

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 6-16-09 Plainville Schools, Plainville, MN

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

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

*In Farmington Township on map 3
B112-B89 affects multiple
dairy farms but
B159 + B160 options do
not affect any dairy
farms, affect less
homes*

I-187-001

I-187-007

Impact on dairy-farmer-land (accessed multiple x/year) vs. crop-farmer-only-land.
Routes should be put in crop farm only land for less interference + health threat
What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-187-008

Concern about health issues, especially related to children as we live w/in 0.5 miles of proposed routes and have 3 kids under 5 yrs. We are one of very few families w/ young children in Farmington Township due to 80 acre zoning ordinance. On map 3 in Farmington Township the proposed B112 - B89 route comes w/in 0.5 mi. of our home and cuts my in-laws dairy farm in half (Malwitz - 10852 40 Avenue NE) - the children spend much time here. Wouldn't it make more sense to move routes away from the only young children in the area? I propose alternative routes B159 + B160 to the east as more economical + direct routes that do not impact kids, affect less homes, and does not cross dairy land which is accessed much more frequently than strictly Hampton + Rochester. La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project
corn + soybean farms which are accessed much less and fall along B159 + B160 routes.

I-187-001

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

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

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

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

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

Property Address: 9525 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN 55932 (section 3, Farmington Township, MN)

Nearby family farm: Malwitz, 18852 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN (Dairy farm)

- We have 3 children under 5 yrs. of age. Lines are proposed w/in 0.5 miles of our home and on our family farm up the road. Concerned about health negative impact on children. Really are no other small children in the area. Propose route options B159 + R160 as more direct, affect less homes, no dairy farms crossed + no children affected. Our kids spend much time at grandparents (Malwitz) dairy farm. Must also consider that routes will affect dairy farmers much more than just crop (corn + soybean) farmers as dairy farmers access their land much more frequently for haying, etc. Throughout the year whereas crop farmers only access their land twice a year (2 x/year for planting + harvest). (Our home also has historical significance as a former 1-room school house.) In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, school, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-187-003

I-187-002

- Health + safety from EMF exposure to those nearby these lines. Especially for young children - research suggests increased health risks w/ lower voltage lines already so whose to say what will happen w/ these much larger lines. Health + safety risks are greater for dairy vs. crop only farmers as dairy farmers are exposed much more.
 - Also makes it much less convenient for dairy farmers to access their land which happens frequently throughout year compared to crop farmers ^{only} ~~only~~.

I-187-009

I-187-004

- Concern for negative impact on wildlife habitat.
 - Concern for decreased aesthetic + property value of land/homes. We live in a historically significant one-room school house, these lines would wreck the value + history of this.

I-187-010

- Concern for not being able to use our land + family farm in a recreational manner with our kids any longer due to health threats.

I-187-002

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

I-187-003

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-004

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

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

I-187-011 Need up to date, comparable research on health risks of these high voltage power lines. Existing research is not fairly comparable to the high voltage of these power lines + threats of living near (especially for children). No studies over time either for these large power lines, EMFs.

- I question the need to cut cross farm + home land unfairly and to threaten health, safety, wildlife, land + property value, ability to farm

I-187-005 use land recreationally as a cross-way means. Why not stay along interstates + highways? (i.e. Hwy 52, Interstate 90)? Why destroy country way of life if this project is as "Safe + positive" as those behind it portray? If this is the case go along existing right of way.

I-187-012 It doesn't seem that all possible routes are being considered fairly + note all consequences, i.e. B159 + B160 routes on map 3, Farmington township, are more direct + less impacting of homes, children, dairy farms vs. B112 - B189 route options.

I-187-006 Please tell us how to reach you. Also, there are multiple missing homes on the map even after we have requested them to be added multiple times!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mitch Walch

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 9525 48 Avenue NE

City: Elgin

State: MN

Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 - 288 - 3310

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

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

I-187-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-008

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

I-187-009

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

I-187-010

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

I-187-011

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

I-187-012

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 12/16/09 Plainview School, Plainview, MN

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

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

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

existing
- These lines should have to follow right-of-ways versus cutting unfairly through farms, land in farmington township, sections of map we propose route options B19, B10, B11 instead of B12-1389.
* - Health issues need much more attention in this matter. I work in healthcare at Mayo Clinic and have researched the impact of power lines and health risks both myself and with leading physicians in family medicine, pediatrics, and neurology. While existing research has not proven direct links to health risks, it has found increased likelihood of health risks associated with living near power lines. This is increased
Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project
in children. Also - it is very important to note that existing research is not current and

I-188-002

I-188-003

(continued) it is based on much lower voltage power lines than those proposed by this project—thus it amounts to comparing apples to oranges. Also, there is no research available that assesses the health risks of 161 and 345 kV transmission lines over any significant time span to accurately research longer term risks of living near these lines—there are not longitudinal studies. We have 3 children under the age of 5 years old and are especially concerned about the health risks of having our children so close to such high voltage lines. If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture crop/livestock ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

A Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.
 Property Address: 9525 40th Ave NE, Elgin, MN 55932

A ① We have 3 children under the age of 5 years old and are gravely concerned about health threats to our children if forced to have such high voltage lines in close proximity to our home and their grandparents homestead where they attend daycare and spend large amounts of time. (Elston-Benda Malwitz Farm - 1892 40th Ave NE, Elgin, MN 55932) Research existing in health risks + high voltage lines is not current or fairly comparable to the 161/345 kV lines proposed. There are not many other existing children in farmington farms/homes, largely due to zoning ordinance requiring 80 acres for a homestead—thus most neighbors are determined to have the safety of at least 3 kids under 5 yrs.

B In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?
 The proposed B159-B160 line is within 0.5 mile of our home and cuts my parents farm in half. For the children's health and many other concerns, there are other routes that should be considered.

A ② Land Use - We live in the country to escape environmental hazards of city living as well as to use the land for recreational, livestock + other purposes. My parents farm (see neighbor) [Malwitz farm - address noted above] is a place us + our 3 young kids spend much time outdoors including in the fields helping farm. The Malwitz are dairy and crop farmers which means they access their land much more often during the year (20+ times at minimum) compared to non-dairy farms who only have to access 3x/year. We propose route options B159 + B160 as less impacting routes that affect less homes, no children, do not cross dairy farmer land, and are more direct routes.

A ③ Historical - We live in a renovated one-room school house. This home has much historical significance and value. To run high voltage power lines within 0.5 miles of our home would affect this largely.

A ④ Wildlife habitat - There is much wildlife in our area that I am concerned would be negatively impacted by this project.

I-188-001

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

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

I-188-002

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

I-188-003

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

I-188-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources as well as socioeconomic issues such as

I-188-001

I-188-004

I-188-005

I-188-006

Question 6: What are most sensitive resources? Health - serious to individuals living in close proximity, especially children. EMF impacts. Daring, farmland land affected as they use lands multiple times each year. Wildlife habitat. Degraded land value. Negative aesthetic impacts. Impact on crops. ^{unproven}

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-188-007

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

NO - I question the need for this project versus the goal of monetary gains of those behind it. Rochester MN is closing and has adequate power supply for us. Our land, health is being unfairly targeted as a "cross-way".

I-188-008

Also - I do not feel there is adequate research regarding health risks to those living within close proximity to these lines. There is not current research on the 161-345 kV lines, and certainly not time-based studies to adequately examine the long-term health risks. My concern is especially for raising children under these lines. I have done research myself and have had physicians also research for me - there are increased health risks especially for children with smaller voltage lines so I do not want to take a risk or be a "guinea pig" for the higher voltage lines.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sara Walch

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 9525 40th Ave NE

City: Clagan

State: MIN

Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-288-3310

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

property values will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-188-005

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

I-188-006

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

I-188-007

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

I-188-008

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

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Which meeting did you attend? C.F.C. school

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

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

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

- I-189-001 #1 - I think it is needed, but at least 75% of the electricity produced should be wind or solar, not coal or oil.
- I-189-002 #2. Try to stay away from running parallel with river and major roads.
- I-189-003 #3. Try to use existing routes or easements if possible.
- #4. make it twice as more capacity right away
- #5.

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I-189-001

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

I-189-002

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

I-189-003

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

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

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

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

#1. We (Wald Brosport) rent agricultural land from Dairyland Power Coop. and would like a 10 year extension.

2. we would like 15 2.5 MW, wind turbines put on our property. (class III wind) at 300 ft is class four. We are in U.S. fish & wild life recreation for wind turbine placement for distance from Mississippi River (1 mile from cliffs)

3. Dairyland Power has 1 1/2 miles of power lines on our and Xcel energy has 1/2 miles.

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

→ We are 2 miles East of Dairyland Power generation plant at Abma, Wis. on the main River.

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

I-189-004

yes it is needed; But I did not find out how much electricity is produced by coal and how much is produced by renewables for this 345 KV line.

ppp

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: GALE WALD

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 51997 Chickadee Lane

City: ALMA State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

I-189-004

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

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- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

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

We would like it set up to put up
wind towers. We really would like to
see some go up. We have a wind between
class 3 & 4. I live 3 miles from the
coal power plant. I live on a bluff.

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I-190-001

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

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

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

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

I-190-001

The poles ARE ON EACH side of my field.

I do NOT WANT ANY set in the field.

IF THEY PUT THE NEW POLE WHERE THE OLD
ONES ARE, THERE IS NO ~~PROBLEM~~ TROUBLE.

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

NONE.

