us watching this scenario expect that the developer will now ask that the final draft instead consider the CAPX with several other transmission line proposals on the basis of regional need within MISO. If approved, that would mean that all of the rate payers in the MISO region, including us that would not benefit from the lines, would pay for them under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission policy.

Before asking rate payers to incur...
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.

---

payment on the borrowing of millions to build these
two lines, those making the decision must study the cost
benefit comparisons between this option and versus
the options of repairing existing low-voltage lines
as needed and employing energy efficient measures.

In addition, I ask that RUS consider
that the developer to our knowledge has not agreed to a
minimum percentage of coal on the lines. Being
that coal is generally cheaper than wind energy,
there will be little incentive for utility companies
to choose green wind energy. Indeed, the addition of
the high-voltage lines could be incentive to use more
instead of less energy.

I have two specific concerns about
the USDA helping to finance Dairyland’s cost to
belong to MISO.

First, Dairyland is a co-op, which I
think means that 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, nor any
other rate payers that I know, that it intended and
eventually did join MISO. I ask if this is an
acceptable practice for a co-op? And I wonder how
many of Dairyland’s members actually know and approve
of what this and related transmission projects would
do to the economic viability of our community.

Second, I would like to ask if RUS or
the USDA would allow funding for projects in
economically deprived areas.

MODERATOR RICHTER: thank you. Are
you finished or would you like to submit your
comments?

MS. KENT: I will submit them.

(Off the record.)

MODERATOR RICHTER: Victoria will be
followed by Peggy Paskert (phonetic) and then Chris
Stark. And to get a sense of how we are doing this
evening, following those three individuals, we still
have seven others that have indicated that they would
like to speak.

So Victoria. Thank you.

MS. HIRSCHBECK: My name is Victoria
Hirschbech. H-I-R-S-C-H-B-E-C-R. I live at
N15094 Emlaney Road in Trempealeau and I am speaking
as a private citizen here tonight.

I have read the Draft EIS and I will
speak specifically to the Draft EIS, and I will
submit complete comments in writing.

One comment that I would like to

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.222.1955
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.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

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 A: General/Other, A06-Comments Unrelated to RUS Draft EIS.

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

I-100-001
I-100-002
I-100-003
I-100-004

From: Joan Kent  [mailto:oj269@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 7:16 AM
To: Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: comments re CapX2020 BS & Dairyland fund request

RUS COMMENT

Stephanie Streight, 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 345 kV line.
As a member of the Town of Stark’s ad hoc Energy Planning & Information Committee, which has studied the proposed Badger Coo Lee 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 higher carbon emissions.

I-100-003
Second, as a co-op, Dairyland should have had 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-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.
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.

Dear Ms. Strength,

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 that there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DSE is out of date and under-developed. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as “Efficient Vermont” and others which are significantly reducing 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.

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 costs 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 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:

(Individual Comments)

Signatures: ____________________________
Print Name: [Signature]
Address: 2777 Reading Rd
City, State: Cincinnati, OH 45219

If you would like to contact me, please email me at stephanie.strength@wisc.usda.gov.
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.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category N: Public Health and Safety, N01-General/Other.
Dear Ms. Strentz—

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 to 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 reducing 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. 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-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 generations. I feel that the latter 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:

This is a huge and costly endeavor. The building of these transmission lines is done in the setting of it to war... and they stand we make billions profit. I question their statistics, assurances and motives. This will cost us plenty, well into our future. And our electricity usage is already stable from your vision... we need to expand our criteria for efficiency + conservation.

This might go through Lakeville + Reedsburg - past our farm and also past our business in downtown Reedsburg.

\(\text{Signature} \quad 2012\)

Print Name:  Beth Ann Knecht-Reed
Address:  306 E. Main St, Reedsburg, 53959

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 C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-104-005

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

I-104-006

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, O05-Property Values.
**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.
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 A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
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.
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.

Individual Comments

Airstrips affected by Option A and Option B along highway 88 corridor.

The powerlines would negatively effect all entrance exits for aircraft.

See attached maps of Gene Bake and Fred Gleiter properties.

Optional: Name: Kelli Krysztan

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.

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

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:
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.
surrogate habitat for area wildlife. The Wauandee Creek meanders across both tracts and is an important component of the watershed.

The property contains a wide variety of native vegetation typical of the natural communities listed above. Populations of rare and protected species can be found on the property, including the state special concern plants, Kuhlenberg’s callicia, and American Ginseng, (Panax quinquefolius).

The baseline documentation report identified the presence of 161 species of native trees, plants, and grasses on the Kube-Wauandee Tract. Thank you for your consideration.

* * * *

ALAN KUBE: My name is Alan Kube. I am opposed to the construction of the transmission lines in the Qi State Highway 88 corridor, including all Qi State Highway 88 options. The people living in the Highway 88 Wauandee Creek watershed take great pride in the land and natural resources entrusted to them. Many families have lived along Highway 88 for generations and wish to see future generations have the same high quality environment as is presently along Highway 88.
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.

The proposed transmission lines would cause a fragmentation of our environment and productive agricultural areas leading to a breakdown in the conservation values and heritage along Highway 88.

Okay. On the Kube-Waumandee Tract, because of the conservation easement requirements of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, there are no nonpoint sources of pollution from livestock. Extensive restoration work that was completed under the Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program and the Conservancy's Kube-Waumandee Tract all but eliminated the nonpoint pollution.

The Waumandee Creek, as it passes through this conservative tract, has been reclaimed and stabilized with stream bank improvement projects and is in a natural state. Any clearing of woodlands or vegetation for a transmission line will seriously impact the cool water fishery and will lead to infiltration of the sediments.

These are by no means small or insignificant wetlands. The conservation easement baseline documentation report states Waumandee Creek meanders across the Kube-Waumandee Tract and is an
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.

---

1. important component of the watershed.
2. and esthetics and visual impacts -- I'll start over.
3. The conservation easement baseline documentation
4. report for the Conservancy's Kube-Wauamdee Tract
5. states, the property is very scenic from within and
6. from without. Scenic views of the property can be
7. enjoyed by the public from State Highway 88 and from
8. adjoining or nearby properties. It's views from
9. ridgetop trails and overlooks are expansive and
10. breathtaking. Open valley views surrounded by state
11. bluffs slopes are also very pleasing to the eye.

14. With regard to electric and
15. magnetic fields. The residents within the
16. conservancy's Kube-Wauamdee 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-Wauamdee Tract would certainly be adversely
21. affected by having transmission poles in the crop
22. fields.

23. With regard to land use
24. compatibility, the adverse effects of the proposed
25. transmission line on residents is understated. The
I-109-006

adverse effect would be great with regard to safety
and health, and as well as esthetics. These effects
will be noticed by any future prospective buyers for
this property for residential use with devaluations
possible. I thank you for your consideration.

SANDY KAMROWSKI: Okay. My name
is a Sandy Kamrowski, my husband and I live at 2759
Highway 88, and also adjoining farm at 2730 Highway
88, Fountain City, Wisconsin. I would like to start
my comments with 2.1.1 NEPA, evaluation process and
criteria. It would be more practical from the
technical standpoint and just plain old common sense
to go the no action alternative. There is no need
for these transmission lines in our area.

Referring to page 67, 1.4.1

scoping period. As a homeowner of two farms, I was
notified by the USDA only two days prior to this
meeting. Having been forced to read through as much
of the USDA's Web site as I could prepare for today's
meeting, I feel as though I wasn't inadvertently left
off the mailing list, I feel as though someone is
trying to hide something.

Referring to page 313, 3.10.1.1,

EMFs. More research needs to be conducted regarding

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-522-1955
I-110-001
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
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 am opposed to the transmission lines being constructed in the Q-1 Hwy 83 Corridor or any of the options in Q-1 Hwy 83.

I recommend the lines be constructed on an established ROW preferably the original Q-1 route.

Optional: Name: Allen J Kube
Address: 31060 State Hwy 83 Cannon W 54683

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by February 12, 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@wic.usda.gov

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

---

**CAROL KUBE**: My name is a Carol Kube, and I wish to express my opposition to the connector alternative Q1 State Highway 88 route, including all potential options for this route. A case can be made that the Highway 88 route is even more scenic and certainly in a far more natural state than the GRR, Great River Road. It is likely that as many or more people take Highway 88 route for nature viewing and scenic panorama than the GRR. The conservation easement registered as document No. 233311 with Buffalo County Wisconsin Register of Deeds between Alan and Carol Kube and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, hereinafter the "conservation easement."

The conservation easement states, "The property in its present state has significant natural, ecological, habitat, agriculture, and scenic values of more than to the landowner, conservancy and the people of Wisconsin. The property is valued as a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants with similar ecosystem as that phrase is used in section 170(h)(4)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code."

The property is very scenic from...
within and from without. Scenic views of the property can be enjoyed by the public from State Highway 68 and from adjoining or nearby properties. The views from ridgetop trail to overlooks are expansive and breathtaking. Open Valley views surrounded by steep bluff slopes are also very pleasing to the eye.

The property is an important part of the Waumandee Creek watershed with all of the property eventually draining into Waumandee Creek. Landowners have completed several land conservation projects, dikes and ponds, to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.

The impact of the transmission lines on forestland would be catastrophic. Presently, forests within the conservancy's Kube-Waumandee Tract covers one and a half lineal miles east and west with forestlands continuing on for a combined 20 plus miles east and west. It is well documented that this type of contiguous forest habitat is crucial for wildlife, especially declining bird species.

Although the WDNR may not consider this portion of the Waumandee Creek to be a class one trout stream, it is a dynamic fishery. Any
disturbance of the wooded wetlands will adversely affect water temperatures and the life cycle of numerous species of fish and amphibians. It is possible that forest clearing could impact the managed forest law contract for the conservancy’s, Kube-Waumandee Tract. The conservation easement states, in particular the property is located adjacent to the Waumandee Creek Valley and contains forested bluff land. The following natural communities exist on the property: southern dry-mesic and mesic forests. The forestlands contain a wide variety of native trees, vegetation, and wildlife. The forest has been selectively locked and is currently enrolled in Wisconsin managed forest law programs. The Waumandee Tract offers continuous large tracts of high-quality wildlife habitat, ideal for bird and wildlife conservation. These properties are especially important for their proximity to the Mississippi River corridor.

The following natural communities are important conservation values of the land. The southern dry-mesic and mesic forest, dry prairie cliffs complex, floodplain forests, sedge meadows, and emergent aquatic wetlands. Rich and productive soils within the agricultural fields also provide
surrogate habitat for area wildlife. The Waumandee Creek meanders across both tracts and is an important component of the watershed.

The property contains a wide variety of native vegetation typical of the natural communities listed above. Populations of rare and protected species can be found on the property, including the state special concern plants, Muhlenberg's cedaria, and American Ginseng, (Panax quinquefolius).

The baseline documentation report identified the presence of 161 species of native trees, plants, and grasses on the Kube-Waumandee Tract. Thank you for your consideration.

* * * * *

ALAN KUBE: My name is Alan Kube. I am opposed to the construction of the transmission lines in the Q1 State Highway 88 corridor, including all Q1 State Highway 88 options. The people living in the Highway 88 Waumandee Creek watershed take great pride in the land and natural resources entrusted to them. Many families have lived along Highway 88 for generations and wish to see future generations have the same high quality environment as is presently along Highway 88.
I-112-001
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

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

Individual Comments

I am opposed to the connector Alternative 91-51-18E route including all potential options for this route.
I suggest the line be constructed on an established route. I recommend you follow the original Q-1 route.

Optional: Name: Carol Kube
Address: 5333 State Hwy 88, Cochrane, WI 53522

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

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

Individual Comments
T-250
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.
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.
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.
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.
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 to the CES 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 lowering electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering household and business costs while reducing carbon emissions over time more significantly than those projected by the MISO 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 Appendices A, B & C. Therefore, the cost of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTIEP projects.

I-117-004

In order to provide Darienland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AES needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020 MTIEP / 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:

The financial gain for energy brokers and other for-profit entities should not outweigh other potential benefits to rate payers.

I-117-005

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

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.
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
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.

followed by Roger Bechly.

GARY LEMASTERS: Hi, good evening.

My name is Gary LeMasters. I want to thank the people here tonight for all the effort they spent putting this whole thing together. It's an awful lot of work. My wife and I live at 1194 Yaeger Valley Road. We enjoy sitting on our deck during much of the year and looking at the view down our valley right towards Highway 98. We call it our high-definition television set. We look forward to adding 345kV transmission line to our vistas, comfortable with the knowledge of doing our part to provide electricity to urban areas to the east so they can sit indoors and watch their HDTV sets.

We also derive comfort in knowing, as stated on page 367, that the 150-foot transmission lines are an incremental visual impact. I have a lot of other comments I've already submitted, but there's several points I want to make. People here used Wisconsin Public Service Commission and environmental impact statement, and you said that you verified and used information. Did you find any mistakes in the Wisconsin draft EIS? I haven't seen any submittals from the PSC about any mistakes. So if you reviewed and independently verified it, there are no mistakes.
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.

I-119-003

in the Wisconsin docket, which is really surprising to me. I can't really believe that.

And tomorrow on your way to the next hearing, drive down Highway 88 and tell me that these poles wouldn't create an incremental detrimental impact, okay? I really would like you to do that.

Figures on 1.4.1 and 1-5 show congestion through 2014. In both of these maps, the service area appears mostly yellow, or reliable for most of the time. Yet, throughout the GIS you mention the spectrum of blackouts and brownouts effecting us. I don't understand how -- these two things are not compatible. You are talking about brownouts in urban areas. I do not see why the RUS is involved in this. The USDA is authorized and empowered to make loans for rural implications and nonprofit organizations and others, quote "for the purpose of financing and construction and operation of generating plants, electric transmission and distribution lines, or assistance to servicing and the benefit of improving persons in rural areas."

This is not about providing power to persons in rural areas. I don't believe that your agency has any reason to be involved in this. Thank you.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
Good evening. My name is Gary LeMasters. My wife, Ruth Ann, and I live at W1184 Yaeger Valley Road, about 1/2 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.

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.

Comments on the Abstract

- First paragraph, project purpose.

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.

Executive Summary

- Page 4 second paragraph: Delete "As such"

Delete this unnecessary phrase wherever it appears in the document.

- Page 5, first paragraph: "RUS has verified and used information directly from the Minnesota EIS and the Wisconsin Draft EIS ..."

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.

- Page 8, first paragraph: "...resulting in lower cost energy to consumers."

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.

Comment noted.

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

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

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J02-Land Use and Zoning.
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 B: Purpose & Need, B04-Dairyland Power Corporation Need Questioned.

I-120-014
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C09-Highway 88 Alternatives.

Individual Comments
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.

Section 3.7.1, Page 267:
- “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.”

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.

Section 3.8.3, Airports:
- 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.

Figure 3-17:
- 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.

Page 325, Tourism, including Agrotourism:
- “While the intrusion of transmission lines could potentially adversely affect agrotourism, no information is available to assess this potential impact.”

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.

3.11.2.6 Impacts of the No Action Alternative:
- “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.”
I-120-020

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

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 was at your meeting in Cannon Falls on Jan 13. When I got home I checked my dictionary to see if common sense and optimism were still there.

My theme goes to you at the head table. How do you stay on track? I am sure most of the speakers are at every meeting. These people need to get a life.

We need this one and this one and we will help pay for it. As one person said, it is too nothing inside and happy outside. My guess is the roof would last along the present sight line.