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

yes it was.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wesley WALD

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: W1712 Cty Rd .E.

City: ALMA State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608 685 3588

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

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

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Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo (attended by family member)

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

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

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

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV

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

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

I-191-001 | I operate a dairy farm less than a half mile
south of the proposed route in Section 27 of Holden
township. I have concerns over stray voltage from the
I-191-003 | line and concerned about the route cutting through
prime agricultural land. I feel our farm land should
I-191-002 | be protected. The route should follow existing roads.

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

I-191-001

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

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

I-191-002

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

I-191-003

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jim Way

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3357 450th St.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview, MN

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

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

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

Farmington Township Section 7, Olmsted County MN
Actual line appears to come within
120 feet of residence. At 77 years of age
it is time to sell Property and move to
a home that is handicap accessible.
The value of this property is already
affected because of this potential route.

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

I-192-001

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

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

I-192-001

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

In my opinion this project is
not needed.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Allen Whipple

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 12005 Highway 63 North

City: Rochester

State: MN

Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

I-193-002 | Our recommendation would be to build
the transmission lines along existing
interstate highways where easements are
obtained. Additional agricultural land
purchased would be minimal.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

☒ Agriculture

☐ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: Milking Herd

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

We own and operate a 400 cow milking herd and are concerned with the closeness in proximity of a proposed transmission line. Our concern is the energy field surrounding the lines and health affects. ~~Milk~~ Production of milk loss to our herd from cattle ~~off~~ being in close proximity to the energy field.

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

I-193-001

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

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

I-193-002

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dennis ~~Wirt~~ Wirt
Representing (Optional): owner / operator of dairy
Mailing Address: 25607 County Rd 25
City: Lewiston State: MN Zip Code: 55952
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 523 3718

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

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

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:
Attachments: EIS letter to USDA 6-19-09.docx
Categories: pulled

From: bwood@sspps.org [mailto:bwood@sspps.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: docbernwood@aol.com
Subject:

Stephanie,
I would like to submit this letter as part of the public comments for the scoping hearing.
Thank you.
Bernadette

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Minn 55024
651-460-2347
docbernwood@aol.com

June 19, 2009

Stephanie Strong

USDA

As a 12 year resident of Eureka Township in Dakota County, I live within ½ mile of the proposed Hampton to LaCrosse section of the CAPX 2020 power line.

I-194-001

I believe that the Environmental Impact Statement being conducted by the USDA should recommend a no-build alternative, which relies on conservation, local generation and local transmission to provide for our future energy needs. This alternative would protect the Mississippi Flyway, the Wildlife Refuge, or any of the other protected natural areas from the harmful affects of the power line.

I-194-003

I-194-004

At this stage, a no build alternative is a viable option due to the fact that demand is dropping and the La Crosse line is not needed. The EIS should use Xcel Energy's and Dairyland Power's most current forecasts, not old out-of-date information;

I-194-005

Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other natural resources;

I-194-006

Power lines cause environmental harm: visual impacts, noise, magnetic field risks especially on farm lands, decline in property values, fragmentation of habitat, risks to endangered and rare species, bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway, and an increase in cancer especially childhood leukemia as a result of electromagnetic fields.

I-194-002

The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to this line need to be evaluated. The La Crosse project should be considered with the Brookings and Fargo power lines in making this environmental review

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Bernadette Wood

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Mn 55024

I-194-001

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

I-194-002

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need and cumulative impacts will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-003

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

I-194-004

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

I-194-005

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

I-194-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to visual resources, noise, rare species, human health and safety, as well as socioeconomic impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: jldupay@netscape.com
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2009 8:33 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX20200

July 18, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

I've just been informed that the CapX2020 transmission lines are considering W. 50th St. in Webster, Mn for an alternative route.

I'm strongly against this transmission line being installed on W. 50th St. in Webster. The reasons: the health risk posed from the dangerous high voltage electric and magnetic fields, irreversible property devaluation, the effect on dairy production, the wild life environment damage, hazard for small air craft, the constant sound of crackling and humming and what an eye sore.

Please, help us keep this line off W. 50th St. in Webster. Thank you.

Jane DuPay
3480 W. 50th St.
Webster, Mn 55088

Netscape. Just the Net You Need.

I-195-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: suziefox22@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 10:30 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: NO..... CAPX2020!!!!

Please do not let this happen to my family down in Houston, MN,,,

I-196-001 | NO to CapX2020.....This is not the thing to do,,,Please stop this,,,

Thanks,

Susan Fox
suziefox22@comcast.net

I-196-001

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 comments/EIS

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

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 comments/EIS

I-197-001

Stephanie,
Dairyland Power and Xcel Energy must first prove there is a need for new high voltage lines to meet LOCAL need.
Below are articles showing how the energy company is not being truthful with the rate-payer.
Xcel just announced a new wind option where rate payers can pay MORE for wind. The problem? energy experts tell us there is no way to deliver just "WIND" generated power to a customer (unless you have your own windmill). The electrons all giggle together regardless of the source. Read further to see how Xcel over charged Colorado rate payers for the same program and faced fines.

I-197-002

Bottom line, the utilities motives MUST be analyzed in the process. If the power is to be sent to Chicago and points east in order to profit the utilities, MN and WI tax payers SHOULD NOT pay for this project. Also, CapX will not commit to ANY amount of wind on THEIR lines for the La Crosse Project (Source: MN Public Utilities Commission)
Thank you for including this information in your decision making process.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html>

Monday, July 20, 2009, 1:52pm CDT

Xcel Energy adds wind power option

The Business Journal of Milwaukee

Xcel Energy in Eau Claire said Monday that it has launched a Windsource program that allows Xcel customers to elect to have all or more of their residential or commercial energy generated by renewable resources.

The energy provided for Windsource in Wisconsin during 2009 will be generated from wind farms in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. Windsource has been ranked as the largest voluntary green power program in the United States for the past six years, and has more than 70,000 residential and 1,000 business customers participating in Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico.

Since the launch of the Wisconsin program last month, about 190 residential and 10 business customers, such as Northland College in

1

I-197-001

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

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

I-197-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-197-001.

Ashland, have signed up to receive some or all of their energy through Windsource, Xcel officials said.

According to Xcel Energy management, Xcel is the top renewable energy provider in Wisconsin and in 2008 about 18 percent of the company's electric generation in the upper Midwest was produced from renewable resources and 43 percent from carbon-free resources.

Windsource costs \$1.15 per 100-kilowatt-hour block above current rates for electricity, with the average residential customer signing up for Windsource seeing an increase of \$12 to their monthly bill. Business and residential customers must agree to be on the program for a one-year term.

"This voluntary rate option gives each and every electric customer throughout our Wisconsin service territory a choice to buy renewable energy and promote the development of wind power," said Steve Mudd, Windsource product manager. "It is a great option for businesses that want to demonstrate their environmental leadership or even obtain LEED certification points."

Comments

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009 9:16AM EST

Did you know that not only is their NO WIND on CAPX2020 AT ALL except for a small amount on the Brookings line (Fargo/Brookings/Minneapolis-La Crosse = the 3 lines), but there is NO REQUIREMENTS on the Twin Cities line to La Crosse at all?
And when 'they' said the "allegedly windy" CAPX had no plan of going EAST past La Crosse - why now is American Transmission Company going to build the La Crosse to Madison Line? Tourism, Hwy 60, and scenic byways? Ha-hysterical! Getting it yet? Best of all - can you tell when the lights go on if its wind, coal or nuclear you are getting? HERE IS THE NEXT PHASE to Madtown:
<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2409577/> and also see <http://nocapx2020.info/?p=593>

"In politics, an organized minority is a political majority." Jesse Jackson

Report Abuse

<<http://networking.bizjournals.com/community/app/templates/tpemail.aspx?tpt=reportcomment&title=Xcel%20Energy%20adds%20wind%20power%20option&date=July%2021,%202009&author=Bill%20Bo&link=http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html&mid=%7B28B7B602-5D61-4042-9D60-09698440B30F%7D>>

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009 9:13AM EST

Less impact from the PUBLIC RELATIONS machine ~ Denver "JANUARY 2009 - WIND PROBE - Xcel eyes deal when ACCUSED of selling more wind power than it generated. Xcel's voluntary wind- energy program will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed SETTLEMENT following a STATE INVESTIGATION into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.Xcel will REFUND \$1.6 million this year to "Windsource" customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium

price. The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsource, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy." http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889

"The two greatest obstacles to democracy in the United States are, first, the widespread delusion among the poor that we have a democracy, and second, the chronic terror among the rich, lest we get it." [1941] Edward Dowling

Report Abuse
<<http://networking.bizjournals.com/community/app/templates/tpemail.aspx?tpt=reportcomment&title=Xcel%20Energy%20adds%20wind%20power%20option&date=July%2021,%202009&author=Bill%20Bo&link=http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html&mid=%7B5683D07C-AB3E-414E-AF8E-2A52E1EC1D76%7D>>

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill12391>> July 21, 2009
9:11AM EST

IF \$12 a month gave you part "OWNERSHIP" in the entire "smart grid" (which incidentally, these lines may not be the that new technology) and a "claim stake" to local/regional clean energy - so one day your kids would in fact own it...would you pay it then? I would instantly! But that's the very last thing on earth the utilities want. Question: Could these dollars from this "greenish wind" program be going to ADVERTISING & PR expenses "selling us" on what they want us thinking they are doing with wind in the first place? Is Doyle involved? Oh - and that's just CAPX - there is ANOTHER one coming to WI - GREEN POWER EXPRESS! SEE <http://legalelectric.org/weblog/2900/>

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river" Nikita Krushchev

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889#comments

Xcel eyes deal in wind probe

The utility proposes a \$2.6 million settlement after it was accused of selling more wind power than it generated.

*By Steve Raabe *
/The Denver Post/
<<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post:%20Xcel%20eyes%20deal%20in%20wind%20probe>>

Posted: 01/09/2009 12:30:00 AM MST

Related

* Dec 25:

* Report: Xcel plan oversold in 2008
http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11306709
 * Dec 24:
 * Xcel must honor the public trust
http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11298121
 * Dec 23:
 * Xcel overbilled for wind plan
http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11291714
 *

Xcel Energy will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed settlement following a state investigation into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.

Under the pending agreement, Xcel will refund \$1.6 million this year to Windsource customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium price.

The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsource, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy.

The settlement enables Xcel to use its entire portfolio of renewable energy to sell to Windsource customers, instead of just the two relatively small wind farms in northern Colorado that originally were designated for Windsource.

As a result, the program will be able to grow beyond its current sold-out capacity of 47,000 customers.

"The benefit is that it allows more customers to participate and it allows more development of renewable energy," said John Nielsen, energy-program director of Western Resource Advocates, a Boulder-based research group that helped draft the settlement.

For an average household that buys all its power from Windsource, Xcel's \$1.6 million refund would lower the extra cost from about \$35 a month to \$23, on top of normal power rates.

"This removes a great deal of uncertainty about the viability of Colorado consumers' access to renewables," said Arthur O'Donnell of green-power certification firm Green-e Energy.

The refund will be paid through 2009. Starting in 2010, Windsource rates will be based on the cost to build and acquire new renewable energy, which could result in higher Windsource premiums, Nielsen said.

/Steve Raabe: 303-954-1948 or sraabe@denverpost.com
<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com>

*Article Comments (2)
<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?t=11410889> *

You must be registered to comment (your comment will be saved for you while you register). It's quick (it takes about 30 seconds) and we only require your email and name. Comments that include any offensive material <<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/groundrules.php>> are prohibited. By using our site you agree to our terms of use <<http://www.denverpost.com/termsfuse>>.

Enron?

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=11686>>

*Gary L Warn

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=11686>>*

Joined: Sep 26

Points: 226 Permanent link to this comment

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?p=626946#p626946>>Gary L

Warn

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(aka Graybeard) | 2:44 PM on Friday Jan 9 Vote up

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/Xcel Energy will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed settlement following a state investigation into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.

/

/Under the pending agreement, Xcel will refund \$1.6 million this year to Windsource customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which the.../

> View all this article's 2 comments

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?t=11410889>>

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:

From: joanfrancois@acegroup.cc [mailto:joanfrancois@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:12 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject:

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the environment. I feel that the needs for the future need careful evaluation and that we don't have to continue thinking that bigger is better. We need to think outside the box when it comes to energy resources. So please consider local-renewable-cost effective ideas. Thanks Joan Francois La Crescent, MN

I-198-001 |

I-198-001

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: GJBJackson@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:36 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects

Stephanie,

- I-199-003** | I read with dismay the point that Dairyland Power does not want to pay their portion of CapX and would like the taxpayers to cover the cost. I am very much against this tax burden. We are very much overburdened
- I-199-001** | with tax responsibilities now and forthcoming with the new administration. The forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project.
- I-199-004** | The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line will result in additional adverse impacts of the project. Other adverse affects are visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi
- I-199-002** | Flyway. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to Ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.

Is this another rush and push for a project that has not been given adequate thought, consideration and validity to workable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gloria Belzer

I-199-001

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

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

I-199-002

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

I-199-003

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

I-199-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and

agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Custer Nilsson [custermilsson@ridge-runner.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 4:50 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments re: CAPX2020

The CAPX2020 transmission line designed to primarily serve communities surrounding Rochester, MN and La Crosse, WI should not be routed through rural areas in Trempealeau County, WI. In May of 2009 residents of Trempealeau County were informed that two new 'alternate' routes had been developed for the CAPX2020 transmission line. Both of the new routes traverse wide swaths of Trempealeau County. JUNE 2009 WAS THE FIRST TIME WE WERE INFORMED THAT NEW ROUTES WERE BEING CONSIDERED NEAR OUR HOMES.

I-200-001

Residents along all other routes had been informed over a year earlier and had been given the opportunity to impact initial decisions about proposed routes. This opportunity was denied to citizens along the new routes in Trempealeau County.

We are poor - *see per capita income below - we are few - *see population data below and we were not given equal opportunity to impact early decisions about these transmission routes. This process has put citizens of Trempealeau County at a distinct disadvantage.

I-200-002

At no time in all the years of planning leading up to this process did Dairyland Power or Riverland Energy inform rate payers that new transmission lines could be placed in the rural areas of Trempealeau County that are bisected by the new routes.

I-200-003

The transmission lines should be placed near those population centers that are creating the need - don't destroy our rural landscape. Taking the route through our heavily wooded and agricultural lands will destroy hundreds of trees at a time when an increase of carbon monoxide in our atmosphere threatens life on our planet. Rural wooded lands such as ours should be preserved, not destroyed.

Why are the transmissions lines being routed around the city of Rochester, MN? Did the influence of Rochester area businesses and the Mayo Clinic give them special access to route planners? None of the proposed routes go near that city, yet that is the largest population area to be served by this project.

At the June meeting representatives of the project stated that they wanted to place the lines away from population centers - away from people.

Guess what, the citizens of rural Trempealeau County are people too. We choose to live in a rural environment for a reason, and we pay premium prices for the privilege. We pay more for all basic services like electricity and transportation. We receive less state and federal support for our infrastructure. We don't even have the broadband Internet access that is needed to open your files on the transmission line reports. That's okay, we accept less services as part of our choice to live in a rural area. But our choice does not include living under the transmission lines that are required to provide a better quality of life for people in urban area. If urban centers want a better quality of life they should live with the cost and consequences of that choice.

I-200-004

These lines will do nothing to improve the electric service in our area. Many of us live with poor service, constant fluctuation in power and regular power outages. These new transmission lines will in no way improve the delivery of electricity to our rural lanes.

Routing these lines through rural Trempealeau County is the most expensive option being considered. It is clear that these routes are only being considered because we can't scream as loud as the urban population centers and we have less influence on the decision makers. I urge you to deny funding to Dairyland Power and Riverland Energy for the purpose of building the CAPX2020 transmission lines through rural Trempealeau County.

Per capita and Population
County

Per capita 1999 per US census

I-200-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. The utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

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

I-200-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-200-003

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

Population 2008 estimate per US census

Trempealeau Cty. WI

\$17,681

27,790

La Crosse Cty. WI

\$19,800

112,627

Olmsted Cty. MN

\$24,939

141,360

NOTE: The combined population of La Crosse and Olmsted counties is nine (9) times greater than Trempealeau County. What is the likelihood that the voices of Trempealeau County citizens will carry the same weight in this discussion? We have already been put at a significant disadvantage in this discussion because planners did not consult us until May 2009 – all others were consulted repeatedly over a year ago.

Put the power lines by the people who will be using them, not by rural people who have no representation and will not benefit from this project.

Cristeen Custer
N18585 Hammond Lane
Galesville, WI 54630

I-200-004

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line

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

From: Daley.Nancy@MacPhail.org [mailto:Daley.Nancy@MacPhail.org]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:05 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line

To whom it may concern,

We oppose this project for the following reasons:

I-201-001

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

I-201-002

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

Nancy and Kevin Daley

I-201-001

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

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

I-201-002

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Comment on USDA/RUS EIS for CapX2020 La Crosse Project
Importance: High

From: jtrodude@charter.net [mailto:jtrodude@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:13 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on USDA/RUS EIS for CapX2020 La Crosse Project
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Strength:

Below are my comments, concerns and perspectives on the USDA/RUS EIS for the CapX2020 La Crosse Project. I am a concerned citizen who lives in La Crescent, MN and works as a natural resource professional in La Crosse, WI, so I see the issue from both sides of the state line. I think if Maryland Power's request is granted, it will result in unsound environmental policy along a number of fronts (wildlife conservation, recreation and aesthetic, and possibly most important, additional greenhouse gases from the coal power generation it will enable in the Dakotas), as well as generating additional unfair and unjustified expenses to taxpayers. Below is a summary of key points to include in the comments on the EIS. We need to put any resources we have into localizing the existing power grid to modernize it. We do NOT need to be transmitting power inefficiently across vast distances with power lines that are potential health risks to humans and animals and disrupt migration and the scenic landscape. There are much better alternatives now available to distribute electrical power and we should be putting our resources into developing those, not what CapX2020 in general is proposing.

- I-202-001** | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-202-002** | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi flyway.
- I-202-003** | 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-202-004** | 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-202-005** | 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Thank you for your time and for incorporating my comments into the EIS.

1

I-202-001

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

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

I-202-002

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

I-202-003

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

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

I-202-004

Jeanne T. (Terry) Dukerschein
1206 Currier St.
La Crescent, MN 55947

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

I-202-005

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:05 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project in Minnesota
Attachments: SkyHarborAirpark.jpg

From: ryanflicek@yahoo.com [mailto:ryanflicek@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 12:04 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 Project in Minnesota

Hello Stephanie,

I'm a Rice County, Minnesota resident and have been reviewing those documents regarding the Brookings Co to Hampton Transmission line (part of the CapX2020 Project) on the Minnesota State website.