Optional: Name: Richard L. Johnson
Address: W39133 vacant Pox Rd. Trempealeau, WI 54661

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 website:
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.
I-123-001

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

1. 
ride. And it's the first Sunday in October, and that is kind of a scenic view, supposed to be anyway if the leaves cooperate with me. But it's always the first Sunday in October. And it's supposed to be — when they come out, the old farm, that's what my uncle wanted, come out and see the old farm every year. And it's supposed to be a scenic ride out there. And we get, you know, a really a nice time out at the farm. And I hope, you know, that your concerns are kind of about us.

And I just kind of slipped through this here, and I think I will — and I oppose the line.

MS. RICHTER: Kay will be followed by Susan Pronkenske. Okay. Susan will do online. So then it's Christine Jumbeck. Okay. You'll follow.

KATHY MOCKINGTON. My name is Kathy Mockington. I'm from Arcadia, Wisconsin. I have to address the people at the table. Why have you not had a meeting in Arcadia? Are the hills too steep to get over? And I guess the thing I want them to do is also to drive Tompzen Valley Road, which is an extremely narrow valley, and that is where they are thinking — after finding that out several
meetings later -- about putting the transmission lines. Personally, I will be looking directly at the transmission line out my patio door, that did not have a transmission line or pole at any point in its life.

So I will encourage this group to please have a meeting in Arcadia. I think the area, that group over there has no idea what's going on. I found out about this meeting by a friend from church -- well, it was at church, and I was appalled that nobody I talked to knew about this meeting or the one coming up in Centerville on Friday night.

The point I would like to make is this. There was an article in the La Crosse Tribune, it's also in the St. Cloud paper concerning the congestion in Minnesota. And that is why -- and this windmill farm northeast of Minneapolis, which needs a lot of energy, is not -- their energy is not being purchased by any electric company, which to me seems very odd that this renewable source could not be used.

The other thing that and I'm also kind of surprised, I found out at a couple of meetings, nobody knew about the transmission line that they were proposing near Arcadia is on land that

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
is a sand mine. And if you know anything about the sand mine in Trempealeau County, it is exploding. I don't know if you want to put the lines up and then take them down again. It doesn't really matter to me.

The other thing is Arcadia is being hemmed in by the east portion because of this transmission line, and they are looking at annexing a sand mine to the city. And I really don't think that your congestion problems in Minnesota should become our congestion problems in this part of Wisconsin.

Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: And Christine will be followed by Gene and Cheryl Baker. And could you spell your last name for the record, please?

CHRIS JUMBECK: Chris Jumbeck. I live a mile off of Highway 88. And I'm also a schoolteacher at Cochrane-Fountain City High School. I teach high school agriculture and natural resources. And I strongly support a no action alternative. We've heard a lot of discussion tonight, and a lot of those things were things I was going to say. However, I wanted to first applaud our community and applaud our kids. Preston Jordon, Corlen and Barbara for having the courage to come up
Individual Comments

[Commentaire individuel]

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

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

Optional: Name: Kathleen Lockington
Address: 6209 30th Street N, Arden Hills, MN 55121

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 stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.Strength@usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following website:
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.

Individual Comments
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E: Geology and Soils, E02-Mines/Quarries, General.

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category J: Land Resources, J02-Land Use and Zoning.

I-124-005

I-124-006

I-124-007

Individual Comments

T-271
going to leave it at that.

* * * *

JOE LÓPEZ: 5908 330 Street Way, Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit A1. And no property -- no housing would be affected if you use this route. It already goes through this property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if we turned it right there -- I know that's still your property down there, right? And then turned it, and then it would be way away from your house. That's the only other route I can think of that wouldn't affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.

* * * *

MICHELLE SANDSTROM: 30127 59th Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit A1, to minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we would prefer the power line pole go through the middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield addition. See Exhibit A1.

* * * *

MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have tables here in front. We thought it would be a little more cozy if you all would gather up to the
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.
I-127-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Individual Comments

T-275
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.
I-129-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-129-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-129-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-129-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

Dear Ms. Strong—

I-129-001
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 existence of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

I-129-002
The Alternative Energy Assessment currently part of the DEIS is out of date and underdeveloped. 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 MTEP1 regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

I-129-003
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-129-004
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 latter 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:

Date: 2-2-13
Signature: [Signature]
Print Name: [Print Name]
Address: [Address]
Dear Mr. Strength—

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 exclusions of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission option.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached to the DIBs 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 firm 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.

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.

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 find that the latter 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:

[Signature]

Individual Comments

T-278

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.
I-131-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-131-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-131-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-131-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.
Briggs Substation. You know, it may have made sense when the original Q1 was on the table, which went through some of the bottom line, but it appears that since that has been off the table, that location really does not make sense anymore, especially in conjunction, because it really doesn't work with the ATC project. To come through a residential corridor, over the schools, over the high schools, where little kids are on a regular basis, and through an urban area where houses are makes even less sense than the project itself.

The second concern with the Briggs Substation is that it truly does not work with the ATC project and the Badger line which connects to it. So, again, coming into this area, shouldn't these projects work together?

Third, if you understand the area, Corridor Highway 53 is really the growth area for LaCrosse County. There is schools and there's business districts. To come into that substation, again, will really affect the tax base, the revenue, and the future growth of this area, which again, there is really not a need for it. And really to address the claims that LaCrosse needs it, again, which is debatable, you know, that substation is not
necessary, if it is truly part of this Badger project
going energy out east, and then the energy can
always be brought into LaCrosse on the existing
lines, on the 161K, and we are not going to need
these behemoth poles with this high energy.

So certainly, again, you know, the
entire project of getting energy out east through
us as pawns, and through this beautiful valley,
and affecting all of these people here is truly
concerning. And the type of planning that has gone
into even thinking about a Griggs Substation across
schools and across an urban area is enough to make
me question the entire project, if that's the type
of planning that has gone into it.

So, thank you for your time.
MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay, Joe
Morris, who will be followed by Joe Nygaard.
MR. MORRIS: I think I will stand,
too, if that's alright.
MODERATOR RICHTER: Yes. Take the
mic and speak directly into the mic and that should
be fine. Thank you.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you very much.
My name is Joe Morris. I live in Winona County,
Wilson Township, just south of Winona.
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.

I-133-001

I would urge you to look at the alternatives to the CapX 2020 project.
I am opposed to the building of the transmission lines anywhere in
Trumbull County. The 130-170
foot towers would upset the scenic
beauty of this area. In addition,
it would be close enough to my
residence that I would have to worry
the noise. I am retired and my
home is a big part of my retirement
future and the property value would be

I-133-002

Optional: Name: Bill Meyer
Address: 613370 Grand Lane Trumbull, CT

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.Streitwieser@mdc.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following website:
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A13-General Comments not Requiring Response.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E: Geology and Soils, E04-Fossil Sites.

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

I-134-001

I-134-002

I-134-003

Individual Comments

T-284
If you or your consultant has any questions on these documents, you can reach me at 507-789-6765.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Howard C. Midje
MN State Design Engineer – Retired
Soil Conservation Service, USDA – (NRCS, Natural Resource Conservation Service)
Individual Comments

I-134-004

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

Individual Comments

T-286
Xcel Energy has constructed the Innenergy 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. Innenergy 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 SHOULD NOT be the Selected Route

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.

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-134-007
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.
Water Resources

MN - DEIS states route 1B-005 has the most wetlands within the 150 foot right-of-way and route 1B-009 has the third most. Both routes have wetlands larger 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 wetlands if the transmission line was constructed along either route. Choosing any other route alternative could minimize these impacts.

Electronic Interference

The RUS – DEIS states that it is unlikely that GPS guidance systems would be affected by the EMP 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 EMP present, proper GPS function is usually restored in minutes (IEEE, 2002 as cited in Minimarta Power Cooperation, Inc., n.d.).”

ECPS is restored within a minute, this can be a major problem for a farmer. When one is travelling 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.

Cultural resources

The 1P-009 and the route 1B-005 routes would affect the Nannas Historical District. The principal resource of the district is the visual attributes of the rural vistas. This district is 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 Nannas Historical District would be greatly affected by both routes 1P - 009 and 1B - 005. 1P - 009 would be less than 1/7 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 55 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 Nannas
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 239, “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 Phenants 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.
up here and sit, if you would like us to take a moment while you take a seat, if that would be helpful.

MR. MILLER: It is Dwain Miller.

That is spelled D-W-A-I-N. I don't have enough information yet to formulate an opinion either way, but what information I have collected, I want those people that are going to make the final decision on where and if this line goes up, that it is going to be the least restrictive and the least harmful to people and their property.

I don't necessarily have a problem with it going through a land where the habitat, like my wife mentioned, snakes. They will find a place to go. You know, if it means that the lines go there rather than people losing their homes or their property, or their property values go home, so be it. Let the snakes find another place to go. They are pretty handy creatures. They will find a place.

So I just want to voice my concern that I feel that people need to be more of a priority than snakes, as far as I'm concerned.

So that's all I really wanted to say tonight. So thanks.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Next, after Al,
The question then is what is this line about? It is about overcapacity and overbuilding in the Dakotas. They will speak of congestion of capacity because of overbuilding. With the plan being that power will be exported for profit, even against popular opposition, to Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

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

Thank you for your time.

MOTHER RICHTER: Okay, Sally Miller will be followed by Dwayne Miller.

MR. MILLER: My name is Sally Miller. Town of Gainesville. I don't have an opinion either way on this, other than to say that my concern is...
that we aren't taking into account the greatest asset that we have, and that would be our health, our children's health. I really don't care if the rattlesnakes get disturbed in their habitat; I care if the children are.

High exposure to EMFs has been linked to several issues, several problems. Autism is one of them. As a mother of an autistic son, I really don't know that I would wish that on anybody. It is a hard life. And I think we need to be looking at how these things impact our children.

As a newspaper reporter covering these kinds of issues in several states over the last 20 years, I have seen a lot of meetings like this. I have seen a lot of people speak heartfelt concerns. Sometimes they feel like they are not being heard. Sometimes they feel like the decision has already been made. I certainly hope that is not the case here. Although I am no longer the editor of the Gaylesville Newspaper, in some part that's why I decided to run for the County Board because I have heard a lot of opposition, and a small amount of support for this project, but for the most part it is a lot of confusion. The main concern I hear from everybody is how is this going to affect our
children, how is it going to affect our health.

Yes, property value is important, but overwhelmingly, and even tonight, when I have talked to a lot of you, overwhelmingly it is about safety, children's safety.

The information is out there and I encourage you to find it on the impact of EMFs. If it can be registered on an electronic device, if an EMF can be registered, then it has an impact. If it is going to disturb the rattlesnakes and their habitat, then it is going to disturb the people and our lives. I want to make sure that this is something that is factored in, right up there with the baby rattlesnakes and all of the other wildlife, that the children, that the elderly people, that the people that will be impaired that live near these are taken into account. That their voices and their concerns are the greatest, the single greatest decision making information piece. I want to make sure that whoever makes this decision in the end has taken into account life, safety and quality of life.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICTER: Okay. Dawn Miller, who will be followed by Al Lorenzo.

Could I indicate, again, we do have seats, if you just arrived, you are welcome to come
I am satisfied 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 Altoona - North La Crosse routes. My opinion is that the Ol route is the most prudent. The cost savings of this project, in addition to the savings from needed rebuilding of the existing transmission line over this route, made the project 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 Misch
Address: 22327 Belvidere Ridge Rd, Cochran, WI 54732

If you would like to take this form with you, please mail by 2/28/2012 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.sfreeth@gdc.usda.gov

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

1  Miller will follow him. Let's start with Joe. Thank you.
3  MR. MORGAN: Thanks for the opportunity to speak here tonight. My name is Joe Morse, M-O-R-S-E. I live south of Winona, Minnesota, in Wilson Township. I've been participating in information meetings, public forums, and public meetings, about this proposed power line organized by CapX, and also meetings by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, administrative law judges, legislative town boards, and other community organizations for the last three-and-a-half years. The more I learn about it, the more I become concerned.
15  I don't believe that the CapX project is a good investment or a sound project. I recommend the no action alternative. I don't think taxpayers should finance any portion of the CapX power line through USDA Rural Utility Service Funds. We would be paying as ratepayers to the utilities, and we would be paying doubly as taxpayers to the federal government.
23  Some of the reasons I think this project is ill-advised are as follows. No. 1, in an era when major goals are being set by many states and
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.

the federal government to prevent catastrophic global warming, many want to increase wind and solar power to use as an alternative to dirty coal power. CapX utilities have made no commitment to any amount of wind power on these, and did in fact try to remove the wind power ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on April 6th, 2009, when they approved the Minnesota certificate of need for the Brookings segment of the CapX power line.

The concept of generating large quantities of electricity in locations far from its end use and sending it to its customers by high voltage power lines is outdated and dangerous. Large amounts of electricity are wasted in this transmission process, thousands of huge unsightly power towers are necessary which consume enormous amounts of energy to make and install. And those of us who live and attend school, work within 161 feet of these high voltage power lines are subject to the effects of electromagnetic fields, increasing the number of children contracting leukemia and adults being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. There are many ecological studies which make these risks very clear.

There are many people in this area.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
and individuals, organizations, who spent considerable efforts working to protect the bluffs of this area from construction of highly unsightly buildings on bluff sides and ridge lines which can cause erosion, landslides, damage to the visual beauty to the community and contaminate water supplies. The proposed power line would severely detract from the efforts of both private and public organizations to preserve these visual and natural resources and water quality, which are important esthetic and economic benefits to southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The power lines create an unnecessary decrease in property values for many of the landowners in this area. And I would like to just make a mention that earlier one of the needs that was mentioned was was reliability -- I guess that's it. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: The next person is Robert Miller followed by Robert Kamrowski. And I want to apologize up front for not pronouncing names correctly. Bob Miller left. So are Robert Kamrowski, and then he would be followed by David Fetting.

ROBERT KAMROWSKI: My name is...
I am writing you in regards to the CAPX2020 HVXL project. My name is Paul Mulholland and I am a home owner located directly on the west side of the Rumbro River at the North Alternate 3A crossing of the Rumbro River. I have talked to Brian Rub from Stantec Consulting who called to discuss Bald Eagle activity here. I am not sure 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 RUM 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 Rumbro 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...
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
sufficient habitat cover, and ideal temperature
ranges.

Section 3.2.1.4, page 187

states --

MS. RICHTER: Allan Müller

followed by Carol Overland.

ALAN MULLEN: My name is Alan
Müller, and I live at 1116 West Avenue in Red Wing, Minnesota. This is a proceeding under the National
Environmental Policy Act, and one of the requirements
there -- one of the key requirements that is kind of
generally neglected is evaluating alternatives. And
this obligation is called out accurately on page 83
of the draft EIS. It's section 2.1.1. And I would
like to read it. "Under the CEQ regulations, RUS is
required to identify and evaluate reasonable
alternatives to the proposal as well as the no action
alternative." And let me stop and point out that
alternatives are not the same thing as a no action
alternative.

Okay. "Reasonable alternatives
are those that are, quote, practical or feasible from
the technical and economic standpoint in using common
sense rather than simply desirable from the
standpoint of the applicants." Now let me reread
that last little section. "Rather than simply
desirable from the standpoint of the applicant." And
that means that alternatives can't, under the law, be
blown off just because they aren't part of the
applicant's business plan, okay? And what that means
is of course our friends in the electricity business
want to sell more electricity, and they want more
transmission lines to move that electricity around,
but that doesn't mean that under the law alternatives
such as investment in conservation and efficiency can
be ignored. Unfortunately, they are for all
practical purposes in these documents.