I have read about one of the alternative Rice County routes that is being included in the Environmental Assessment. As a local pilot, I can tell you because of Sky Harbor Airpark, an airport located just north of 50th St West, the alternative route should NOT have been accepted for review. If this proposed alternative route was to be used, the approach path to Runway 30 at Sky Harbor would be severely compromised, causing a significant safety hazard for landing aircraft.

Both the 57th St W and the 50th St W options pose a significant danger to Sky Harbor air traffic, however the 50th St W option would definitely pose more danger. Some people with a naïve understanding of airport operations may simply suggest a change to the traffic pattern, however the problem is much more complex. A much more critical consideration is the safety of the approach/departure surfaces off the end of the runway. Under the 50th ST W option, if we were conducting an FAA approach/departure obstruction survey on the RWY 30 approach-end at Sky Harbor, the proposed transmission line would fall within the limits of the FAA-approach-surface used for evaluation. At its closest point, the transmission line would fall within 0.5 miles of the runway end. On a straight-out departure, the transmission line would cross the approach surface approx 1-mile from-runway-end. At a 40:1 approach/departure slope, an object higher than approx 65 feet would penetrate the approach/departure surface at the 0.5 mile point. At the 1-mile point, an object higher than approx. 130 feet would penetrate the approach/departure surface. As I understand it, the transmission lines would be approx 150 feet tall. So, just running quick-and-dirty numbers, the transmission line would definitely constitute an "obstruction" as it relates to aviation.

Sky Harbor Airpark is a destination which welcomes many visiting pilots and large gatherings/fly-ins. Because the Runway is grass (not asphalt) at Sky Harbor, many curious visiting pilots are attracted to the area (grass runways are becoming more rare). These transmission lines would pose the increased risk to visiting pilots, not as accustomed to the area as local pilots. Because it is a private field, pre-flight information regarding Sky Harbor is not as readily available to pilots as it would be for an FAA-governed airport, such as a Municipal, Regional, or International airports. Thus, I am worried that the status of new transmission lines in this area may not adequately be disseminated to pilots. This danger would rise exponentially when you factor in flight operations occurring at night or in conditions involving reduced visibility.

Because of the short length of the runway at Sky Harbor, traffic patterns are often flown much lower than standard. Furthermore, in addition to many normally certificated aircraft, Sky Harbor is home to many Ultra-Light Aircraft as well. The normal operating altitudes of these types of aircraft is much lower than those of normally certificated aircraft. The performance characteristics of these aircraft make them less capable of making abrupt flight maneuvers to avoid collision with obstacles, should a pilot accidentally find themselves too close to these obstacles. There are also a few Sky Harbor residents that operate helicopters, which often depart and approach

I-203-001

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

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

the area at altitudes much lower than fixed-wing aircraft.

All-in-all, as a pilot, flight instructor, and professional in an aviation-safety industry, I know that there are far too many safety-risks pilots already encounter on a day-to-day basis. By erecting these transmission lines, it would be unfairly imposing another great risk to safety on these pilots, further complicating their operations.

Attached to this email is an aerial photo showing the proposed route of the transmission line (in green) and the runway (in red). For your orientation, this location is just a couple miles southeast of Webster, Minnesota.

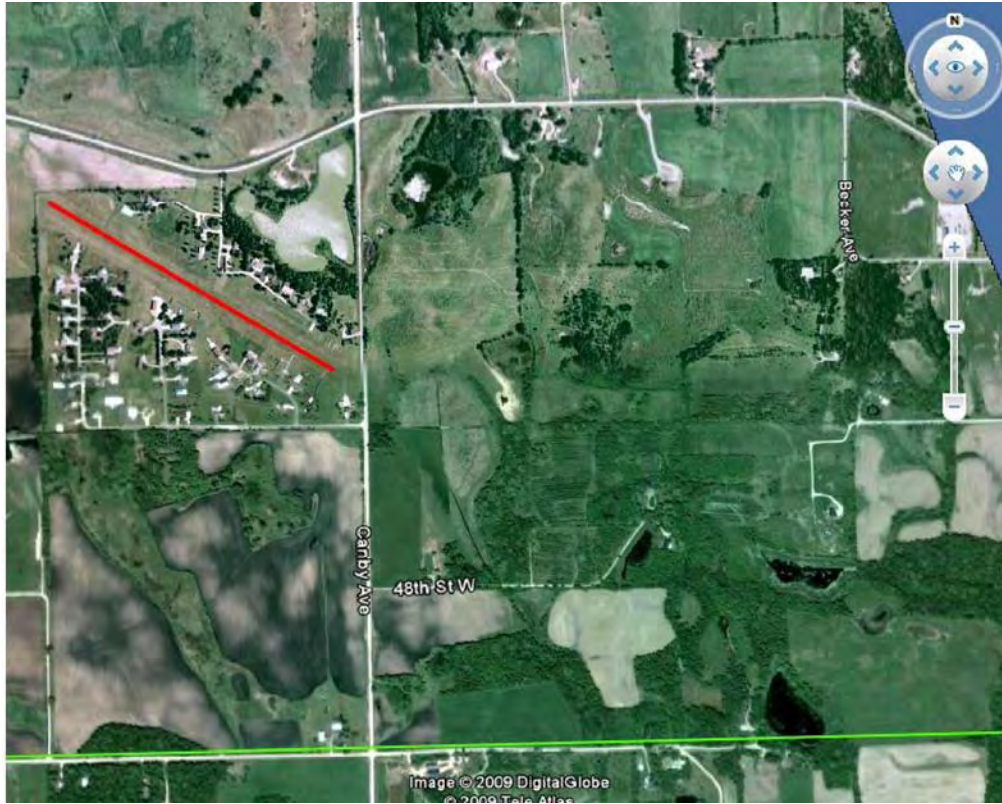
Thank you.

Ryan Flicek

206 10th Ave NW

Lonsdale, MN 55046

507-581-3519



Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020/USDA/RUS comments
Attachments: Attached Message Part; Attached Message Part

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

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:56 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020/USDA/RUS comments

Ms. Strength,
Additional comments:

Please question the LOCAL need for CapX and consider the NO BUILD option.

Per Carol Overland, Attorney:
in MN: Remember we have 1,900 MW of wind, and that we could shut down
900MW of coal right now based on Xcel's demand alone... and almost shut
down Prairie Island! Monticello nuclear is 600 MW, we could shut that down!

The question to ask the utilities is:

Why do you claim we "need" new generation?
Why do you imply/assume we can't shut down fossil fuel or nuclear fuel now?
Why do you state there are NO alternatives to your project (See the
wind info. above)

I-204-001 DEMANDS HAS DROPPED - HERE IS the Evidence:*

Xcel's 2008 10-K filed February 23, 2009
<<http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/financials/drawFiling.asp?docKey=136-000104746909002013-6PNAQ1ITEM17MR5OD3T090RE08&docFormat=HTM&formType=10-K>>

From their 10-k, p. 10:

* Capacity and Demand

*

Uninterrupted system peak demand for the NSP System's electric
utility for each of the last three years and the forecast for 2009,
assuming normal weather, is listed below.

System Peak Demand (in MW)			
2006	2007	2008	2009 Forecast
9,859	9,427	8,697	9,662

I-204-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020
Attachments: 3475_001.pdf

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

From: rfuhrmann@integra.net [mailto:rfuhrmann@integra.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:27 AM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Please see my attached comments.

Thank you

Roy Fuhrmann
3161 Cass Trail
Webster, MN 55088

I-205-001

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

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

July 23, 2009

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

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

Re: CAPX2020

Dear Mr. Ek and Ms. Strength:

I have reviewed the proposed alignment options for the CAPX2020 Transmission line and offer the following comments concerning the alignment of Alternative A-RIC-003 in Rice County, Minnesota:

Sky Harbor Airpark is a private residential airpark located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Canby Ave and Rice County 3, one mile east of the city of Webster. The Airpark is home to over 50 based aircraft and 46 homes and has a southeast/northwest runway, Runway 12/30, which is 2,855 feet long.

Minnesota Statute 360.062 Airport Hazard Prevention, states that "an airport hazard endangers the lives and property of users of the airport and of occupants of land in its vicinity". Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8800.1200 Criteria For Determining Air Navigation Obstructions, defines obstructions to air navigation. As defined in Chapter 8800.1200, Subp. 5, B. the Horizontal Surface is an imaginary horizontal plane 150 feet above the established airport elevation and extends in a 5,000 feet arc around the primary surface of the runway.

The proposed Alternate A-RIC-003 alignment is approximately 2,600 feet from Sky Harbor Airpark's Runway 12/30. The transmission line towers are described as being 170 feet tall and therefore they will penetrate the above described Horizontal Surface, be within the 5,000 foot arc from the runway and therefore be considered an Air Navigation Obstruction. Additional analysis needs to be completed to determine if the Alternative A-RIC-003 alignment penetrates any of the Primary Approach Surfaces to Runway 12/30 at Sky Harbor Airpark.

Finally, given the known location of the Airpark any transmission lines located on an approach path or within one mile of an airport should be appropriately lighted and safety balls should be placed on the transmission lines to prevent potential accidents. I ask that you consider the above information as part of your alignment selection process.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed CAPX2020 alignment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-384-7973.

Sincerely,



Roy Fuhrmann
3161 Cass Trail
Webster, MN 55088

Kessler, Ellen

From: Andrew Gilmer [gilmermac@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:39 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am concerned with CapX2020's plan to install new transmissions lines across MN. I recognize that the country's energy needs need to be addressed and that doing so may require new infrastructure to be built. This is not a "not in my backyard" situation. I am asking for the public to be given a choice after an independent fact finding study with reasonable assumptions has been accomplished. A study that demonstrates the future need for power, while considering a spectrum of options. These options should include improvements to energy efficiency, reduction in per capita energy consumption, off the grid technologies and distributed generation. Only after a thorough study is accomplished should we take action that is on scale with CapX2020's plans. In addition, if such an "improvement" in infrastructure is required, care should be made to place that infrastructure along already established lines of communication. For example routing the lines along the I94 and I90 corridors and established bridges vs. ruining pristine bluff country in SE MN and placing new high tension lines across the Mississippi. While this would cost more it would minimize the impact on both the beauty of the land and potential harmful impact on bird species found along the Mississippi and the threatened Eastern rattle snake habitat in SE MN. The local citizen should be given a voice in how their power is generated and routed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Gilmer

I-206-002

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

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

I-206-003

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAP X powerline

From: blgregers@myclearwave.net [mailto:blgregers@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 7:47 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAP X powerline

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I write to you with my concerns for the CAP X2020 power line that is being proposed to go from the Dakota and ultimately end up in Chicago. I am sure that you have read them all, but I would like to state my concerns.

I-207-001

1. I understand that the current updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for ultra high voltage power lines -- including the LaCrosse Project. If we don't need them, then why build these kind of lines -- we can't afford to do business as usual and just build or buy things like we used to do. The money is not there.

I-207-002**I-207-004**

2. I have a real concern about the environmental damage that will occur from coal and the pollution it causes. There is no "clean coal power." Why are we using this kind of energy source when there are much more environmentally sound ones. Please don't do this. We only have one world and we are responsible to leave it a better place for our children and grandchildren. Please consider how the entire project will cause pollution.

3. Let's not further damage the environment and protected national wildlife refuge by putting this kind of power line in the places where we have already declared it to be a refuge. There are so many other ways to do this and at a much lower cost. Don't continue the fallacy of going with what we know. Let leave this world a better place for our children. Let us not damage or destroy the environment so that we have children who do not know the beauty of the land without power lines overhead.

I-207-003

4. Please do not put further burdens on already financially strapped people by asking them to pay for utility lines that they will receive no benefit from -- not to mention that their property value will decrease with a high voltage power line on it.

In this past couple of years, we have been the victim of so many greedy corporations who have no regard for the "little" people. They don't care who gets hurt as long as they get their way or their money. Well, we are in a financial crisis in this country because of that greed. Maybe you should listen to the "little" people who kept their head on straight and did not over extend themselves or did not get greedy. We are the backbone of this country and are paying for that greed. Please don't let the power companies the comprise CAPX2020 take advantage of the "little" people. We don't need to get hit again.

Thank you for your time.

Linda Gregerson
Northfield, MN

I-207-005

5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

I-207-001

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

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

I-207-002

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

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

Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-003

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

I-207-004

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

I-207-005

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 1:10 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Attached Files mailed Comment Form Puboic Scoping Meetings. Thank you.
Attachments: Barb Hammes.vcf; Email0134.jpg; Email0135.jpg; Email0136.jpg

From: bbhammes@acegroup.cc [mailto:bbhammes@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:31 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: bjhammes@gundluth.org
Subject: Attached Files mailed Comment Form Puboic Scoping Meetings. Thank you.

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

I-208-002

We understand the need was not adequately addressed by the process in MN.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Bernard Hammes
 Name: Barbara Hammes - property owner
 Representing (Optional): Mississippi River Wild (Refuge Friends
 Mailing Address: 314 Shore Acres Rd. Group
 City: La Crescent State: MN. Zip Code: 55947
 Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

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

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

I-208-003 Our Shore Acres MN home property
fag yearly for river frontage proper
taxes. Looking directly at the 5-3x
highest larger tower & lines
is an eye sore/nuisance which
would decrease our property
values & property taxes
paid.

Our Trempealeau cottage is also on the upper
Mississippi River Refuge.

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

I-208-001 Many river birds (eagles, osprey, ^{migrates} fowl,
herons, egrets, cormorants, martins etc)
use the Mississippi River fly
way. The proposed tower & lines
are 2-3x higher & larger than
the existing ones which already
cause damage & death to
these birds. We volunteer many hours
improve & enhance the Upper Mississippi
River Refuge & do not wish this project
to cross or be seen on the
Refuge areas.

I-208-001

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

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

I-208-002

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

I-208-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line as well as socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN.

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

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

I-208-004

☒ Other: LSE airport proximity issues

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-208-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to public transportation as well as health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

Full Name: Barb Hammes
Last Name: Hammes
First Name: Barb
E-mail: bbhammes@acegroup.cc
E-mail Display As: Barb Hammes (bbhammes@acegroup.cc)

Kessler, Ellen

From: chelmberger@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 2:04 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Fw: Powerlines: South Dakota through Minnesota (Hampton, Rochester) to LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
Stephanie, I submitted this to you on 6/29 but wanted to be sure that you received it.

Please read the entire email of mine below but in short:

- I-209-001** | 1. This is a massive project through South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin - it is not just a segment from Hampton to LaCrosse.
- I-209-002** | 2. This is a huge financial impact to people whose land and homes will be DEvalued.
- I-209-003** | 3. There are existing rights of way that the power companies can use and they choose not to do this. Using existing lines would be less disruptive to families and ag land and acreage land.
- 4. Excel Energy has about 44 full time lobbyists at the Minnesota Capitol. Yet the 22,000 plus individuals directly impacted as their land has to be given up(so you can imagine how many indirectly are impacted -ie their home is within a short distance of the powerlines) are just a whisper. Please do NOT let the big guys get there way on this. You must know that 22,000 canNOT be in favor of these powerlines.
- I-209-005** | 5. There needs to be more research on if there really is the need for these massive powerlines. If these go in, they will double and triple over time.
- I-209-004** | 6. One can only think that we in Minnesota and Wisconsin will have our land taken from us for pennies compared to what it is worth only to let these lines bring power to other states way east of here.

Thank you,
Cindy Helmberger

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Cindy Helmberger <chelmberger@yahoo.com>
To: stephanie.strength@usda.gov
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 2:52:19 PM
Subject: Powerlines: South Dakota through Minnesota (Hampton, Rochester) to LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Hello,
I am writing regarding the large multi-faceted powerline project from South Dakota to Minnesota to Wisconsin.

If I may please ask that you email me back that you received my email, I would appreciate it

ET2/TL-08-1474 CapX 2020 Brookings to Hampton / Rochester to LaCrosse
345 KV Transmission Lines
Submitted by Cindy Helmberger (24311 Lakeville, MN 55844 â€œ New Market
Township in Scott County).

I-209-001

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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

I-209-002

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

I-209-003

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

I-209-004

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020

My area of concern for which I am commenting on is the Rice, Scott and Dakota (Minnesota) counties.

Please note: The powerline is from Brookings , South Dakota and has running routes throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin . It is NOT just the Hampton/ Rochester to LaCrosse, WI line. Great River Energy and Xcel Energy's proposal was for several high voltage lines that interconnect and is multi-faceted and has future plans to these lines. Please consider the entirety of this project (South Dakota , Minnesota and Wisconsin) and its devastation to communities, people, landowners and the environment. If these powerlines are approved, it is only allowing future powerlines to be built and to tag onto these new powerlines. The power companies already have acknowledged and received approval to double the voltage on these 345 KV lines. So the project is not just what will happen in 2010 it will be what happens in the future. If the rights of way are granted, they and any other type of telecommunication or powerlines are given open access to whatever.

CAPX2020

- Their mailings did NOT indicate on the outside of the envelopes that it had to do with powerlines through the person's neighborhood or backyard. People tossed the envelopes aside as they had no idea what CAPX2020 was.
- Applicant's Appendix K " regarding public comment was only 2 pages long. There were only 393 comments out of 22,000 mailings. How could they base any decisions on routes or what people thought based on 393 comments. These comments could have been from 10 people only.
- For landowner's whose land or homes would be impacted and require an easement " there was no certified letter mailed " just another generic envelope.
- CAPX failed in their mailings and failed with their meetings which I am sure had very low attendance.
- They failed in their preferred and alternate route selection. They could have chosen a route based on their own original proposals that would not impact so many people and homes.
- In the past month or two the meetings and the involvement of citizens is due only to the citizens notifying their neighbors of what is going on.
- CAPX2020 has proposed a build up of the Lake Marion substation in Lakeville , MN . The application references purchasing between 12 to 16 acres at the current Lake Marion substation. Allowing them to build up this station will only be an invitation for more powerlines. The area near this station is very populated with homes as it is one household per 2.5 acres. Such a massive substation should not be allowed near that many humans.
- It is very feasible for CAPX and the utility companies to develop a new substation south of the Lake Marion one in a less densely populated area. Then they can run distributor lines from the new south substation to Lake Marion . I know someone who spoke with a person at Great River Energy who said they could build a new substation in this area and that it did NOT need to be at Lake Marion . Having two substations in the area would make the system more reliable because if there was an issue at a sole substation, then the system does not have a back up to rely on.
- Scott County Minnesota Board voted unanimously on the topic of the powerlines and it is NOT for these lines in the county.
-