Now, you know I think this is
particularly important, the issue of alternatives
when we are talking about transmission lines, because
we all know that lines have all sorts of negative
consequences. And there are alternatives such as
investment in conservation and efficiency that are
almost entirely positive. So let's see what we
actually get here. On page 84 at 2.2.1, demand site
management and energy efficiency are measures that
are already incorporated into utilities projections
and therefore are not available to further reduce
load. Now, obviously that can only be true if it was
showing that the utilities were in fact already doing
all the cost-effective load management and efficiency
that could be done. Is that shown anywhere? Well,
certainly not in that statement. So let's go to the
alternative study and see what we get here. At
3.2.1.2 title conservation -- can I finish my
statement?

MS. RICHTER: Sure.

ALAN NOLLER: Okay. Let me read
this. "Because the effect of conservation will not
appreciably reduce the projected growth and peak
electric demand, this alternative would need to --
this alternative is not feasible because it is
unreasonable to assume that all utilities would be
able to exceed the statutory requirements" and so on.
There's absolutely no factor in this information here
to substantiate that.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you. Carol?
And Carol will be followed by Billy Dietrich. Billy
is here? Okay. Thank you.

CAROL OVERLAND: Hello, I'm Carol
1110 West Avenue. First, I have a number of things
over the next week, but first we'll start off,
Dairyland is shutting down three units at the Alma
plant. This is an article dated December 6th, 2011,
January 12, 2012

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

RE: Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse transmission line proposal: DEIS comments and FOIA request

Dear Ms. Strong:

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.

Apparentlly 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)

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 meant the 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 naive, but as I see it,
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.

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.

For example, in the NEIS being presented, the discussion and evaluation of alternatives, required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is inadequate when not absent. Similarly, the NEIS 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.

Please, in the future, conduct your meetings in a neutral and respectful manner.

Please present a NEIS that complies with, rather than mucks, the NEPA.

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.

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-141-002
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.

---

Individual Comments T-305
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).
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 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 an 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% (MTIP 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 pointed out that the applicant has employed a methodology that will be used to determine the need for the project. The total of all substations as the loading was coincidental, when in fact the loads were non-coincidental.

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 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.

3.) Five low voltage projects 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-143-006
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

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

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

I-143-011
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
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. Respectfully submitted.

George Nygaard
Individual Comments

I-144-001

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

mitigation, which means bury the line, or have the children 165 feet away. That would be a right-of-way of 330 feet.

I think that the no action alternative that is mentioned in the EIS would be the most prudent choice to make for this power line.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Some new people have just arrived. We have seats in front, if you would like to join us upfront, so you could be a little more comfortable.

It is David, right?

MR. OELKERS: Yes.

MODERATOR RICHTER: David will be followed by Dan Prelasky.

MR. OELKERS: My name is Dave, David Oelkers. O-E-I-K-E-R-S. I live at W36899 Mess Lane in Arcadia, Wisconsin. I want to preface my comments by simply saying that these are my personal comments. I am the general manager of Riverland Energy Cooperative, but I want folks to know that these are my personal comments.

I can share with you that, you know, from my position I'm aware of the fact that Riverland Energy Cooperative's kilowatt hours purchased in the
The last ten years has increased by 50 million kilowatt hours. So, for our cooperative, we are growing.

We have also increased our demand by 16 megawatts. And that is in spite of all of the efforts that we have made to do conservation. We have been very aggressive in our conservation efforts, but yet we do continue to see growth.

As far as the issue of Dairyland and their involvement, whether or not it goes on a Q1 route or another route, Dairyland is going to be involved. And the reason is is that Dairyland owns both of the routes or is involved with both of the routes. The cost to Dairyland is different depending upon which route is chosen.

With my apologies to those folks who live along the Q1 route, I will say that I believe that the original Q1 route, if the decision is made to go forward, is the logical route to use. The original Q1 is the most direct, it is the shortest, it will result in the lowest cost option for construction, it crosses the least amount of farm land, it will require the least amount of new right-of-way, and it has the fewest number of residents within 300 feet of it. To me that says that the logical route is the Q1.
Don't think they need to consider the Highway 88 route. The route south of Gaylesville.

They have a perfectly good route that follows directly from Alma to the Holmen location and it makes the most sense.

Finally, I think it is important to recognize that we have a nuclear moratorium, we are seeing reduced production of coal, Dairyland has shut down three generators, we have some fairly restrictive wind ordinances here in Trempealeau County, at least for large wind. We do have some opportunity for smaller wind. But at some point we have to understand and decide what we are going to accept.

So, I guess those are my comments.

I think from a renewable standpoint, the technology is just not there to accommodate the kind of growth that we are seeing. So, I do think that we need to decide what we are going to live with, and for me, I guess I think it is the transmission line.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you, Dan is next and Dan will be followed by Joanne DeMaster.

MR. PRETASKY: My name is Dan Pretasky. I live in North LaCrosse County, along the Black River and next to one of the proposed...
I-145-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-145-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-145-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-145-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-145-005
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 B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

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 N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.
I-146-003

From my understanding, the line is rated for 2050 megavolt amperage and the CAPX 2020 research has only disclosed the health concerns with 850 megavolt amperage and the concerns about stray voltage have not been concordant as to how they relate to agricultural concerns, as far as reduced milk production in dairy herds near the CAPX 2020 line. I think that's about it.

(Off the record.)

(Whereupon, the individual statements were concluded.)

(Off the record.)

(Whereupon, the following public hearing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was held and entered of record.)

MODERATOR RICHTER: Good. Okay.

I would like to welcome you all to the January 13th public meeting put on by the U.S. Department of Agricultural Rural Development, Rural Utility Service regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

My name is Trudy Richter and I will be your moderator tonight. And before we get started with your comments, we have a few remarks that we would like to make, starting first with Stephanie Strength, who is here from the USDA Rural Utility Service.
From: pame4@centurytel.net [mailto:pame4@centurytel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:26 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RE, Washington, DC
Subject: 

Hello USDA staff,

Thankyou for the ability to comment on the draft EIS and GapX 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 RAGSAR status of a wetland area with international significance.

Should the USDA approve of actually contributing funds for completion of CAPX 2020 through these areas, it and many others will judge your actions as being complicit in a pre-mediated 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.
existing line. It is called the Trempealeau line. It is owned by Xcel. It crosses very few residences. It takes that line out of the Mississippi River Valley. It is a win-win for both the environmental concerns and for people.

Now, no, personally I am not in favor of this project at all, but if the project is going to be built and the RUS is going to fund it, they must comply with the regulations as set forth under NEPA.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.

EXCUSE ME. Peggy.

THE SPEAKER: Peggy, Peggy? (phonic). I am from Lafarge (phonic), Wisconsin, which is Vernon County. I am happy to see this many people here tonight. It has been 15 months since I have been asked to participate in the Stark Planning Energy Committee. And the more I read, the more frustrated I get. There is a lot of information out there. I think the lady that just spoke probably represents 90 percent of the people that are involved in this process.

The companies that are building these transmission lines want to pit each of us against
each other. "Put it over there, put it over there,"
it is a done deal. It is not a done deal. This is
our tax money. This is our utility dollars. We have
a right and an obligation to see how they are spent.
There is many other options. Some of those options
are increase, increase the amount of money available
for efficiency. If the money that is being spent for
this line was used to encourage people to insulate
their homes, to encourage businesses to do energy
efficiency studies, to improve their lighting and
their energy uses, the need for this line could be
postponed indefinitely.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Following Chris
Stark --

CHRIS STARK: I am going to pass.
MODERATOR RICHTER: You are going to
pass?

CHRIS STARK: At this time, yes.
MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you though.
Wendell Ellen (phonetic). Is Wendell here?
Denise Garavalia.

MS. GARAVALIA: Yes.

MODERATOR RICHTER: And Denise will
be followed by Sheryl Hanson.
Ed & DeLaine Pattsner
32008 Co Rd J
Ancilla, WI 54612

February 12, 2012

Stephanie A. Stagner
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Program
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1579, Room 2344
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570

Re: Capx2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence;

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, Percus 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 make sensitive forest and wetland areas in part of the state where the natural resources would be best preserved for our future generations.

Besides the industrial, scenic and recreational concern, 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 EMF’s 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

EMF’s are an important environmental health problem. EMF pollution that is universal in the modern world today and getting worse!

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- EMF’s 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.
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.


"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 foreseen that population so far into the future until recently. But as is so often the case with this subject, new 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 schools 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..."
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 (http, heartbeats, brainwaves, cell division itself, etc...). Man-made electromagnetic exposure are "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 serves 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 expenditures in the U.S. is at S2 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, fluorescent 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 country.

You need to construct more local power plants for safety, for efficiency, and for National Security. Capx 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 Dairiland 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. 3-250-2115-1-2 PUC
DOCKET NO. 96-27-FL-09-1411

(3)
AFFIDAVIT OF BRUCE McKay, P.E. Item 7: “The first purpose of this statement is to point out the fact that the Comp2009 Magnetic Field tables and charts that I've been able to find in Hampton-Rochester-Latrobe 345 kV Transmission Project documents fail to address the full potential Magnetic Field along the transmission lines.” View it's entirety for yourself as No CompX 2009.

Why are you persistent 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 is electrohypersensitive.

Since it is thought that up to 35% of the population is electrohypersensitive, I-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.


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 Starting Look at the Effects of Electromagnetic 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 7th edition, by Ellen Sugarman (Highly recommended)

Earthling: The most important health discovery ever? NAUTILUS BOOK AWARD WINNER, Written By: Clinton Ober, Stephen T. Sinatra, M.D., Martha Zalzer Forward by James L. Ochman, Ph.D., author of Energy Medicine: The Scientific Basis (Highly Recommended)

Sincerely,
Ed & DeLaune Patzner

(4)
Dear Ms. Strength:

My husband and I are 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 do not know of an independent study to verify the need for this project or for the related Badger Cowl 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 their 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 rescinded their plan to take another path. This is democracy?

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 CapX2020 project. We do not need it nor do we want it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rakke 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.
I-151-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-151-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-151-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-151-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-151-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
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.

Re: Capx2020 Hampton-La Crosse 345KV Transmission Line

To Persons of Influence;

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 its 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 leave sensitive forest and wetland areas in parts of the state where the natural resources would be best preserved for our future generations.

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.
Point 2
FACT - Higher than average incidents of leukemia are reported in children who live near high
to volt age 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? 995-2012

"The intricate DNA of the Chromosome is affected by EMFs throughout 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, Inc. 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 apathetic,
difference and lack of heartfelt respect for the plight of these persons. It is clear something
serious has happened and it is happening. Every aspect of every hypersensitive peoples’ lives,
including the ability to work productively in society, have healthy relations and find safe,
permanent housing, is at stake. The basic 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, fluorescent 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 inconveniencing.
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. D02/TL-09-1448

(3)
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.

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 Starring 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 3rd 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)
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.

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 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 X VI 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.
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
Dear Ms. Strength—

In regard to the CapX2020 proposal, I question the legitimacy of the need for the project proposed 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 transmision issue.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DEB is out of date and underdeveloped. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vermont" and others which are significantly reducing electricity growth, creating energy jobs, lowering farm households 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.

The stated purpose of "Regional reliability" depends on the construction of the Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan I and projects in Appendices 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 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 latter 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

Signature: ARTHUR B. BEUTHEK
First Name: HERMAN L. BEUTHEK
Address: 951 E. CITY RD S
VIOLA, WI 53595

T-332

I-154-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-154-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-154-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-154-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.
doesn't exist, but it does. And what makes anybody think that these animals can be affected and we are not? I mean, the logic is not there. I have found three documents, public and private, that show that farmers -- medical experts, state utility officials have found there is fatigue, headaches, aches and pains, rapid heartbeats, nerve damage, weakness in legs and arms, immune system weaknesses, cancer, chronic diseases or any type of adverse health symptoms, even low level energy, significantly affects symptoms.

Victims of stray voltage bear the burden of proof, which takes years. We have to prove that we have been harmed. When -- we didn't mismanage or we didn't do something wrong. It becomes our problem. This is costly. This is also -- it takes years. How many of us can go through the years of pain to prove that we are the victims? Many studies on low voltage to humans in the long term have not been done. I had read a quote that Xcel said, "We are not in the business of research." You know, we can't disapprove this. So they can't prove it. So that lands it back in our laps again. Who's going to prove it?

The No. 1 way to avoid stray
voltage, avoid proximity of permanent stationary
sources such as power lines or transformers. I mean,
I think that should say enough. We both oppose it.
I suppose that's all I can say.

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

JOHN FRIE: I spoke in the past to
both Stephanie and Tom regarding this, especially
Highway 88 option. And we can talk for hours on
this, but I'll keep it to three minutes. My name is
John Frie, F-R-I-E. I live on 52699 State Road 88.
After reviewing the EIS draft in detail, one needs to
question why on earth the USDA would want to be part
of any electric transmission line given the past
history of stray voltage issues among our farming
community. With all the past stray voltage issues
the USDA has been informed of, from particularly the
dairy industry, one would think a better investment
for RUS and USDA could make it clean up existing
distribution services serving the farming segments.

This 345,000 volt transmission
line using the Highway 88 route running clearly
wind. It's a shotgun. It's not a single silver
bullet that's going to address our problems. The one
good thing I can say about the fact that we do have
this project coming up before us is I don't think in
the past that we've thought enough about our energy
consumption and where we are going, and I think this
will -- is a wake-up call to us.
I mean, one of the reasons that
the United States is losing out to places like China
is they are becoming more efficient all the time as
they move into an industrial age themselves, and we
are stuck in this old thing. And more is better,
burn more. We are actually consuming more energy by
two to one than any country on the face of the earth
other than Canada and Australia. And I see if we are
stuck there, why do we want to keep on doing this
when most of us -- I'm a world person myself, and we
have an ample opportunity, more than any other place,
and the USDA should be supporting this, of a
decentralized generation. Thanks. Thanks for the
opportunity.

MS. RICHTER: Is there anybody
else that wanted to speak and hasn't had an
opportunity?

MADRALE BLANK: I spoke for Trav.
There is something I forgot, and I thought it was important. I’m Michelle Plank. There’s a journalist for the La Crosse Tribune, Chris Hardy, he had done a story on stray voltage and people that have been affected by it. And he came up on the Internet, and these are names you are going to know. So it’s something I wanted to encourage people to do, and you can see that your neighbors have been affected already. That’s about it.

MS. RICHTER: I’m inclined to -- well, the first question I need to ask is does the court reporter need a break? She’s been helping us out since 5 o’clock, and it is 8 o’clock, and we are prepared to close. However, Stephanie wanted me to offer, if anyone felt they needed a few more minutes to speak, I would like to see how many people feel that way, and then ask our court reporter if she is willing to continue. So raise a hand if you still wanted more time to speak.

(whereupon a short recess was taken.)

MS. RICHTER: For those of you remaining, I would like your attention to those that wish to speak. The first hand I saw come up were John and Preston. So if they would both come forward
Don't think they need to consider the Highway 88 route. The route south of Gainesville.
They have a perfectly good route that follows directly from Alma to the Holmen location and it makes the most sense.

Finally, I think it is important to recognize that we have a nuclear moratorium, we are seeing reduced production of coal, Dairyland has shut down three generators, we have some fairly restrictive wind ordinances here in Trempealeau County, at least for large wind. We do have some opportunity for smaller wind. But at some point we have to understand and decide what we are going to accept.

So, I guess those are my comments.

I think from a renewable standpoint, the technology is just not there to accommodate the kind of growth that we are seeing. So, I do think that we need to decide what we are going to live with, and for me, I guess I think it is the transmission line.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you, Dan is next and Dan will be followed by Joanne DeMaster.

MR. PRETASKY: My name is Dan Pretasky, I live in South LaCrosse County, along the Black River and next to one of the proposed...
routes for the CAPX 2020 power line project.

I am a rural land owner and I pay
local property taxes to the town of Holland, and
as to the federal government to support national
endeavors, including funding for the USDA.

I trust you, our representatives,
are responsible at least in part for looking out for
the welfare of us, the rural land owner. I, like the
many residents of the town of Holland, really began
learning more about the CAPX 20 power line this past
summer. The more I learned, the more the reason for
my opposition.

As a group of neighbors we have
expressed our opposition to the CAPX 2020 project to
several of our local governing bodies, including the
town of Holland Board of Supervisors, the town of
Farmington Board of Supervisors, the Holmen School
Board and the LaCrosse County Board of Supervisors;
all of which, after learning more about this project,
passed resolutions against CAPX 2020.

It’s not hard to understand why
there is almost unanimous opposition. What is hard
to understand is why we are here today to defend what
should be common sense in the first place.

Burning dirty coal to produce energy.
and send that dirty energy over transmission lines into 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 process like the burning of fossil fuels?

The town of Holland, with the Black River running through its northern boundaries, a nationally recognized scenic river area that provides recreation and scenic beauty hard to find. The eye sore of 150-foot to 170-foot metal structures and the electric cables that they support will forever ruin this natural beauty.

What about our property values?

Studies have concluded that transmission lines have a larger negative impact on property values for smaller parcels of land. Smaller parcels like we have in Northern LaCrosse County. The power lines would reduce the value of our property 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?

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952,922,1958
I-156-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B03-Benefit to Local Customers Questioned.

Individual Comments

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
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, bluffs, 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.
I-157-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-157-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-157-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-157-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-157-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

Dear Ms. Strength,

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 to the high-voltage transmission options.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DERS 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 reducing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering home and business costs while reducing carbon emissions. Over time more significant than those projected by the MTEP1 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 Appendices 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 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 latter 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:

In our region of this huge project that is being forced on the state, we have learned there is no need for this electricity coming into Wisconsin, especially since it will be right at our front steps of our homes.

I-157-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
Some ask why a proposals to the Cape Cod power lines not only hit the town of Trempealeau but also come right into this beautiful state. These high powered lines regardless of proposed routes will effect the livelihood of those who live near only in the town of Trempealeau but anywhere they are proposed. It effect the wildlife, industry, tourism, people will lose property, homes and or farms/land, we will have to fund this costly outdated dirty coal powered and politically motivated plan two ways, as a federal tax payer as an energy consumer. I do not believe we should be building new old fashioned infrastructure systems, but rather old, newer green-environmentally minded techniques. I am not sure that these large corporations are planning to destroy our forests, endanger the wildlife and our state citizens to mainly drum up energy by passing Wisconsin and selling electricity on side the state – not benefitting the Great Lakes. But destroying it and erecting enormous steel poles 50-70° or 100° marvin the beautiful state.

Property values (valuable lands, homes, farms) will be devalued.

Health risks and dangerous levels of power...
Which release EMF's and have the potential to break in storms harming Wisconsin citizens.

Wisconsin needs to focus and be a leader in taking state moving forward with renewable, sustainable, and efficient energy as well as conservation.

My proposal is in opposition to Army Corps of Engineers' (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 anymore and must be renewed/efficient consultation.

Thank you,
Todd Pyka
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.

---

I-159-001
I am opposed to the Q1-STR88 Transmission Line Connector. Transmission Line Connector Alternative. USDA 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 create hardships during field work. Also, I am deeply concerned about health and safety issues for humans and livestock caused by electric magnetic field and stray voltage.

I-159-002
There are presently no transmission lines, only distribution lines in the Q1-Fuy 88 road. Therefore, I recommend utilization of existing R.O.W. preferably the original Q-1 R.O.W.

Optional: Name: Dennis Reiglin
Address: 12244, 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.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wisc.usda.gov.

Information and updates can be found on the following web site:
Oh, and I forgot to introduce myself. I realize. My name is Trudy Richter, and I was asked to be the facilitator for the five nights we are here having these hearings. Prior to the first night, I really had no background on this project whatsoever. I'm totally independent and here to moderate the proceedings. And tonight Nicole is here with me for the timing.

With that then, there are a couple of people that indicated they would like to speak, but by no means does that limit it. If any of you would like to indicate after these first two people speak that you also would like to make a comment, please let me know. And we will be here until 8:00 to take your comments. So Suzanne Rohlfing is our first individual.


Thank you all for this opportunity. I know I'll take probably longer than three minutes, so I'll be waiting for the ding. First of all, can I ask one question? Was there a notice sent to people involved in the macrocorridors about these meetings?

MS. STRENGTH: Again, it's regarding process, so that's something we would
typically answer in this process. So that wouldn’t count on her time. There were not letters sent to everyone within the study area. There were letters — or there was information sent to those who had requested to be notified or who had requested to receive a copy of the draft that was available. There’s also a mailing that went out to some people along the Highway 98 route that had not received a previous notice. Otherwise, the typical form for notifying people is to put it in the federal register and then in newspapers in the area.

Suzanne Rohlfing: Okay. Thank you. I did miss that. I did not get notice. But thank you for the clarification. I would just like to address the EIS first. In the executive summary on page 3 when it talks about NEPA and then the responsibility it delegates, and on page 3 I’m looking in particular in the bottom paragraph where it suggests that the draft EIS discusses Dairyland’s proposal and alternatives and analyzes the potential effects of the proposal and the alternatives to the environment. And when I think of that, I know it’s not just the natural environment, but all parts of that. So that’s just something that I would like for us to tuck away.
I was going to mention something now but I think someone else will mention that for me, with regard to Minnesota and all the factors that we look at in lieu of what NEPA would delegate you all to do.

There are just a couple things I want to mention right now. First of all, I would like to speak of Minnesota Zumbro River crossing. And I noticed that in this DRIIS on page 16 there is no mention of the dam option. And on the Zumbro River there are really three crossings, and the dam option is one that I hope you could include in the final EIS. On page 75 there was reference to the river crossing and scoping comments. There was no mention of the Zumbro River or the Zumbro River Valley in that discussion on that page.

Two examples right now I can give you, Appendix I is 016 and 263. So in the final EIS, I hope there is some correction. In fact, in the scope that this was mentioned — I'm sorry, I'll be back.

MS. RICHTER: We will have time to call you back up so you can continue, but I also have an indication that Carol Overland is interested in speaking tonight. For the first three minutes, and
people who haven't spoken yet and we want to get them, and I'll call on you at that time.

CAROL OVERLAND: Okay.

MS. RICHTER: Is there anybody else? Okay. Then leaving this time, although we'll reopen for three minute comment tonight until 8 o'clock. We do have time now for anybody who would like to make some additional comments. And Suzanne, I don't know if you were able to complete your remarks or if you would like to make an additional?

SUZANNE ROMFLING: Please.

MS. RICHTER: Does anyone have objection to it taking longer than three minutes for Suzanne to finish her remarks? Why don't we allow her to finish her remarks, and then we'll move to Carol to complete her remarks.

SUZANNE ROMFLING: Thank you. In lieu of my previous comments, and through the Minnesota process it was very evident that a very significant part of the project from Hampton to Alma was the Zumbro River crossing. And in particular with the crossing I'm concerned about the area from the Pine Island Substation then crossing to the river to where there is included in your draft EIS, the Chester Line, which is a part of the project as well.
During the process the Minnesota DNR was able to comment, I know Randal Doneen did comment when he was in La Crosse, and a lot of the attention has been on the Mississippi River, and rightly so. But again, through the process it became evident that the Zumbro River is an important tributary to the Mississippi, as is the environment around the river. And so what has come of this initially? The DNR did suggest, and if I may read -- and I will give these to you if you would like after the evidentiary hearings -- where the north route group which is -- I'm co-intervener in that, and the three other parties.

The applicant and three other parties intervened, the Zumbro River was the issue, and then the MNDNR was asked to comment further. Testify. After testimony, Jamie Schrenzel from the Department of Natural Resources did submit another letter to our administrative law judge, and she wanted clarification regarding the Zumbro River crossings. In the segment three of the project, she stated in previous letters that the DNR recommended crossing public waters to generally be located where there's existing infrastructure, and she also said specifically that there were three Zumbro River
crossings on the project record, the north crossing, which is the north route. It's a greenfield crossing. The middle crossing which is the dam, and the southernmost crossing, which is the White Bridge Road. And that's the applicant's preferred Zumbro River crossing.

She further stated then after her testimony to clarify that to avoid the greenfield crossing, which is the northernmost route that is not recommended. So then what she did was — and they did — the team did, was compared the other two river crossings with infrastructure, which was the dam option, and the White Bridge Road crossing was the applicant's preferred crossing, and then she stated that the DNR recommends utilizing that White Bridge Road crossing, the area instead of the dam.

And in this letter it does take into account the Minnesota County Biological Survey and the environmentally sensitive areas of all those points on the Zumbro River crossing. And then there is the line — the Chester Line affectionately we call it — which is the tap that will come from whatever line is chosen in Minnesota for the 345, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources did also comment on that. And basically she reiterated what
I’ve just said and what is in this letter from June 29th in her testimony.

And that said, discussing all the criteria, that the DNR continues to support that recommendation. So would you like to have these? I’ll give them to you when I’m finished. Let’s see, okay. That’s all I have to say about river crossings. I would like to move on to another topic if I may. Okay, thank you.

I would like to talk about something that is not mentioned very much in your EIS, and that is tree farms. And it’s sort of an interesting thing, tree farms. I did see when it was addressed, either in comments that were submitted from the public, it was under the category of land use, which is true. But there are also a lot of other things to consider. It tends to be important for habitat. It tends to be particularly important if it’s forested land along the Zumbro River, which is what we have on our northern most crossing. And also in Wabasha, Minnesota, it sites forestry as part of the agriculture. So I feel as though it was sort of missed.

I think the important piece of this is, besides the fact it’s not only land use,
it's not only timber, it's also a lot of other
environmental hosts and habitats of significance.
There are five of them in that segment that I just
referred to on that northern most crossing of the
Zumbro, the greenfield crossing. And five of them
are actually a part of the American Tree Farm System.
And in 2008 the farm bill actually required each
state to complete a state assessment of resource
strategies documents, and it was to be done by June
of 2010 in order to continue receiving federal funds
through the Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance
Act. And the farm bill required this effort because
of growing pressures on the nation's forests and
growing scarcity of available resources.

The No. 1 concern of this
Minnesota assessment and strategy -- it was published
in 2010 -- was one of the four categories, parcelizations
and fragmentation by the increasing pressures of
urbanisation. So we have these farmers who are
involved in the tree farm system, and the mission of
the tree farm, American Tree Farm System, is to
promote the growing of renewable forest resources on
private land while protecting environmental benefits
and increasing public understanding of all the
benefits of productive forestry. And on a sign that
we have, there are four sides to it. One is water, one is wildlife, one is recreation, one is food. And — wood, food, I must be hungry. I'm not, it's wood.

And I think the concept here I'm trying to suggest is the federal government said this is what we need to do to take care of our forests, our woodlands, and our habitats. And then the state said, okay, let's come up with a plan, which they did very, very well. So then there are private landowners, and the majority in Minnesota are private landowners, they said okay, and on our own dime and dollar we went forward and said, we can do this. We can work this plan. And now there is a route under consideration that will pretty much clear-cut, fragment, and kind of obliterate the plan that supposedly came from the top.

So with that consideration of the federal and state initiatives, it doesn't make any sense to clear-cut 150 foot right-of-way considering those initiatives can no longer be with trees. There are other programs that the government, federal and state, has for all of us with preserving land and habitat. However, some of them — although it might not be good for any of them — some of them are more
mitigable. We can't plant trees again, and we are fragmenting, and it's pretty much the end.

So I hope you take that into consideration. It encompasses a lot of things from federal, state, and private landowners, and actually for everyone in this country and the world.

I don't have much more.

MS. RICHTER: Does anybody else want to talk? No? Why don't you finish your remarks.

SUZANNE ROLLEFSON: All right. If I could just suggest, with regard to Minnesota DNR — you have a very nice figure, 3-6. It's on page 206. But I cannot decipher where those sites are. When you look at the map, it's so big, and it appears that some are missing on the 3A route, the middle section, and I can hardly see them at the river crossing. And on the Minnesota EIS they are really clear. So I was hoping maybe there might either be a better reference so you can actually see what we are talking about on the northern most crossing.

Also, in your figure 3-7, you did a nice job of showing conservation areas. There's a north branch that has a special red trout section.

If you look on that map, there's also a special small...
Individual Comments

I-160-008

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

mouth bass section, and it happens to be just down river from where the proposed northern most crossing of the Zumbro is. That’s of significance.

It’s something — I know the U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife had mentioned eagles. That section — that section never freezes over. So there’s a lot of eagle activity when they come on land, and I know eagles have been a topic of the conversation, and it’s an important topic, but I wish that in the final EIS you could look at that piece and that part. Perhaps Minnesota DNR needs to come and — excuse me, US Fisheries and Wildlife needs to come and take a peak at that beforehand just to see. That’s a huge foraging. There’s one in particular large cottonwood, ironically it’s right in the center of that proposed route, that is a potential roosting and nesting site for our eagles.

And then the last thing, and I’ll be done. This is really fun. Partners in Flight is an international initiative for habitat for birds. Since we are in the large — you’ve heard this — the largest migratory flyway on the continent, and it’s from — the continent south of us, through us, and up north. This initiative again is not just our continent, but it’s for — it’s global, and it

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
Individual Comments

T-359

takes — encompasses other countries well. I know there's a representative for Partners with Flight with US Fisheries in Wildlife in the Cities. And I apologize, I can't say who he is, but my suggestion is when you are looking at the Mississippi River and all those concerns, there's also other habitats that are very, very important to birds, forests, and inland species. And keeping those forests intact as much as possible are also a part of the plan in addition to prairies and wetlands and grasslands.

So I would like to suggest you refer to the Partners in Flight concept and conservation plan, if you could. And thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Suzanne.

Carol.

CAROL OVERLAND: I need to get my money's worth. On page 22 of the DEIS, where it's talking about the assisting right-of-way and there's a section under the Minnesota side that says, "Following transmission lines, roads, or property lines" — and then when I look at the Wisconsin, it doesn't have that category of property lines. Now, in Minnesota the property lines part is — and the rules of statute, I can't remember offhand which — but it refers to utilizing property line to minimize
MS. RICHTER: Yes.

SUSANNE KOHLING: 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 preceding ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.)

* * *
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the royal permit application and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project and has provided comments 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 as the administrative record and are not intended to be considered as testimony. Additional comments are provided, as requested by parties in the evidentiary hearing, including DRC comments about possible Zumbro River crossings in Segment 3 of the project.

Specifically, there are three Zumbro River crossings included in the project protocol: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge spanning a stream, and the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Hampton-Rochester 69-kV transmission line project. Please contact me with any questions regarding the attached comments, evidentiary hearing testimony, or additional information provided in this letter.

Signature

For reference, the project protocol includes three Zumbro River crossings: the north crossing, which is a groundlevel crossing at a bridge; the southbound crossing at the bridge. An issue about the north crossing is the existing infrastructure such as the motorway crossing is not recommended. The north crossing also has a natural heritage information system (NHIS) record of a state-level threatened turtle in the vicinity of the crossing. There is also a Minnesota County Biological Society (MCBS) site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The Zumbro River crossing near the dam is located next to an MCBS site of biodiversity significance marked as vulnerable near this crossing. The north crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable. The southbound crossing would fail to meet MCBS site of biodiversity significance: marked as vulnerable.
Dear Mr. Morgan,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Route Permit Application and considered seeking 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 MPUC Docket No. D08/21-09-148E; OAH Docket No. 3-2008-21181.

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 (continued), 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 lieu of the efforts above, the DNR recommends 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.

The DNR requests shaping 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-160-014
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I03-Birds.