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Minnesota Administrative Rules # 7849.5910 Factors Considered:

- a. Aesthetics: visual impact from project. Scott county townships on route has a population of 8,125 and that does not include parts of New Prague. Rice county townships on route has population of 6,088. The powerlines will be seen for miles " a devastating and huge impact aesthetically and monetarily. Nobody wants powerlines in their neighborhood however, if the lines need to go somewhere the route should be where there are less people

Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

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

I-209-005

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

impacted. I heard that they may consider burying 2 miles of lines by Hiawatha because people do not want them.

b. Cultural Resources: People choose to move out to the semi-rural area for the cultural values of a small town. The values of those who spent a lot of money to purchase land and their homes will be destroyed. Example: A person spent \$200,000 on a lot in Scott County and built a \$500,000 home. Now powerlines will be in their backyard or very visible to them. Now that \$700,000 investment is reduced down to \$450,000 or less and maybe the person will get \$ 5,000 for that loss?

c. Land Use: Primarily, it is not judicious to have powerlines run through land and near homes that will lose the most financially.

d. Socioeconomic: Population information. Noted above. Repeated again: Why run powerlines through areas where there are currently more people and in the future will allow more people? Utility System: The alternate route through the areas of my concern would only cost \$ 8 million more dollars. That is only \$ 100 each for 80,000 users of electricity to make up that \$ 8 million. Let those using the electricity pay such a low amount for the extra cost. Why should those who will lose the most financially have to lose up to hundreds of thousands of dollars because the line goes through / near their home. The utility companies can very easily buy land cheaper south of here and build a new substation there and then feed a small line up to Lake Marion.

Rights of way: There are existing rights of way in Rice county, along Interstate 35, and near Cannon Falls. They could utilize these existing rights of way, create a new substation that is closer to the existing lines in land areas that are NOT more densely populated.

e. Safety and Health: Just a simple question "would you want to live near an enormous powerline?" Just a simple comment "it has to be safer to live without a line than with one."

f. Natural Environment: Sections of land in New Market township are the start of the Vermillion watershed / trout stream.

More Comments:

1. I would please ask that the electricity need be analyzed. Have there really been any brownouts? We will most likely not see the population growth that was experienced "will the need really be there to have such a mass increase in electricity?"

2. Are these powerlines really for the people in Minnesota and Wisconsin or is their goal to direct electricity beyond these states?

3. Will the electricity companies mitigate damage done to the environment and the monetary loss that landowners will have?

4. Please, please, please have a much more in-depth study be done.

5. Have all the right state and Federal governments commented on the issues surrounding the powerlines?

6. Have there been impact studies done on comparable powerlines that have comparable impact to like communities and environment?

7. This is a huge endeavor by the power companies and it should thoughtfully and thoroughly be investigated by the different state and Federal agencies.

8. Has the uniqueness of the joint venture between Great River Energy and Xcel been investigated thoroughly? Meaning, are they placing this under the guise of a not for profit like Great River only to turn it over to Xcel Energy?

Thank you very much for the USDA's review of this project and what the impacts are.

Sincerely,

Cindy Helmberger

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project
Attachments: letter to USDA.docx

From: Mary Kleese [mailto:mkleese@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:46 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project

Ms. Strength,

We respectfully submit this letter on behalf of Holden Township and appreciate your consideration of it.

Sincerely,
Doug and Mary Kleese
4667 Co. 30 Blvd
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-6313
mkleese@myclearwave.net

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist

Re: Cap X 2020-proposed route through Holden Township, Kenyon, MN

We live on a 3rd generation farm in Holden Township, Sec. 23 Kenyon MN. Just recently it was brought to our attention via our local newspaper that the newest revised route for one of the Cap X2020 proposed power lines is just south of our property, in direct view and vicinity of our home and livelihood. This was the first that we were made aware of this. We never received any correspondence regarding informational meetings or proposed lines that potentially would be placed so close to where we live. Though it would not directly go through our property, due to the position of our home and land, we are in constant direct view and exposure of the proposed towers. Our strong concerns regarding these proposed lines are threefold; 1) from a safety standpoint, 2) maintaining the rural integrity of the area, and 3) an aesthetics viewpoint.

I-210-001

Firstly, along with farming our own acres, we rent the acreage that the proposed lines would actually go through. Our children pick rocks from these fields twice yearly so our farm equipment is not damaged. We literally would be picking rocks under these towers. We are concerned about being able to run our machinery around and under these lines. We have read about EMF emissions and it appears that not enough studies have been done regarding 345kv transmission lines at this time. It is a real concern!

I-210-002

I-210-004

Secondly, as residents and farmers in Holden Township, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. Our township ordinances reflect this continuing goal to maintain our agricultural area and to provide area farmers the opportunity to continue farming and preserving the agricultural integrity of Holden township. Furthermore, the way the line is proposed, it would run directly down the section, causing a great disruption of the acreage and the farming practices. The number of rural acreage in Minnesota is limited. Farmland is not a renewable resource. It is difficult to understand the reasoning of disrupting and changing this rural area when other rights of way have already been developed. Transmission lines, such as the one's proposed by the Cap X2020 project, would forever disrupt and destroy our rural landscape, and arguably some of the best farm acreage in Minnesota.

I-210-003

Thirdly, we love our home and farm. We are surrounded by fields of corn and soybeans, oak groves, ninety-foot pines and a rolling landscape. We cannot adequately describe how much we appreciate the nature and landscape that surrounds us. The Zumbro River runs close to the fields we farm, wooded acres provide a natural habitat for deer, birds and many other animals. We hike through the woods, walk the fields and play outdoors. Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park is only 8 miles from us. We invite you out to our property to see for yourself what a disruption such a transmission line would be to the aesthetics, rural integrity and way of life for the farmers and residents of Holden Township.

In conclusion, we find it ironic that there is even a proposal to increase transmission lines especially so close to where we live. We, personally, have used less electricity the past few years due to our concerted effort of conservation. Our government agencies have spent a great deal of time and money

I-210-001

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

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

I-210-002

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

I-210-003

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

I-210-004

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

advocating conservation, and its working. More and more Minnesotans are seeing the need for conservation of energy and the last 2 years of consumption have decreased.

I-210-005

We would like to add this for consideration; why is the disruption to all of these prime farmland acres, (the acreage of which is already shrinking in this state) our agricultural heritage and way of life even being considered when agriculture hasn't created the suggested need for more power?

Respectfully submitted,

Doug and Mary Kleese

Holden Township

4667 Co. 30 Blvd

Kenyon, MN 55946

507-789-6313

I-210-005

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:30 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Dear Stephanie,

- I-211-001** | I am a citizen who is concerned about whether or not the CAPX2020 project makes sense. I do not want to see tax dollars used to support this project for the following reasons:
- I-211-002** | **Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers** without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-211-003** | **Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020** ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project
- I-211-004** | The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-211-005** | Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Please consider my families concerns when discussing this project!

Kind Regards,
Caroline, Michael, Inga and Vladimir Lexa

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I-211-002

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

I-211-003

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

I-211-004

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:13 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

From: lonnieandgayle@gmail.com [mailto:lonnieandgayle@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

I-212-001 Taxpayers should not have to finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service which will happen if it's not funded by USDA/RUS & it will also make it more difficult to move forward. Please represent the taxpayers in this matter, and keep our best interest a priority.

Lonnie and Gayle Malwitz

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

From: John & Kari Tonsager [mailto:jktonsager@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 6:00 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: btmurphy@frontiernet.net
Subject: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

Stephanie-

In regards to the proposed line in Dakota and Goodhue County, specifically Sec 32 in Hampton Twp (owned by Bernard Murphy Farms LP) and Sec 26 and 36 Goodhue County, Holden Twp. (same ownership):

Sec 32 in Hampton: The best use for the railroad bed would be the future extension of the rail from Randolph north. The power line would limit this. Also, there is a problem with this line in Sec 29 where line would go across farm with irrigator.

Sec 36 in Holden Twp: In the future we are looking at putting an irrigator on this land. Also, plan to have cow/calf operation.

Any questions, please call Brian Murphy 952.292.3035 or 952.469.1261. We would be in support of the one of the easterly routes.

Brian P. Murphy

I-213-001

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: calnyjo55@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 2:41 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on CAPX2020 Rochester project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Stephanie Strength,

I hope it's not too late for this. The rural coop newsletter said that we had until July 27th to make comments.

My husband and I live at 5009 Viola Road NE, which is just west of County 11 and just south of County 2

We and are opposed to route B46, which will run just west of our property. We have talked to a number of our neighbors and feel that they are opposed to this too. We are opposed because:

1. We feel it is too close to a lot of homes that are currently along this section line.

I-214-001 2. We have heard that a power line of this size this near to homes results in a devaluation of the properties.

I-214-002 3. We have heard that being this close to this large voltage is a concern for both health and for problems in homes, barns and businesses with stray voltage that the property owner then has to deal with.

I-214-005 4. It degrades the country look of the area.

I-214-003 5. It is right next to the new Quest DSL box which was recently installed on our property and we are concerned that this would interfere with the phone and internet services.

I-214-004 We would prefer route B120, as this seems to go behind a lot of the properties in the area and so keeps the line farther away from the homes. Even this route though seems very close to homes.

Otherwise, if this power line is not a problem near homes, then we don't understand why it doesn't go down the B47 route, since this is County 11 and would probably be the easiest road to use to service the line.