I-160-015
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I04-Special Status Species.

I-160-016
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E: Geology and Soils, E05-Erosion and Slopes.

I-160-017
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I05-Invasive Species.

I-160-018
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category E: Geology and Soils, E05-Erosion and Slopes.

I-160-019
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I02-Wetlands.

I-160-020
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category I: Biological Resources, I07-Forests.

I-160-021
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category O:
Vegetation maintenance practices should be discussed in detail in the EIA. The DNR requests coordination with the Department of Commerce and the project proponent when vegetation maintenance occurs in or near sensitive areas such as public water crossings and where rare, unique or native plant communities may be located.

The DNR suggests discussing in the EIA 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 Chestor Transmission Project. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schnurr
Principal Planner
Environmental Review Unit
(501) 257-5115

Individual Comments

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 Species nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-289-0070); or St. Paul (651-298-5764).

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

Individual Comments

T-365

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 harm's 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 width 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 site should be returned to original grade.
• Terrains 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 1st and before June 1st).

Compiled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Resources, Updated March 2008
Ecological Species Program Manager, 510 Lofgren Rd, Bldg 32, St. Paul, MN 55155 / 651-296-5195
Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species of Minnesota

Blanding's Turtle
*Emydura blandingii*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minnesota Status</th>
<th>Threatened</th>
<th>Federal Status</th>
<th>Special Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Rank</td>
<td>S3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Rank</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 found in pond habitats. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with mud bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (e.g., cattails, water lilies) are preferred, and extensive marshy borders and overgrown edges provide excellent habitat. Small temporary wetlands (those that dry up in the late summer or fall) are frequently used in spring and summer — these shallow pools are amphibian and invertebrate feeding 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 on utilized disturbed areas such as farm fields, gardens, under power lines, and road shoulders (especially of dirt roads). Although Blanding's turtles may travel through woodslots during their seasonal movements, shady areas (including forested areas with shrubs and 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 breeding in late March or early April on warm, sunny days. The increase in body temperature during hibernation is necessary for egg development within the female turtle. Nesting in Minnesota typically occurs during June, and females are more 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. Additional migration is 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 filling (converting wetlands into ponds or lakes)
- loss of upland habitat through development or conversion to agriculture
- human disturbance, including collection for the pet trade and road kills during seasonal movements
- increase in predator populations (skunks, raccoons, etc.) which prey on nests and young

---

*It is illegal to remove or disturb a turtle nest.*
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 pleased 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 large, large process, it is difficult to know if your voice has been heard. Thank you for your continued response to my questions, emails, and acknowledgment 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
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.
I-163-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-163-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-163-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-163-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.
Individual Comments

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.
   *
   *
   *
   *

   JOE LOPEZ: 5906 330 Street Way,
   Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit A1. And no property -- no housing would be affected if you use this route. It already goes through this property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if we turned it right there -- I know that's still your property down there, right? And then turned it, and then it would be way away from your house. That's the only other route I can think of that wouldn't affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.
   *
   *
   *

   MICHELLE SANDSTROM: 30127 59th Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit A1, to minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we would prefer the power line pole go through the middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield addition. See Exhibit A1.
   *
   *
   *

   MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have tables here in front. We thought it would be a little more cozy if you all would gather up to the
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.
get old enough to do so. But you do not even include
my parents' farm on Highway 88. I oppose the Highway
88 corridor.

MS. RICHTER: And this is Barbara.

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

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

ANN SCHAUB: Good evening. I
would first like to start out by saying thank you for
the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Ann
Schaub, last name spelled S-C-H-A-U-B. My husband
Wayne and I live on State Road 88. Our address is
S2037. We are currently organic dairy farmers there.
We were very distressed to find out about the
proposed CapX2020 line coming through 88. We have
numerous concerns about this line. On page 121,
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-167-001
section 311.11 under agriculture. In this section organic farming was not even identified at all. This line would compromise our right to farm in a matter for good business properties and economic practices.

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

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

MS. RICHTER: Gary?

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

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

DAVID HERZBERG: David Herzberg,
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 routes 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 completed 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 Schaubs.

Our farm has been in the Schaub family for three generations. 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
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've just started to touch on a few things that I feel strongly about, and I know that I am definitely opposed to the CapX2020 proposed Highway 88 route as well as any other route that is being considered.

* * *

LAURA SCHIFFLI: My name is Laura Schiffli. I reside at 82758 State Road 88, Fountain City, Wisconsin. I'm here to go on record to say no to CapX2020 on Highway 88, and we recommend to abandon the proposed 345kV transmission line and pursue more cost-effective and environmentally sensitive solutions. My husband and I just finished building our energy efficient dream house. My husband, Steve, has not even been able to actually live in our new home because he is currently on military assignment overseas, serving our nation in war efforts in the Middle East. Little did he know when he left that we would have our own war here on the home front. A war against those who propose sending energy through gigantic transmission lines hundreds and hundreds of miles through wetlands, farmlands, bluff lands, and small rural communities to markets east of here.

There will be no benefit to us.
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.
needed to address the age and degraded conditions of the transmission structures and conductors. If the utilities want to upgrade the existing Q1 transmission route, why is there a need to create a new transmission route on Highway 88? There is no need. The proposed Highway 88 route is significantly longer than the Q1 route. Constructability and the cost complications due to the curves of the road and steep terrain on Highway 88 will make a huge impact on cost. The Q1 route is a direct route on relatively flat lands and an existing route already exists.

In reference to 3.7.2, environmental consequences on page 293. The northern eight miles of this corridor is near Wisconsin Highway 35, which in this area is designated as the Great River Road, an area along which the Wisconsin Department of Transportation holds scenic easements and has concerns about esthetic and environmental impacts. I have concerns too. I own property on the original Q1 route, and on the proposed Highway 88 alternate route. This line affects me whichever way it goes. Highway 88 is more scenic than the original Q1 route. A consultant for Wisconsin Department of Transportation conducted an assessment for visual

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
quality along the Q1 section of the Great River Road around 1997. The consultant classified this section as being of poor visual quality with the potential classifications of high, good, moderate, poor and low. Putting the lines on Highway 88 does not reduce the visual impacts on the Great River Road. It transfers the aesthetics impact to a relatively undisturbed area along Highway 88.

The Q1 transmission line already exists. Upgrade it. It is the most direct and shortest of the Wisconsin routes and meets the criteria of following an existing transmission line. The DNR has concerns with environmental impacts. The environmental issues in the proposed power lines -- if the proposed power line is on Highway 88, it will devastate the Waumandee Creek watershed. Where can I find the environmental impact report on Highway 88? Does an environmental impact report on Highway 88 even exist?

In reference to 3.10.2.1. Health effects of the EMF. The potential of health effects from EMF is a controversial scientific subject. So many conflicting reports exist. Do we really want to bring these lines so close to our school on the proposed Highway 88 route? I’m petrified of the fact...
I leave you with this question, do the so-called benefits that the power companies claim outweigh the devastating and irreversible consequences to our land, our property values, our natural resources, our agriculture, our tourism, our health, and our wallets, and on the future of renewable and environmentally friendly energy?

* * * *

GRACE KORNMAN: I'm a property owner on Highway 88 and Highway E, and my property has been in my family since 1954, and it is actually -- I've put a conservation easement on it to maintain its natural state. And I'm not in favor of the power line, either alternative A or B of the two alternatives. I think it's just plain insane to put this major power line down a valley when there are other existing routes that are already there where they already have the right-of-way. And to tear up what is a scenic natural valley for this power line is just sinful.

And I also -- the effect on my property values, on the neighbors' property values,
MS. RICHTER: Yes. Okay. We can set up a chair if you would like to read it for the group. Anything in writing has the same impact, however, as giving oral presentation, so it’s totally up to you.

JOYCE OSBORNE: I’m not going to read it. And I’m the vice president of the United Citizen Action Network.

MS. RICHTER: That will be placed as a comment now as well. Anybody else? As I indicated, we will be here until 8:00, so if you would like to continue with some sidebar conversations again with some of the experts that are here tonight, or get some other questions answered by using the maps or the other materials, please feel free to do so. And if we have more people arrive during the comment period, we can also reconvene and listen to their comments. Okay. So the mic remains open, and I just need to be advised if somebody would like to make a comment, thank you.

---

PAUL SCHULTZ: Looking at Exhibit 2, I don’t know if you have the information on the extension of the bike trail, which will -- the Milton Trail that’s going to be going from Cannon Falls.
through Northfield to Faribault. Right now we are acquiring a right-of-way for a trail from Cannon Falls to the Goodhue County Park along the Cannon River in Stanton Township. And they are building the bridge just west -- just east of the Lake Byllesby Dam right near where a proposed crossing of the power line is going.

And we are going to be connecting the trail to the Goodhue County Park on the south side of Lake Byllesby by the dam, and with the Dakota County Regional Park on the north side of Lake Byllesby, so. And this bridge will be used for bike trails and also connecting up to two parks.

So Dakota County and Goodhue County are against the power line going across the dam so close to proximity to the part of the trail there. And I'm on the Goodhue County Park and Trail Board. We are in the process now of designing the bridge. We have the funds available for that, but should be building in the next year or two for that. So for the reason of the two parks and the Milton Trail, we would be against having a power line going across the Lake Byllesby dam.

(Whereupon the proceeding ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.)
riding next to a 160-foot pole and they hear 160
megahertz going through them all day, they are not
going to come here. They are not — my property
values are going to go way down, the sales are going
to be down. The state sales tax that I fund in the
state of Wisconsin is going to go way down. It's a
total turn, just a spiral down, down, down.

Anyway, next thing I would like to
do is future growth of the county. One thing is I
took some pictures, and I've got two fields that are
underneath my property, two points where geese are
flying all the time. I took a picture of my house
because for nine years my wife and I have wanted to
open up a bed and breakfast, but there will be no big
poles there.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you. The next
person is Laura Schiffl.

LAURA SCHIFFIL: I already gave
it.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Laura.

And Cathy, you are the next one. And this is the
same last name as the individual before.

CATHY SCHMIDT: All right.

My name is Cathy Schmidt. We don't have a
lot of conveniences of the larger cities and even
larger towns, but we knew that when we chose to live
here. We do not wish to take on big city
inconveniences either. This valley is why we live
here. The 88 corridor is a great part of that. The
tourism along Highway 88 is a great commodity to our
area businesses along 88 and the trunk roads. It is
one of the many Wisconsin back roads that tourists
refer to when coming to this area, and some come to
this area just to drive down this road.

Next to farming, the tourism
industry is a large part of this area's economic
base. We will experience lost income to the area if
this happens. The beauty and surrounding area is
priceless. Having the line go down the 88 corridor
will not only affect those here, but will affect the
tax revenue to the state and county. People and
families will lose income, and so will state agencies
due to the lack of tourism which affect the
businesses, which in turn affects the tax revenue
which support our schools and agencies. It is a full
domino effect.

This will then affect our fees to
you. Therefore, you will actually charge us more on
fees on top of our property values will drop
tremendously. I have a concern for the effects of
the noise coming off the lines. I am very sensitive
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.
you’re referring to the crossing, the effect on
wildlife, we have two sandhill cranes that nest near
our home and feed in our fields every spring, summer,
and fall. We have golden eagles that migrate and
bald eagles that hunt and feed in our fields, as well
as ducks, geese and wild turkeys. We have an active
eagles nest within one mile of our property along 88.
Thank you.

MS. RICHER: Next is Erv Balto
and he will be followed by Jeff Falk.

ERV BALTO: My name is Erv Balto.
I am a member of the Citizens Energy Task Force. I
would like to, I guess, state the obvious, which is
that I haven’t heard anybody speak in favor of the
power line except a representative from CapX2020, Mr.
Hillstrom. Mr. Hillstrom did state that individuals
will speak about need. I am not going to meet
Mr. Hillstrom’s agenda tonight and speak of need,
rather I would like to speak to the rural utility
environmental impact statement, stating — stating
need.

What was not examined in the
statement was a combination of renewables, rather
they examined each renewable such as wind and solar
separately without looking at the combination. If a
out of the marshes. And there's a couple of pinpointed spots that would be crossed with the equipment which can stay on the equipment. And when it moves to further locations, it can spread this. And right now it's spread via wind, or via wind. So it can further spread the seed, and with the seed it multiplies at an exponential rate. And if you cut the rate in half, you have two times one million. You have one million times. And it smothers out any native vegetation, it's like putting a blanket over whatever is there and growing up. It's just a ruthless invader, and it's nowhere mentioned on there that this is present. Thank you for your time. And I highly oppose this.

MS. RICHTER: All right.

CATHY SCHMIDTKECHT: All right.

I'm Cathy Schmidtkecht. I've been asked to come up on top here to ask for a vote of hands for all of those in the group that are here tonight who are opposed to the CapX2020 project? Can you show your hands if you are against it going through? So I would say what, 95, 97, 99 percent. Oh, maybe 100 percent, except for our board. And those that oppose the no-action alternative on County Road 88. Can I have a hand for that? And I would have to probably
say about 75, 80 percent -- yeah, about 100 percent
there again, hun. Okay. And I wanted to go on
record that I do also support the no action
alternative. So thank you.

DAN JUNEBECK: I just wanted to
make one other statement that Wisconsin DOT, when
they rated the Great River Road, the portion that
goes from Alma south on there was of slight standard,
and it was listed as poor back in '71. So if it was
poor then, there's been no upgrades since 1971. If
it was poor then, it's poor now, so why wreck a
beautiful valley which is the garden valley, it's the
nickname of Waumandee Valley, not silicone valley.
Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Was there one more
individual? Yes. Do you want to come forward?

FRED GLEITOR: I'm Fred Gleitor
from Schoepps Valley, W1080 Schoepps Valley Road,
Cochrane, Wisconsin. I farm with my mom and my
brother. My brother and I are the fourth generation
on that farm. Our farm received a perfect 100
percent during a national survey this fall. There
are quality milk producers in this Valley. The
proposed Highway 88 route runs close to our house,
dairy barn, and through our pasture where our cattle
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.

they struck -- CIF opposed the line. We vote for no bill option. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: And Brian will be followed by Vicky Kamrowski.

BRIAN: I'll submit mine in writing.

MS. RICHTER: That's fine. Is Vicky here? And you were able to do it as well.

Great. Ron Kamierczak? All right. Submitted one. Okay. You are covered. And Dan Schmidtkecht? I'm sorry if I butchered that. Can I help you set up in any way?

DAN SCHMIDTKECHT: We were notified Friday at 3:30 about this project, and then we received a letter on Saturday. So what I have here is just put together in a short, short amount of time. I took some photos of the last time that an electric company went through my farm and farm area, and of the massive destruction that they have done, and that's what I have on this picture here. Anyway, what it shows is where they were supposed to go 20 feet, ended up going 50 feet, 45 feet onto trees. Here's trimming that was supposed to be done. And do you think there would have been a knock at the door or let us know that they were going to come to our
I-173-003

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

house and go across our fields and into our land? They just started cutting, starting trimming. And this is going to be worse if you are looking at a lot farther wide aspect.

I did hear something about spring tonight, which I have no idea, but that cannot be a -- the next thing is my farm, which overlooks the valley, and I also is a business in the town of Waumandee. And my business is mostly a tourism business. It's a bar/restaurant, and we do a lot of hunting. We have people from Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, California, Hawaii, Alaska, all come here to Buffalo County to hunt deer. Buffalo County is the No. 1 County in the United States for attracting tourism dollars relating to hunting. That keeps my cabins full.

If these lines go through, I'm very concerned what that's going to do to my tourism dollars, not only on the hunting aspect but in -- the motorcycle season is huge. We have been called Little Sturgis per the hills and valleys that the clubs come for. I have a Jeep Club. I have car clubs. We have snowmobilers that use these routes, say it's the most beautiful area in the whole state.

Well, if they're going to be
riding next to a 160-foot pole and they hear 160 megahertz going through them all day, they are not going to come here. They are not -- my property values are going to go way down, the sales are going to be down. The state sales tax that I fund in the state of Wisconsin is going to go way down. It's a total turn, just a spiral down, down, down.

Anyway, next thing I would like to do is future growth of the county. One thing is I took some pictures, and I've got two fields that are underneath my property, two points where geese are flying all the time. I took a picture of my house because for nine years my wife and I have wanted to open up a bed and breakfast, but there will be no big poles there.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you. The next person is Laura Schiffli.

LAURA SCHIFFLI: I already gave it.

MS. RICHTER: Thank you, Laura.

And Cathy, you are the next one. And this is the same last name as the individual before.

CATHY SCHMIDTNECHT: All right.

My name is a Cathy Schmidtnecht. We don't have a lot of conveniences of the larger cities and even larger towns, but we knew that when we chose to live...
as possible. And if you haven't driven 88, you are missing a wonderful treat. I would not want to live anywhere else.

Our vision for the future generations is to sustain our living while preserving the land. We have a son who's 30 years old who has a child, and when we heard about CapX in the last couple of weeks, he said, "Mom and Dad, I am not interested. I don't want it." To have something go to that 5th generation and have something like this put a stop to it like that, is unacceptable. And I feel that the no alternative option is the way to go.

Our impact to the property value, public health safety, tourism, agri tourism, impact on agricultural practice and our farm animals, the stray voltage, we went through that in the 1980s. We were told we were poor managers, we weren't feeding right, they weren't drinking water. We would go down to the barn and we would have a dead cow. And it wasn't once, it was ten times. And we fought with the utilities. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Joan will be followed by Travis Plank.

Joan Schnable: I'm Joan Schnable, I live in Fountain City. Several years ago, I think
it was at a different high school gym. I had a lovely
conversation with Tom. We talked about eagles, and
he said the same kind of things about growth in the
area. And you know, it just didn't match what I
perceive in this county, so I went home and looked it
all up. And Rochester is growing, and Olmsted County
is growing. That is absolutely true. Buffalo County
isn't growing. La Crosse County isn't growing.
Winona County isn't growing. Trempealeau County
isn't growing. Houston County isn't growing. The
numbers aren't there. So I'm a little suspicious of
that. I can't find those numbers. Everything I look
up doesn't support that data. And that makes me a
little nervous.

You know, I look at the
environmental impact statement, I look at fish and
wildlife statement. I love this river. I'm very
active in the birding community, and I don't want
these lines on the river. And then I think, well,
you know, I'm just protecting my own little territory
here. You know, when this meeting moves over to
Galesville, you are going to hear the same thing over
there. And all we are doing is shifting it to
somebody else's backyard. I think we need a no
option. I don't think we don't need these lines.
Chicago and Milwaukee need to figure out their own problems. We don't need the energy here. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Is Travis here still? Then I wanted to clarify, Scott Mehas. Is Scott here still? Yes. You indicated you might be wanting to talk? No? Okay, good. So this is Travis Plank now, and he will then be followed by John Frie. Okay.

TRAVIS PLANK: Hello, I'm Travis Plank, we live on 88.

MACHELLE PLANK: Okay, this is for Trav. He opposed the lines coming through. We don't feel that there's a need for them. We are worried about the health for ourselves, our children, our future children. We don't know how far away is safe. There are many people saying different things. We would lose our property value, and who's going to want to buy our farm when you've got three poles sitting on it? We would lose our home, because the line would be too close, and who's going to purchase my home? Who's going to pay for the losses and the medical issues that could be caused from this? It destroys our home, the habitat, our animals. We have cows and horses. Mammals are all affected by stray voltage. And they can say it
I-175-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-175-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-175-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-175-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-175-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
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.
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.
So it is just not necessary here. If they are going to do this with the power lines, it should go straight across from Alma to the Interstate 94, and down the interstate, and keep it away from those great pristine areas; "God's Country," as we call it. I think that's it.


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

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

And I would like to mention this as well, but you don't want to write the whole thing;
but there is in Colorado school children it was determined that those who lived near power lines had two or three times as much chance to develop cancer. And the link seemed so improbable that the power companies even paid to have the studies replicated and to their surprise the scientific inquiry supported the original findings.

And also I hear that the river route, they are worried about the scenic view. Well, sure, that is important, but is that more important than our human health? I have got a two-year-old daughter. I certainly don’t want her to grow up with diseases. That has been known to cause, from these power lines, it has been known to cause cancer.

I mean there is also now a surprising new report released in February, not sure of what year this is, but it shows that power lines attract particles of radon, and we know for a fact that radon does cause cancer.

I also want to mention one more thing. It this does go through the Arcadia route, that they are basically going to force me to sell my home. And if my property value is less than what — is less because of this power line, are they going to make up the difference for me when I sell my home?
Because I will be basically forced to because my wife
is electrically sensitive and I am not going to put
my child in danger because of those power lines.
That's it.

MR. O'NECK: Paul O'neck,
O-W-E-C-K-E. Trempealeau. My address is W-25376
Sullivan Road, Trempealeau, 54661.
I am totally opposed to siting of the
CAPX 2020 line anywhere in Wisconsin and I feel that
there is not a need for the power supply in this
region. I don't feel that residents of Wisconsin
should be responsible for paying higher rates that
will be incurred by building the transmission line
and that I don't feel that the citizens of Wisconsin
should be burdened with the environmental degradation
that the line will incur. And I feel that the
science that has been used to justify the line has
been manipulated by the power companies in their
favor. And when there is detrimental information,
it is not presented or it has been altered.
I feel that running a line of this
size next to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
is not able to be supported by science and is a
detriment to this area. And I don't think that the
health concerns have been adequately addressed.

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
MR. SHEPARD: Yeah, my name is Erik Shepard. I live at 14229 River Lane. That is right by the Ferguson Apple Orchard. And if the Arcadia line does go through, those power lines are going to be less than a quarter of a mile from my house. And my wife is electrically sensitive —

MODERATOR RICHTER: I am just going to put this in front so you can look and speak in it. We are having trouble hearing in the back. It is fine to look at the audience, but please speak. Thank you.

MR. SHEPARD: And my wife is electrically sensitive, and if that does go through, we are going to be basically forced to sell our house, our beautiful house that we bought. We bought this house back in the valley. It is beautiful. The orchard is back there and it is nice and quiet. And now if these lines are coming through, we are basically going to be forced to sell our house, because my wife is electrically sensitive, and the first thing that's going to be of the most importance in our health.

And I have got several, several papers here from different doctors that are proven factual reports that EMFs are a health hazard that
can cause cancer, that can cause several health concerns.

As you can see, I have got a two-year-old daughter here, and the effects of that, that the EMFs will have is horrible. I have seen, with my wife being sick, we have got special filters in our house because that has helped her and it reduces the EMFs in our house.

And I would just like to ask the utility companies if they have any actual proof and research that has been done that shows that the EMFs and electrical power lines do not cause any health hazard. And I know for a fact it does. And I do have several papers here to prove that.

A quick little note here. When the study of cancer rates among Colorado school children determined that those who lived near power lines had two to three times as much chance to develop cancer, the link seemed so improbable that the power companies eagerly paid to have the study replicated.

To their surprise, the subsequent findings of the inquiry supported the original findings, which have since been supported by a variety of additional studies and reports of an increased cancer rate among the workers employed in the electric industry.
And the No. 1 concern that I have and comment that I've got is that it is our health, and if these people don't realize that these power lines can affect our health, and it does, my wife is a prime example, and I would certainly want the people that is putting this power line up to really think hard about what they are -- what they are doing to everyone's health.

Grant it, the snakes, I think --
I think our health, our children are much more important than the scenic byways and all of these things.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. Thank you. Joanne Schnell will be followed by Peter Van Laarhoven.

I am Joanne Schnell and I will pass.

MODERATOR RICHTER: And that's fine. If I come to your name and you have changed your mind, that's fine. I will also be asking everybody at the end if anybody has changed their mind and would now like to be speakers. So I will ask that. Don't worry about that.

So Peter is next, followed by Ken Gundersen.
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.

If you would like to take this form win you, please mail by February 28, 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@rd.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following website:
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.

From: Karen Specht  
Email: kspecht@ics.umn.edu  
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 10:26 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - PD, Washington, DC  
Subject: power line

I oppose the proposed power line that has been mentioned to be built on Highway 88, Cochrane, Warmandee 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 Yeeger Valley Road  
Cochrane, Wisconsin 54622
I-181-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-181-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-181-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.

I-181-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.

I-181-005
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
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.
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.
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.

Concerned about health effects and land value. The proposed line goes right by our farm/home. At 20 years old, I don’t want to move out because of that.
From: Debra Stith

Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:20 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC

Subject: CapX2020

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
61521 Hollow Lane
Galesville, WI 54630
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.
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-187-004
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.

1 respect the farmers and other landowners. All are threatened by the CapX2020 project. Farmers along alternate 88 have precious resources that we rely on to support our dairy. Our 195-acre farm has been in the family since 1892. We were designated a century farm in 1992. It's always been a dairy. We have 35 cows, we have 30 head of young stock, 70 crop acres, the balance is woodland. The difference in our cropland -- we would have three fields that were impacted. We don't have a lot of fields, and one is right directly in front of our house.

   This is a heritage farm. As special characters, we have beehives, we have an on-site bakery. We have a team of draft horses as you can see there. Our house was built from the clay of our soil. Our forefather's built that home from our clay, fired it on-site and built that house.

   That is how important this is to me. I'm very passionate about this.

   I'm also concerned about tourism, because I am part of that tourism. And the bakery is a big part. We have a CSA out on Highway 88, which is also supported by the USDA. They have an on-site pizza that people come from all over the area. It's very important to keep this as scenic and as pristine

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1959

Individual Comments T-417
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.

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
14 Our impact to the property value,
15 public health safety, tourism, agri tourism, impact
16 on agricultural practice and our farm animals, the
17 stray voltage, we went through that in the 1980s. We
18 were told we were poor managers, we weren't feeding
19 right, they weren't drinking water. We would go down
20 to the barn and we would have a dead cow. And it
21 wasn't once, it was ten times. And we fought with
22 the utilities. Thank you.
23
24 MS. RICHTER: Joan will be
25 followed by Travis Flank.
26
27 JOAN SCHNABEL: I'm Joan Schnable,
28 I live in Fountain City. Several years ago, I think

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
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.

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-9 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 ½ mile of transmission line along my 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
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 stage 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 pass it onto my sons and keep the farm in the family.

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.

Land values are a very big concern. My family as stated previously has 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.

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 abandoned 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.
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 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.

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.
CRAYE THOBRY: I live at $2275
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 85, 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
have to clean the litter out of the barns, and they
spread it on the fields. And then again -- this is
an eagle comment -- there's, I can't think of the
county road that goes from 88 towards Waunadee, but
at that time I actually drove into the field and
counted the eagles, and I counted over 70. And those
are all Bald Eagles. So there's lots of eagles in
there. So I'm giving that information to you.

* * * *

CHARLES UMBANHOWAR: I live at
35531 10th Avenue, and the postal office is Dennison.
And that means we are most concerned about the
alternative route that would run through Dennison.
Because I guess our greatest concern is one, we are
restoring a native prairie. The line would not go
through that, but it would go within 1,000 – 1,500
feet of that. But that line in general goes through
what is now unspoiled open land, farmland, and it
would really ruin the scenic view. And I don't know
what the implications would be for environmentally.

But nevertheless, if you could
build it along 52, which is already disturbed, we
think it would be better than having it in an area
that is undisturbed, essentially. And Warsaw is a
township is where we live, and it sees itself as a
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.
I-191-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-191-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-191-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-191-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
Dear Mr. Streng---

I-192-001
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-192-002
The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DFR 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 reducing 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 MTEPP regional expansion plan of which CapX2020 is a part.

I-192-003
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 costs of the CapX2020 proposal should reflect the additional costs of the MTEPP projects.

I-192-004
In order to provide Dairyland Power electric customers with a comprehensive picture of their investment options, the AEP needs to determine the costs and benefits of a CapX2020/ MTEPP 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 latter investment could produce greater benefits that are more consistent with the agency's mission of developing the economy and quality of life in rural America.

Additional comments

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.
that’s dead weight, because nobody in their right mind wants to buy that property and put up with it.

Moderator Richter: Thank you. I want to thank everybody. It is ten of 8:00, and if no one else wants to make the first comment that they have been able to make tonight, I know that there is at least one individual that said that they wanted to continue their comment, and that was Joe Morris.

So I want to ask again. I want to be fair to everyone here. Again, has everybody had an opportunity to make any comment they would like to make? You do? Okay. How about anybody else? Okay. Then before we start, besides Joe, who would like to make a secondary comment for three minutes? Just so I have a sense. One, two, three, three of you.

Okay. I think we are doing very well in terms of time. I want to thank you all again for your cooperation again tonight.

Mr. Jered: My name is Jered Tuxen. J-E-R-E-D T-U-X-E-N. I’m at N15388 Delaney Road. I think the comments that I want to direct are specific to the USDA, since it is your money that you are looking to give here.

If I think of what that department is looking to do in its rural development, I guess my
question would be around is this truly developing a rural area? And when I look at the monies that would be spent and the comments that were made earlier, that is the industries in our rural area are agriculture and tourism, and does this project promote the rural development of both of those?
And I think the answer is not.

So, if you look at the monies that you are giving out, could they be spent in other areas for rural development in this area? And that would be specifically for agriculture and tourism. So if you are looking to spend the money, I suggest maybe some studies around those areas and not in power distribution. Or a good suggestion may be keeping those monies for a rainy day perhaps and looking at the budget and saying, "Does this money need to be spent at all?"

So we have all heard the comments and everybody has great points. A lot of them are directed at getting around this, but tonight was about giving you folks answers to what you’re looking for, and that is should you spend the money on this, and I think you are hearing that you shouldn’t.

So, we are all for rural development here. We would love to see you invest in the area.
But this is not an investment to our development. This is an investment to others' development. Thanks.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Okay. I saw three hands come up in terms of the three people that would like to have an additional three minutes; is that correct? Is that pretty much everyone then? Can you show me your hands if you want to speak a second time? The three of you, okay. That will get us right about to 8:00. Others may decide they want another three minutes, but at 8:00 I'm going to give a break to the Court Reporter, and I think that is only fair, and I think we can also determine at that point if there is anyone that wants to remain after she comes back from break. I saw the gentleman with the hat first before I saw this woman. Thank you.

MR. MORRIS: Thanks a lot for the opportunity to speak again. I was the one who talked about this extension cord from North Dakota passed through our communities. And even though we will not benefit from that, we will bear the burden. I think it has been mentioned here by other people. I feel like it is an honor to be among the people here tonight who have testified and spoken so brilliantly and articulately about how they feel about this project. But we are going to be burdened.
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.

have to clean the litter out of the barns, and they spread it on the fields. And then again -- this is an eagle comment — there’s, I can’t think of the county road that goes from 88 towards Kaukauna, but at that time I actually drove into the field and counted the eagles, and I counted over 70. And those are all Bald Eagles. So there’s lots of eagles in there. So I’m giving that information to you.

Charles McShane: I live at 35531 10th Avenue, and the postal office is Dennison.

And that means we are most concerned about the alternative route that would run through Dennison. Because I guess our greatest concern is one, we are restoring a native prairie. The line would not go through that, but it would go within 1,000 – 1,500 feet of that. But that line in general goes through what is now unspoiled open land, farmland, and it would really ruin the scenic view. And I don’t know what the implications would be for environmentally.