Sincerely yours,

Mike and Cathy Nordstrom

I-214-001

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

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

I-214-002

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

I-214-003

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

I-214-004

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

I-214-005

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

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

From: rdo_mn@yahoo.com [mailto:rdo_mn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

Key Concerns:

- I-215-001** 1. There is no need for high voltage lines if we can tap into community based, local sources of electricity.
2. The USDA needs to make a decision about the public interest for the citizens of Minnesota and not just rubber-stamp CapX2020. The power companies are already well represented.
- I-215-002** 3. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-215-003** 4. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-215-004** 4. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-215-005** 5. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.
- I-215-006** 6. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Regards,
Robert Olson
Warsaw Township Tax Payer, Rate Payer, Voter, Hunter
Goodhue County

1

I-215-001

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

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

I-215-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-215-001.

I-215-003

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

I-215-004

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their

electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-215-005

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

I-215-006

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: rozfarm98@acegroup.cc
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 2:51 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Dairyland Power Application, CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength:

I am writing to express concerns about the proposed Application by Dairyland Power for the CapX2020 project.

I did attend several of the meetings held by USDA in the La Crosse area and had the opportunity to speak with you. My concerns are broader than many that I heard in attendance. Many of the rural constituents seemed concerned about the placement of the lines. While those concerns are definitely legitimate, the broader concern at this time should perhaps be about the lack of facts and need, and the timing of the proposed CapX2020 project in light of alternatives in energy production today.

Having read the letter Minnesota Senator Ropes sent to you, I fully agree with what she has said.

I would add my own emphasis to that.

I-216-001 | * The claims made by the power companies are not up-to-date, therefore, USDA/RUS should conduct a new EIS.

* The proposed lines will carry coal-powered energy, with its environmental consequences, rather than green energy centrally developed and used through smart grid technology, as embraced by the current administration.

I-216-002 | * The National Wildlife Refuge and its inhabitants will be irrevocably damaged.

I-216-003 | * Getting lines through to La Crosse will prove to be much more expensive, damaging, and difficult due to the terrain.

I-216-004 | * As a taxpayer in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, I do not want my tax dollars or others tax dollars to finance the CapX2020 project including the La Crosse portion.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and the facts presented by so many people in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rozovics
P.O. BOX 246
La Crescent, MN 55947

I-216-002

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

I-216-003

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

I-216-004

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020

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

From: rozlac@acegroup.cc [mailto:rozlac@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:54 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

With regard to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project, I have read the letter from Sharon Erickson Ropes to you dated July 23, 2009. Please count me among those who are in full agreement with the concerns and requests that Ms. Erickson Ropes has outlined. To that I would add that the future of energy production and consumption in this country is local. It is a future that is already taking root and is gaining momentum every day. Projects that promote continued reliance on centralization of production and/or long distance transmission of electrical power are sadly out of step with new realities and will soon become obsolete.

If CapX202 is allowed to move forward, it will come at an extraordinary yet totally unnecessary cost in both dollars and environmental degradation and the new towers and transmission lines (wherever they are constructed) will stand in lasting, mute testimony to a tragically flawed view of the future that favors the narrow interests of the utility companies over the real needs of consumers. Accordingly, I respectfully request that USDA/RUC refuse to lend its support to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project by choosing a "no-build" option.

Sincerely,

Jim Rozovics
4637 Turkey Valley Lane
La Crescent, MN

I-217-001

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

I-217-002

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Colliris, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: shea.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:51 AM
To: bshea1956@yahoo.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Mr. Shea,

Thank you for providing your feedback and suggestions regarding the routing of the CapX2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse line. Your comments are being provided via this e-mail to the USDA Rural Utilities Service (Stephanie Strength) for inclusion in their federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We do have 3908 Dawn Haven Court NE in our database, but under a different name. I'm wondering if there was a change of ownership since our mailing lists were first compiled. I apologize that you hadn't been getting the mailings. You are now entered into our database for future correspondence. Please do encourage your neighbors to contact us with their information, and we will gladly add them as well. They can provide comments to us at any time, however for comments to be included in the federal EIS, they must be received by tomorrow, July 25. Comments can also be sent directly to Stephanie Strength; her e-mail is included and her phone number is 202-720-0468.

Please let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

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

William Shea 507-288/5690 bshea1956@yahoo.com
3908 Dawn Haven Court Ne
Rochester MN 55906

Key Issues: That there re better alternatives. There are two existing high power lines with right of way both going north from Co Road 9 (Olmsted). The one routed north and south on Co Road 11 is the worst route to take because of the higher density of residential housing. But then is altered to not only cut through a recreational and wildlife sanctuary but also near more residential housing. The other would be north on 50th Ave impacting much less residential housing of which have chose to build near the existing high powerlines recently. From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and Blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th ave Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland. Property: 300 yards to the east on Dawn Haven Ct NE. We moved here for the aesthetic value and

I-218-001

I-218-001

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

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

I-218-003

have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops. Opinion: The proposed Co 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Ave or the 50th Avenue route is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more to build this route, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting the energy. Additional information needed: All of it. A land owner north of us brought it to our attention 14 days after the original deadline. Coincidentally 2 neighbors of ours on Dawn Haven Court Ne who are heirs to the farmland directly to the west and impacted by this project knew nothing about this either. 7/23/2009 8:05:00 PM

I-218-002

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

I-218-003

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

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

From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th Av. Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland.

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

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

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

300 yds. to the east on Dawn Haven Ct. We moved here for the aesthetic value and have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops.

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

The proposed Cor. 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Av. (or 50th Av.) is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting it!

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:41 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader
Attachments: myletter.pdf

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

From: skubes@co.rice.mn.us [mailto:skubes@co.rice.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 9:26 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader

I-220-001

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

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

WHAT IS YOUR IMPACT?

Hello. My name is Sonja Kubes, and we live in Lanesburgh Township in section 14. I want to start by saying that I'm disgusted that this entire CAPX2020 project is even still up for debate. I have yet to meet one single person who is in favor of this ridiculous project. This project has upset the entire foundation in this community. I don't care what route you are on...I'm sorry that the route issue is even up for debate. I am truly hoping that we can win the "big battle" and put an end to the CAPX2020 project all together, but if that is not on the table for debate, then I have to try and win the little battle by telling you a little bit about what my ranch offers the community.

We own and operate Sand Creek Ranch. It is a quarter horse and cattle performance/breeding stable and arena. Our ranch is located on your **alternate** route in LeSueur County on County Road 164 (141st Ave.) outside of New Prague, MN. The power lines may go right down our 12 acre hay field, the only hay field we desperately need to maintain a reasonable life. It will be within close proximity to our farm yard, several metal pole sheds, and our pastures. However, as our business grows, we have plans to build an indoor arena, an additional stall barn for horse/cattle competitors and vendors. A ROW power line taking over half our hay field would greatly impact our livelihoods by preventing us from growing our business. Because of the issue that machinery cannot be safely operated around these lines, we would lose a lot of hay. This hay feeds our livestock.

If we can't operate our machinery safely, we lose money. We will have to spend money to buy a lot of hay; this directly impacts our financial bottom line. Besides the fact that the value of the property would decrease astronomically. This is a livestock ranch, and should remain as one with the numerous nice farm buildings, pastures, and home.

For us to run a successful business we NEED our hay that is harvested from that field. We harvest approximately 3000+ bales of good grass hay from that field every year. We can support our entire herd of cattle and all the performance horses from this field. We do not need to buy any outside hay....which we all know is a very big expense. We will lose this self-sufficiency if we lose any part of our hay field and pasture land.

If the power system goes through our hay field, our business will be grossly

negatively impacted. We will be in peril. We have spent many years growing our business. We expect to spend many more years growing our business. This land is our livelihood and a lifestyle we choose.

We moved here 30 years ago. We moved to LeSueur County, an Agri-County. We moved out of Scott County which was already becoming unfriendly to Agri-Business. LeSueur County is still, and will continue for many years to be, primarily an Agri-County. All around us are families with both small and large-sized Agri interests. There are numerous horse entities, dairy farms, and crop farmers.

The impact on our ranch, livestock and family is devastating to the success of our business and the health of our family and animals. We average between 20-30 horses and 20-30 head of cattle on the ranch. Training, boarding and breeding horses plus sponsoring rodeos, cutting and team roping jackpots are our livelihood, as well as our lifestyle. We have three children who are growing up with horses and the wonderful ranching lifestyle that includes family and friends.

We are active supporters of LeSueur County 4-H and MN High School Rodeo by providing numerous youth training clinics and lessons for their benefit. We do NOT want to lose this way of life for them or us. If the power line goes through our property, we will not be able to keep things as they are for them, the youth, or our customers.

Surrounding the farm yard, there are 25+ acres of cattle/horse pastures that are enclosed with 4-strand hot wire fencing with mostly steel fence posts, pastures surrounded by pipe fencing, and metal gates, besides the numerous automatic waterers. If waterers are subject to any type of electro magnetic field or stray voltage, the livestock will not drink because of their high sensitivity to electric currents. Horses and cattle MUST have constant water to survive because without water availability, they will not eat. The ground on the ranch is a high mix of peat with some clay. Peat ground holds more moisture (hence high hay production we have), but will also be a conduit for the electro magnetic field from the power lines.

This is unacceptable for maintaining a livestock ranch.