But nevertheless, if you could build it along 52, which is already disturbed, we think it would be better than having it in an area that is undisturbed, essentially. And Warsaw is a township in where we live, and it sees itself as a

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1995

Individual Comments

T-430
rural township and we're kind of resistant to
development. It's mainly farms. And people who are
hobby farmers, like us. So that's another strike
against that land. It seems to me is you're changing
the character of the township.

* * * *

MENDRIKA UMBANKOWAR: I would only
add that no matter where the line will eventually
run, there will be unhappy people. And so it's a
matter of looking at it, I think both in terms of the
economics, the esthetics, and the environment.
Whether that's the environment, physical environment
or whether it's -- any other way you might want to
describe it, as I said, esthetically. So to run it
past our place would actually end up in a right
angle, which again is through the countryside. That
so far -- it doesn't have any services, no roads, I
mean, other than gravel roads.

So it's going to, it seems to me,
coast a lot more to run it the alternate route than
the existing route, which we take on a weekly basis.
We travel down Highway 52 to the Mayo Clinic. And
that whole area has been -- there's all sorts of
infrastructure on it already. So why not add just
another transmission line. It's not going to make it
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I-195-001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I-195-002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C08-Use of Existing Corridors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Rural township and we're kind of resistant to development. It's mainly farms. And people who are hobby farmers, like us. So that's another strike against that land. It seems to me you're changing the character of the township. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-195-001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would only add that no matter where the line will eventually run, there will be unhappy people. And so it's a matter of looking at it, I think both in terms of the economics, the esthetics, and the environment. Whether that's the environment, physical environment, or whether it's -- any other way you might want to describe it, as I said, esthetically. So to run it past our place would actually end up in a right angle, which again is through the countryside. That so far -- it doesn't have any services, no roads, I mean, other than gravel roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirby Kennedy &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>952-922-1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
look any better, but on the other hand all of the
services are there already. And I know that there
are farms along those roads, but they must already
have easements because of the existing lines.

So I think in terms of the cost
and the fact that this is already geared for
commercial industrial sites. I guess I would rather
have them have them. And it's not just a matter of
not in my backyard, but I think in a rather
unimpassioned way, we can state that to have it along
the alternate line would really disturb not only our
land and its easement, but there are some other
places that would be destroyed, as in Prairie Creek.
A neighbor has a prairie easement, and I can't speak
for the rest of the neighborhood, but there are some
very, very -- we have a native plant species which is
endangered called Prairie Bush Clover.

And we have long discussions about
what the electrical transmission lines do to human
health. And one of our dearest friends, Paul
Wellstone, who you may have heard of, we were very
close friends with the Wellstones. And of course he
wrote a book on the power line. And there's great
debate about whether or not there is spillage that
would harm plants, humans, and animals. But I'm just
going to leave it at that.

* * * *

JOEL LOPEZ: 5908 330 Street Way, Cannon Falls. I'm asking why they didn't choose our alternative route, and then I'll leave this Exhibit AI. And no property -- no housing would be affected if you use this route. It already goes through this property owner's no matter what, and the bridge is over here, right? The bridge is right here. And if we turned it right there -- I know that's still your property down there, right? And then turned it, and then it would be way away from your house. That's the only other route I can think of that wouldn't affect anybody's house in the Pennfield addition.

* * * *

MICHELLE SANDSTRÖM. 30127 59th Avenue Way, Cannon Falls. Looking at Exhibit AI, to minimize impact to all homeowners in the area, we would prefer the power line pole go through the middle of the field adjacent to the Pennfield addition. See Exhibit AI.

* * * *

MS. RICHTER: Welcome. We have tables here in front. We thought it would be a little more cozy if you all would gather up to the
I-196-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category B: Purpose & Need, B02-Need Questioned.

I-196-002
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C02-Demand Side Management (DSM).

I-196-003
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A03-Connected Actions.

I-196-004
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C05-Use of Decentralized Generation.
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.
decrease in livestock production and health.

Point 5. safety and health issue

of operating farm equipment near and around the power lines. And I do believe there's not the need for the transmission line of this size due to lower demands from conservation of electricity. And if needed be, use the cleaner sources of energy when the need arises.

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

Ms. Richter: Thank you. And Linda, will she be next followed by Brian Becker?

Linda Vanart: Hello, my name is Linda Vanart. I live in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I'm a member of Citizens Energy Task Force, a bunch of volunteer citizens in Minnesota and Wisconsin who are opposing the CapX2020 project. Just two years ago in 2009 Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar announced that the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge had been designated a wetland of international importance. Refuge manager Don Holzman said the designation was aimed at strengthening public awareness and appreciation of the role wetlands play in sustaining environmental health, economic enterprise, and recreational well-being. And yet,
here we are just two years later considering
sacrificing 12 acres of marsh and wetland for a
monstrous 345kV power line with a 150-foot
right-of-way to make an electric highway from coal
mines in the Dakotas to big cities east and south of
Wisconsin.

Exactly what will the CapX2020
project destroy in the refuge? According to the
rural utility service, 1.9 acres of marsh and 9.6
acres of mature floodplain forest will be sacrificed.
Well, why are these areas important? Because the
marsh and floodplain forest could not be commercially
developed, they are the largest and most viable
remnants of natural plant and animal communities in
Wisconsin. They are home to 51 species of mammals,
119 species of fish, 42 species of freshwater
muscles, 45 species of reptiles and amphibians.
Together with the trees and plants, this area is
often called an ecological treasure, reducing soil
erosion, improving water quality, reducing the flood
damage and providing scenic and recreational
landscape.

People come here for fishing,
hunting, wildlife observation, recreation, and to
escape even temporarily our industrial society. Ten
acres of open water will also be comprised by the enormous towers and high voltage lines of CapX. This area is part of the Mississippi Flyway, a route used by 40 percent of North American waterfowl. Although geese, large ducks, swans, pelicans, herrins, waders, cranes and fowl, because of their size, are the most frequent victims of power line deaths. Some 800 species of birds use the flyway to migrate. 91 bird species call this area home.

The flyway extends, according to fish and wildlife specialists, ten miles on either side of the river. According to Fish and Wildlife, the only way to protect our birds from colliding with power lines is to bury them underground or not build them at all. The power lines, they say, should not be located in the refuge, wooded bluffs, floodplain, wetlands, or lower streamages. Specific to our area are regularly developing dense fogs. The fog and other inclement weather conditions, neither balls nor strips of plastic, lights nor innovative line configurations can protect birds from fatal collision or electrification.

In 1980 a particularly awful bird strike was documented at Galesville. 3,000 to 5,000 song birds were killed on a foggy night in August as

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
they struck -- CTF opposed the line. We vote for no
bill option. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: And Brian will be
followed by Vicky Kamrowski.

BRIAN: I'll submit mine in
writing.

MS. RICHTER: That's fine. Is
Vicky here? And you were able to do it as well.
Great. Ron Kazmierczak? All right. Submitted one.
Okay. You are covered. And Dan Schmidtknecht? I'm
sorry if I butchered that. Can I help you set up in
any way?

DAN SCHMIDTKNECHT: We were
notified Friday at 3:30 about this project, and then
we received a letter on Saturday. So what I have
here is just put together in a short, short amount of
time. I took some photos of the last time that an
electric company went through my farm and farm area,
and of the massive destruction that they have done,
and that's what I have on this picture here. Anyway,
what it shows is where they were supposed to go 20
feet, ended up going 50 feet, 54 feet onto trees.
Here's trimming that was supposed to be done. And do
you think there would have been a knock at the door
or let us know that they were going to come to our
I-199-001

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

1. I-199-001

2. In the whole thing and I would urge you to take an alternative action and believe that this isn’t needed.

3. Thank you.

4. MODERATOR RICHTER: Is Linda here?

5. MS. VAN ART: Yes.

6. MODERATOR RICHTER: Great. And Linda will be followed by -- I’m having difficulty with this name. Is it David Geikerts?

7. MR. GEIKERTS: Geikerts.

8. MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. So you know you are next.

9. MS. VAN ART: My name is Linda Van Art. I am a retired nurse. I worked 37 years primarily as a nurse midwife and public health nurse. I first learned about electromagnetic fields while I was reading about CAFX 20/20 about a half a year ago. Some of this, one of the other people have mentioned already.

10. "In 1979 in Denver, Colorado a doctor named Nancy Wertheimer was looking at unusual clusters of childhood cancer in Denver, Colorado. She found that children living in homes near 345 kilovolt power lines were developing leukemia, brain cancer and lymphoma more than twice as often as
children in low-current (phonic) homes.

These statistics have been replicated by epidemiologists for more than thirty years in countries around the world.

Leukemia in children is a rare disease. It is one in 10,000. The risk of Leukemia, however, has doubled, to at least one in 800, within 165 feet of a high-voltage power line. The World Health Organization, after reviewing all of the studies on EMFs in 2007 said that there was a small but consistent correlation between EMF exposure and childhood leukemia.

The Minnesota Department of Health also noted a consistent correlation between EMFs and childhood leukemia. Their public health officials recommended in their 2002 paper on EMFs a policy called "Prudent Avoidance" in relation to high-voltage power lines. What does "Prudent Avoidance" mean? "Prudent avoidance" means avoid high-voltage lines. They recommend to conserve energy, which is why our energy use has been dropping, one of the reasons. They recommend small-scale distributive generation and production of electricity. And finally, as a last resort, if you have to build a high-voltage power line,
Mitigation, which means bury the line, or have the children 165 feet away. That would be a right-of-way of 330 feet.

I think that the no action alternative that is mentioned in the GIS would be the most prudent choice to make for this power line.

Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Some new people have just arrived. We have seats in front, if you would like to join us upfront, so you could be a little more comfortable.

It is David, right?

MR. OELKERS: Yes.

MODERATOR RICHTER: David will be followed by Dan Prelasky.

MR. OELKERS: My name is Dave, David Oelkers. O-E-L-K-E-R-S. I live at W36899 Mena Lane in Arcadia, Wisconsin. I want to preface my comments by simply saying that these are my personal comments. I am the general manager of Riverland Energy Cooperative, but I want folks to know that these are my personal comments.

I can share with you that, you know, from my position I'm aware of the fact that Riverland Energy Cooperative's kilowatt hours purchased in the
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 a tower of a 345kV line. Your projected mG exposure for all lines is under 32, 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 money from mammography industries. They will not join any testimony or action against air pollution, organochlorine pesticides, rBST (Europe won’t buy our dairy food), diethylstilbestrol (other countries won’t buy our eggs) 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; Folkart, 2006; Greenland, 2006; Huss, 2009; Kabuto, 2006; Loeberthal, 2007; Maclio, 2009; Sundblad, 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 carcinoagent “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 carcinoagent, 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 Arl
2211 East Avenue
LaCrossa, WI 54640

Individual Comments  T-444
MR. VAN LAARHOVEN: Good job with my name.

MODERATOR RICHTER: I thought I did a good job. Thank you.

MR. VAN LAARHOVEN: My name is Pete Van Laarhoven and I live at W518 Murhale (phonetic) Road, Holmen. That is on the north end of LaCrosse County. I am a 30-year resident property owner.

On November 8th, 2011 the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Alma to LaCrosse 345 kilovolt transmission line. In it they contend that the CAFX applicants have submitted projections of peak energy load demands that are more than double the predictions made by the PSC staff itself.

Wisconsin Statutes 196.49(3) and 196.491(3)(D) state that, "Transmission line projects approved by the PSC of Wisconsin must have," and this is a quote, "costs that are in proportion to their benefits and must also not be overbuilt or designed in excess of probable future energy needs."

So, by the PSC's own estimates then, this transmission is not needed. Its only useful function will be to supply profits for greedy

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
corporations. We as rate payers and taxpayers will be far better served by upgrading local power line infrastructure and power generation facilities.

If Dairyland's North LaCrosse to Alma 161 kilovolt line needs upgrading, then let Dairyland upgrade the thing. A concurrent 345 kilovolt line, with all of its health, environmental and property devaluation issues is not needed.

The township of Farmington in North LaCrosse County is bisected by the proposed N765 leg of the Badger-Coulee line, that is CAPX 2020's evil twin. At the September 13th meeting at the Minora Town Hall we had unanimous opposition to that line, both lines. 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 CAPX 2020 line and the Badger-Coulee line.

I would like to submit a copy of this document at this time and have it entered into the record. (Handing.)

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you, Peter.

Again, we have a moment here, if people would like to come forward and sit in the seats, if you are tired of standing, please feel free.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

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

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, C01-General/Other.

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

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 N: Public Health and Safety, N02-Health Effects of EMF.
WHEREAS, the policy of the State of WI (Stat. § 112.01) 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 arterial corridors, c) recreational trails with facilities, and d) new corridors; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that,

1. The Town of Farmington opposes the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and, specifically, the lines to North La Crose and North La Crose to Madison, 345 kV power lines, and
2. The Town requests that additional on the record public review be held here the Town of Farmington in Wisconsin before a recommendation on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is made for either project, and
3. The Town requests that a special permit be obtained through the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and
4. The Town requests that clear, detailed information be provided to the Town explaining the perceived need for the 345 kV power line which includes supporting objective studies with a cost benefit analysis comparing the efficiency, capacity produced, and distributed generation options with the high voltage option, and
5. The Town requests that every effort be made in developing or enhancing the energy system upon which the Town relies to do the following: Implement and enforce WI State Statute 1995 Wisconsin Bill 84 that states: "In meeting energy demands, the policy of the State is that, to the extent possible, options be considered based on the following priorities, in the order listed: (a) energy conservation and efficiency, (b) non-competitive renewable energy resources, (c) competitive renewable energy resources, (d) non-renewable competitive energy resources, in the order listed:
1) Natural gas,
2) Oil or coal with a nitrogen content of less than 1%,
3) All other carbon-based fuels,"
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 in order to keep 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 CAPK309 and Badger Solar transmission projects from the utilities to be available in the Town. The Town Clerk is authorized to forward this resolution and other supporting documents to the WI Public Service Commission Docket # 3-CL130 and Docket # 137-CL-160 and to the Administrative Law Judge and state Commission staff conducting proceedings for the CAPK309 and the Badger Solar 345 kV Transmission Line Projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Farmington hereby approves this resolution accented the day of October, 2011.

[Signed]
[Seal]

Individual Comments

T-448

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.
On November 3, 2011, the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation released its draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Alma to La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line. In it they contend that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has submitted projections of peak energy load demands that are more than double predictions made by the PSC staff. Wisconsin Statutes 196.49(3) and 196.49(3)x(a) 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.”

This transmission line is not needed in the La Crosse area. It’s only useful function will be to supply profits for greedy corporations. We as ratepayers and taxpayers would be far better served by upgrading local.

Optional: Name: Peter Van Laarhoven
Address: 24718 Hale Rd, Holmen WI 54636

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 stamp and mail.

Or email your comments to Stephanie.strength@wds.usda.gov

Information and updates can be found on the following web site: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapC2010-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html
power line infrastructure and power generation facilities, if Dairyland’s North La Crosse to Alma 161 kV line needs upgrading, then let Dairyland upgrade the damned thing. A concurrent 345 kV line, with all its health, environmental, and property value devaluation issues, is not needed.

The Township of Farmington in North La Crosse County is directed by the proposed 1545 leg of the Badger/Kowlee 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/Kowlee line. I’d like to submit a copy of this document at this time and have it entered into the record.

Stephanie A. Streng
USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2244
Washington, D.C. 20250-1570
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:joelvohaden@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: Caps2020

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
112311 Scherr Rd.
Trempealeau, WI 54661

I-204-001
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.
Stephanie Streeth, USDA
Mail Stop 1544, Room 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1544

Dear Sirs:

I am in favor of the Cyl. Project
from Hampton, MN to Rochester, MN
to La Crosse, WI.

May God speed its construction.

[Signature]

Tom V Wagenmaker
Toll Free 1-800-633-0358
507-263-3593
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.
2.2.3 New Generation. 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.

2.2.4.2 Net Metering

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.

2.4.1 No Action

In the last paragraph it states that no action would likely result in higher electricity rates for consumers. 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.

Table 2-5 Water Resources section There is no mention of summer warming of streams due to clearing near the stream. This could have a significant impact on trout streams.

3.2.1.4 Special Status Streams 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 68 path.

3.2.3.1 Streams 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 opposed to riffles or rapids, the effect would be greater.

3.5.1.5 Special Status Species The last two paragraphs are the same.

3.5.2.3

State-Listed Species – Wisconsin This information is available from WDNR under the National Heritage Inventory and organisms are listed by county.

Wisconsin “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 DUMB. 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.

Individual Comments

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.
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.
**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.
Dear Mr. Strength,

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 omission of realistic costs. I believe there are viable options to the high-voltage transmission options.

The Alternative Energy Assessment currently attached in the DFR is out of date and underdeveloped. The assessment needs to include recent findings of aggressive energy efficiency programs such as "Efficiency Vortex", and others which are significantly curbing electricity growth, creating many sustainable jobs, lowering 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.

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.

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 latter 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:

For many years I have been "off the grid" with my own solar panels and invtation battery storage set up.

We need to live more investment in some for the continued base.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date 2-2-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Wallace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: 427 Sovereign Ave.</td>
<td>32708, TX, 78760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Individual Comments

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.

From: David Werner [mailto:barabooorange.org]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:56 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - HEI 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'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.

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 Werner
E1319 Highway 33
Baraboo, WI 53913
I believe. And will some of those lines require
guidelines because we are on the curve?

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

There are also air strips out
there that no one is taking into consideration. Our
neighbor Fred Gleiter flies in there all the time.
And he has other people that fly in. We also have an
air strip on ours that was not included. We haven't
used it in a number of years, but it was still
readily available.

Our family opposes the CapX2020
line coming through on the Highway 88 corridor.
Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Okay. We have Steve
Willemsen.

STEVE WILLEMSEN: I'm Steve.
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.

---

1. Willedsen, W-I-L-E-D-S-N, I live at W1050 Schoeps Valley Road in the township of Waunee. I'm a part of a group of landowners that was inadvertently left off the mailing list. I believe this group should be allowed the same time line to review the transmission line project information as it was afforded other owners who were notified at the start of the scoping process. The other communities were given much more time to review the information to form a rebuttal as well as build awareness in the communities involved.

    Though many of the people here tonight are mostly here because they don't want to see this line going through their property, succeeding only pushes the line to another community. 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.

    Many aspects of this project have changed since the original studies were done, such as the vast production of demand, the substantial growth of renewable resources, and the increased cost of implementation. Is this project viable, and are there other less volatile alternatives? Issues such

Kirby Kennedy & Associates
952-922-1955
as health risks, environmental impact, and personal financial burdens may be seen by many people as monetary issues only. But more importantly they are negatively life changing.

I hope the business of putting this together, putting this project together, will see that people’s lives and livelihoods are more important than the money made by this project. Thank you.

MS. RICHTER: Okay. That is all of the names that have been provided to me of individuals that wanted to speak. I believe we have about time for three more people that maybe didn’t get their name on a list and would like to speak. I would like to first ask if somebody who did not speak prior would like to speak if we missed getting their name, and then if we still have time, we could allow three minutes for another person. Thank you.

THERESA HENDERSON: Hello, my name is Theresa Henderson, H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I live at W128 Henderson Road just off of 88. And I just would like to say I'm against the 86 corridor, and personally I don't like the idea of mass amounts of energy come from one source and getting distributed to another area because I just feel like the local community benefits from that.
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category D: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement, D03-Notice for Highway 88 Alternatives.

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

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 A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

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

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

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

I-211-007
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.

I-211-008
acoustical environment - these lines emit a hum which is detrimental to quiet country living.

I-211-009
cost of upkeep especially concerning the corridor routes - these lines will need to be upkept. 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.

There are too many to go on with.

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.

I-211-010
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.

Steve Willadsen
W1052 Schoepp's Valley Rd
Cochrane WI, 54622
608-248-2769

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

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A02-General Opposition.
that right-of-way. And the Holmen section will go over the school that my grandchildren are attending, so it is going to affect us all.

So I guess I am angry, also, that we have to deal with an issue that is not necessary in this area. And why do we have to deal with it and why do we have to pay for it? Because I agree that technology is going awfully fast and to do this kind of technology into something that is already dated is not a wise thing to do.

We can give everybody a solar water heater for what this is going to cost, I mean it is not really a sensible use of our dollars. And I really do object to the whole, "Let's put it here. Let's put it there. It won't hurt as many people over somewhere else." I don't think that's fair. And there has got to be alternatives than what is in that report. Thank you.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. Okay, now I'm going to ask again, are there people here that have not spoken yet that would like to have three minutes to comment on the Draft EIS? Okay. Anybody else? Just so we have a sense? Thank you.

MR. WOLBORG: I am Ed Wolborg. I live down on Harris Road. When we first started
getting this information in the mail, which was over a year ago, they were so nice. They gave us a (800) number. I called that (800) number and talked to somebody from Xcel, and because they were looking for ideas or suggestions they said, That's the comment they made. But if you give them a suggestion they didn't like, they brushed you off in a real hurry.

I called and I says, "If this line is starting in, you know, above Rochester, quite a ways above Rochester, and it is going to end up in a substation in the Holmen/Onalaska area," I told them, "to me, the most common way of going would be to go right down I-94, run I-90. You have the right-of-way already there for I-90 and you don't have to go through all of these small communities, and you already own the land there. You have got the easement and everything, the right-of-way for the state highway, I mean the interstate." The guy there says, "Yeah, that makes sense," he says. And then he kind of brushed it off. And that was shortly after that, then all of a sudden they said no, they are going to go LaCrosse, LaCrosse/Alma, cross over Alma and bring it down this way.

I'm kind of wondering when they first came up with this idea if Dairyland Power had bought

Elirby Kennedy & Associates 952.922.1955
I-212-002

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

into it yet. Because that's probably why they are crossing it, in Alma Dairyland Power now owns like 11 percent, or whatever, you know. And that was probably part of the thing. If they're going to own it, they want it to come across right there and be a part of it.

But that's the only comment I got is that to me, when the thing first came out, they seemed like they didn't object too much about running it that way. It was a straight shot. It didn't affect communities or nothing else. And now all of a sudden, now it is supposed to go through communities, and they run it all along the highway over here.

And I have to agree, everybody's property means everything to everybody. I don't care if you have one acre or if you've got 500 acres, it's still something that you own. And for them to put a monstrosity on there and your property goes down in value, is your taxes going to go down? I highly doubt it. Because they have to have so much money anyway to fund schools and everything else. So your property taxes, if they put it across your land, your property taxes ain't going to go down. But yet try to sell that piece of property with this 150-foot, 170-foot structure on it, and you own a piece of property
that's dead weight, because nobody in their right mind wants to buy that property and put up with it.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you. I want to thank everybody. It is ten of 8:00, and if no one else wants to make the first comment that they have been able to make tonight, I know that there is at least one individual that said that they wanted to continue their comment, and that was Joe Morris.

So I want to ask, again, I want to be fair to everyone here. Again, has everybody had an opportunity to make any comment they would like to make? You do? Okay. How about anybody else? Okay. Then before we start, besides Joe, who would like to make a secondary comment for three minutes? Just so I have a sense. One, two, three, three of you.

Okay. I think we are doing very well in terms of time. I want to thank you all again for your cooperation again tonight.

MR. JERED TUKEN: My name is Jered Tukun. J-E-R-E-D T-U-K-U-N. I'm at 1538N Delaney Road. I think the comments that I want to direct are specific to the USDA, since it is your money that you are looking to give here.

If I think of what that department is looking to do in its rural development, I guess my
a sense of the order of which you are going to speak.
So tonight we are going to start with
Margaret Wood and she will be followed by Herb Balto.

**M.I. WOOD:** My name is Margaret Wood.
1804 Cameron Avenue, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. And I am a LaCrosse County Board Supervisor, District Ten.
Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

Within the past few years the
City of LaCrosse and LaCrosse County have become sustainable communities and they formed a joint sustainability LaCrosse commission. After meetings with both Xcel Energy and the Citizens Energy Task Force, the commission in July and the County Board this past December passed very similar resolutions. My comments regarding the study are going to take the form of the LaCrosse County Resolution 76-12/11 that reflect the outcome of attendance at CAPX 2020 open house at our various committee studies parallel to the topics in the Draft EIS at the city and county levels.

The honorable members of the LaCrosse County Board of Supervisors regarding proposing and requesting additional information regarding CAPX 2020 and MT at locations for a 345-kV transmission line
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category K: Visual Resources, K01-General/Other.

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

Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category C: Alternatives, C01-General/Other.
I-213-005

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

Individual Comments

Kirby Kennedy & Associates 952.422.1955
Individual Comments

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

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

MS. MOORE: I think that I am the beginning cover and the end cover of a book.

I am just going to continue so that you know what LaCrosse County did in their “do it resolved” part. But the two other issues.

Whereas a new transition line will result in increased electricity costs for all of the rate payers, loss of property value and tax base because of the impact on view and the dangers that high-voltage power lines inherently carry, and
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.
energy generation and energy efficiency efforts to 
include disbursement of local energy to support the 
local economy, and that to minimize the size, scale, 
voltage, and environmental impact of electric 
transmission. And request that the Wisconsin PSC do 
an independent study of the health risks of the 
electromagnetic fields for these projects.

And finally, that the county clerk is 
authorized to send this resolution to the Wisconsin 
PSC regarding Dockets SCC/36, 137, CE/60 and to the 
Administrative Law Judge conducting proceedings for 
the CAFX 2020 and Badger-Coulee 345 kV transmission 
line project adopted on December 15th, 2011.

MODERATOR RICHTER: Thank you.
Again, I want to thank you all tonight. Thank you 
for your attention and consideration for all of our 
speakers on behalf of PWS. Thank you for coming 
and please drive safely home.

(Hearing Exhibits 1 through 11 marked 
for identification.)
From: Toni [mailto:coyotecrossing@centurytel.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 12:16 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - RD, Washington, DC
Subject: DEIS for CAFX2020 proposed project - Hampton-LaCrosse

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
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.
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.

Individual Comments

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 specificity that are completely missing from the draft. There is no mention of the specific endangered species that are presently living in the same 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. Furthermore, there is no list of plant species that will be destroyed during the construction of the power lines. I could go on and I am happy to do so, but the basic reaction I have to the draft is that it is entirely inadequate.

I-216-002
I sincerely hope this draft will be rejected! Furthermore, there is no alternative route that appears to be a prudent option. I encourage you to 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 threatened 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.

I-216-003
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-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.
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: bblake@wzt.net
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2011 11:58 AM
To: Strength,
Stephanie - Durango
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 Corrections; I oppose any funding of Dairyland for this project.

Irv Baito
F2451 Lierke Ln.
Chaseburg WI 54621
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
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 HVTI 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 affect 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 HVTI 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
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 views 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,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gail Lake</td>
<td>281 10th Ave Goodhue MN 55027</td>
<td>507-717-3411</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Anderson</td>
<td>600 5th St W Mazeppa MN 55865</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Johnson</td>
<td>640 5th St W Mazeppa MN 55865</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallory Johnson</td>
<td>600 5th St W Mazeppa MN 55865</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Miller</td>
<td>5926 E 71 Mazeppa MN 55865</td>
<td>507-932-4321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creek Currier</td>
<td>5926 E 71 Mazeppa MN 55865</td>
<td>507-932-4321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Clayton</td>
<td>509 10th Ave Goodhue MN 55027</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Olson</td>
<td>509 10th Ave Goodhue MN 55027</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Lemmon</td>
<td>523 10th Ave Goodhue MN 55027</td>
<td>507-873-4853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual Comments T-483
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>57307 423rd Ave, Mazeppa, MN</td>
<td>55356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>57207 423rd Ave, Mazeppa, MN</td>
<td>55356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Johnson</td>
<td>58426 415th Ave, Mazeppa, MN</td>
<td>55356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Adams</td>
<td>59516 415th Ave, Mazeppa, MN</td>
<td>55356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Brown</td>
<td>58444 415th Ave, Mazeppa, MN</td>
<td>55356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CC: Rep. Tim Walz
Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Sen. Al Franken
Steve Drazkowski
Yvonne Prettner Olson
Satveer Chaudhary
Reut Ahloe
Scott 24
August 13, 2011

Stephanie Streng
Rural Utilities Service
Engineering + Environmental Staff

Dear Ms. Streng,

I am a member of an ad hoc committee formed by the Town of Stark, located near La Faye, WI, to obtain information regarding the proposed Badger Coulee Transmission Line.

My husband and I obtain electricity through La Faye 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 created more electrical energy than it used. So it appears Wisconsin, its residents, and municipalities

Individual Comments T-485
Individual Comments

T-486

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 the press—to justify the need for this line. It seems that should be the first step, before deciding where to put it, that all the ATC open houses have focused instead on location, putting 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 adequate information on a low-voltage option, which would be much less expensive and invasive but still meet any specific areas electrical needs in Wisconsin in the future.

Lastly, several areas of this state, including southwestern Wisconsin, are economically deprived. Is it true that RUS policy prohibits utility projects in such areas? If the project would further escalate the area’s economies?
What 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 RVs not be given any financial aid to Darienland 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 tryi] to meet the RV's deadline.

Sincerely,

Joe F.

608) 125-1339
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
1450 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:

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, Galeville, 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 345-kV Transmission System Improvement Project Main Corridor Study, May 2009 (213 pages); and, Hampton – Rochester – La Crosse 345-kV 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 2,032 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 threatened and/or endangered species of plants and animals that have found haven on our land.

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 ACCAR or some other technologically advanced material might significantly increase the carrying capacity of power lines.

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.
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.

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:

1. Electric and magnetic fields and stray voltage
   a. Our historic farm house 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 stay in this house are at risk, and the rent ability of the farm house is likely to be compromised, which could require us to lower its rent.

2. Historic and cultural resources
   a. We estimate the farm house, 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.

   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.

   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-222-011
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.
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 the 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."
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 1502.6). 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 preparing to use for the CapX 2020 EIS.

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 (SMMPA)
- Rochester Public Utilities (RPU)
- WPPI Energy, Inc.
- Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
- Great River Energy
- Minnesota Power Cooperative
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 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 Vineyard
    Representative Chris Danou
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.

---

From: George Nygaard [mailto:george.nygaard@mead.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Durango CO
Subject: CapX Hampton-Alma-La Crosse LIS

Ms. Strength:

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 who 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 a number of county and town board meetings. 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 counterparts.

I am very concerned about the environmental impact of the project. There are several segments of the Wisconsin portion of the project that are in or very near wetland areas. There is a great deal of evidence that the project will cause great harm to the protected wildlife and wetland areas. Strong opposition has been voiced by Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Friends of the Trempeleau Refuge and many others.

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 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 farmers' scale manure digesters produced by a company in Trempeh WI. A Cawston 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 severa
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 its 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 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 RTT 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 supersed and delay this project?

Many lives are on hold, and have we participate fully in the state process. We know our state.

I would greatly appreciate some clarification regarding the 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 Kohlmeier
Please refer to Appendix C, Table C-4, Comment Category A: General/Other, A11-General Environmental Impact.

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

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, C01-General/Other.

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

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 C: Alternatives, C04-Use of New Generation.

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