If we need to replace the 25+ acres of hot wire and steel pipe fencing, the cost

is prohibitive. And, how do we water this much livestock every day with a sufficient amount of water?? We would be forced to stop using the automatic metal waterers and use rubber tubs with no way to transport the water to these tubs that the livestock requires on a daily basis. What do we do in the winter to keep the tubs from freezing?? Will we have to spread miles of extension cords to power these tank heaters hoping that there is no electric feed-back from the power lines...and don't forget the astronomical electric bill costs.

In closing, we are asking your company to please, please hear our concerns and objections to placing the power lines in our neighborhood; the work and planning was done for good reason for the primary route. We are NOT your primary route for business economical reasons; the extreme added costs to run the power lines on the alternate route is not good business for you, or us. Those high added costs will, we're sure, be passed on to taxpayers who are already financially stressed in these horrible economical times.

Please, preserve our ranch for our children, the youth in our community and our agri-business lifestyle.

Please say "NO" to Capx2020!

Sincerely,

Sonja Kubes
Skubcs@rice.co.mn.us
Sanderkranch@bevcomm.net
952-758-2099

Kessler, Ellen

From: w2938f-msg11@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on public Scoping meeting: Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse

I attended the Meeting June 18, 2009 at St. Charles Mn.

As per the Comment form:

Issues considered important:

- Visual, Proximity to residences, Land use, Radio-TV interference
- Project need
- Health and safety
 - I have recently seen an article from Europe proving the effects on cattle. The cattle and deer oriented per the power line and not according to normal earth magnetic field.

Key issues that should be addressed as impacts of project.

- I-221-001** | - The effect of construction and the use of heavy equipment is an ongoing effect for a number (probably 5) years. One of the issues is ground subsoil compaction affecting plant growth.
- I-221-002** | - The route should be along already established corridors for public facilities. The state guidelines establish this as a goal.
 - Access is already established and minimum impact is made on the community.
 - Minimum disturbance is made to land and peoples property
 - Property valuations already reflect this intrusion

Property owned in proposed corridor:

- Agricultural, Residential

Special uses or circumstances on property that should be considered.

- The proposed corridor runs on top of the highest ground in area.
 - This is prime positioning for future wind turbines. The line takes the only route that would be viable for turbines on this property. On adjoining property it would reduce the number of turbines for future use.

Project description, purpose, and need.

- I-221-003** | - The claimed need was described, however
 - I learned from an outside source that recent electric use data was not used in the proposal. The recent data apparently does not support the need due to a drop in electric use.
 - Recent articles in IEEE (professional society) indicate that that there may be ways to maximize the use of existing transmission lines. This may make the need of the line a question.

Wayne Theel
7943 Collegeview Rd E

I-221-001

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

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

I-221-002

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

I-221-003

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

Eyota, Mn 55934

Kessler, Ellen

From: Duane Tiede [dctiede@ameritech.net]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on Proposed CapX 2020 345 kva Power Line
Attachments: CapX2020 Comment Form Duane Tiede.pdf

Stephanie,

Attached are my comments on the proposed 345kva power transmission line from Hampton Minnesota to La Crosse, Wisconsin. I have received general information on this project for the past several years but very recent information with the latest proposed routing directly impacts my farm as the proposed line runs adjacent to my house, garage, machine shed and farm drive and is the only alternative route shown for the 2.5 miles.

Please consider the attached comments in your environmental review. I will mail a hard copy also.

Thank you for your consideration.

Duane Tiede
(630) 640-8212
dctiede@ameritech.net<<mailto:dctiede@ameritech.net>>

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

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

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

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

Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line
crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

I-222-001

My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.

The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.

I-222-002

Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.

I-222-003

There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems

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

I-222-004

The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.

The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-222-001

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

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

I-222-002

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

I-222-003

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

I-222-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and

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

I-222-005
I-222-006

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 6s521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

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

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

livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-222-005

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

I-222-006

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

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments by the following means:

- Leave this form at the public meeting.
- Mail the form or a letter to the address below.
- Submit comments electronically at www.capx2020.com/Projects/project_tc-roch-lac.html

Please mail this form or electronically submit your comments by June 29, 2009.

FOLD HERE



**1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

**Stephanie A. Strength
1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

Kessler, Ellen

From: Jessica Trost [jessica_trost@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 10:43 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Hamp-Roch-Lac 345kV Project Public Scoping Comment Form
Attachments: USDA Comment Form.docx

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have taken the time to answer the questions on the public scoping comment form for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. I have included my answers to the questions in this email and also attached a Word document containing my answers.

Thank you for considering the public comments. This is an issue that will affect many Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Trost

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

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

x Project Purpose and Need:

o The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.

x Visual/Aesthetic resources:

o Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.

x Proximity to residences

x Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

o These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.

x Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

x Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

o Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!

x Historic and cultural sites

- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ Other: property values

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

I-224-005 | This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

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

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

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

I-224-001 | Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting-another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

I-224-001

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

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

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

I-224-002

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

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

I-224-003

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

I-224-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

I-224-002

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

I-224-003

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

I-224-004

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

I-224-005

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

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

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

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need:
 - The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- ☒ Visual/Aesthetic resources:
 - Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
 - These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
 - Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
 - And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
 - EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ **Other:** property values

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

This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more *green* by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

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

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

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

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting—another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

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

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

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

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

From: linda@archdirect.com [mailto:linda@archdirect.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:49 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Rm. #2244
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength,
As a landowner in Eureka Township, inheriting land from Norwegian immigrant ancestors, I am deeply concerned about preservation of environment passed on to me. Our parcel is presently rented to organic farmers and is becoming very productive. We are near a lake which is habitat for many endangered species and many more not endangered.

I-225-001

I have followed with interest the effort of many neighbors to halt the project to build a high voltage power line close to our land and participated to a limited extent. I feel that the effort to stop this project is in the best interest of our land, which is close to the Twin Cities and provides food for the area, clean air, and recreational and many other uses which could be harmed by the construction of high voltage lines which incidentally do not seem to be really needed if local generation, local transmission and conservation practices are employed.

Thank you for your consideration and careful attention to my concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Turpening
I urge you to examine this project very closely and

I-225-001

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: vaughn.gail@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: jeremychipps@gmail.com
Subject: no to CAPX2020 please

To: Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

Dear Ms Strength,

I am hoping you will be willing to refuse to allow the CAPX2020 project to get taxpayer-funded money in order to move forward.

This project is just a dinosaur waiting to inflict as much damage as it can in its waning days, to support an energy solution that is headed in an obsolete direction.

While the 'need' for this huge outlay of money, in order to build enormous new transmission systems, has not been proven, what HAS been proven is that it will harm our beautiful land and wildlife even more. And it is also a guarantee that those moneys, if used for this project, will not be used instead on new alternative sources of renewable energy, and energy conservation.

It would just be so great if someone exercised some common sense and said 'NO', this is not a good use of anyone's enormous amounts of money.

I am hoping your organization will say NO.
Thank you very much.

Gail Vaughn
61033 County Road C
Ferryville WI 54628

(right next to that beautiful Mississippi river, and just down the road from Dairyland Power)

I-226-001

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

I-226-001

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 12:43 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 power transmission line

From: charles.weerts@gmail.com [mailto:charles.weerts@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 power transmission line

Ms Strength,

This email is in reference to the CAPX2020 power line proposed to run through our area. We live in Rice Co. at the Sky harbor airpark (airport) near Webster, MN. There is a proposed alternate route to run this huge transmission line very near the airport which is a serious hazard to aircraft landing and taking off at the airport. Please help to keep this transmission line from becoming a hazard to pilots using the airport.

Charles & Delrae Weerts
4419 Canton Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-227-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020 project

From: t7n28@acegroup.cc [mailto:t7n28@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:21 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020 project

To Stephanie Strengthth:

I-228-006 | This e-mail is in concern to the proposed capx2020 project. We find it quite disturbing to hear that capx2020 is asking the usda to help contribute some 47 million to this project. If this is a project brought on by a group of utilities, why is it the taxpayers responsibility to fund the project. Then we can pay twice. Once through our taxes and then monthly with our increased electric bill. This seems absolutely WRONG.

Why is this project being pushed to move along so quickly? We read daily on how people have been coming up with better ideas on how to conserve and produce power in smarter ways. Lets check this out before we begin destroying our landscape with power lines running all across our country. To run massive power lines from out west to our cities to the east seems like old technology. Coal is a polluting source of power and wind energy seems more of a wishfull idea that still has endless holes in it. Maybe these e-mails are falling on deaf ears and our federal government already has plans to control the utilities of our country. They have already moved into the auto industry, finance industry, airline industry and now are working on the health industry. Hopefully we are somewhat still the democratic country we fought to become years ago. We hope these e-mails and letters are being read and some our thoughts are being heard.

I-228-007 | We need to consult with experts who don't share an interest in this capx project. The need or this project seems to be driven by the utilities themselves. I guess I can understand that a dairy farmer would not tell anyone NOT to drink milk, being that is what produces his income. Electrical utilities have to operate with the same mind set. To get these lines in place would definitely keep these companies operating and generating large amounts of profit for years to come.

I-228-001 | Why are we not exploring the different ideas that are out there, and not directly tied in with the utility companies? We have how many dams along the rivers to look at. What about the ideas of smart energy they are working on in Colorado? How about the biomass idea that many larger industries and some hospitals are looking at? What I am trying to say is lets not just jump onto this capx idea, when we have so many other options to explore yet. We thought the LaFarge dam project was such a great idea in the 1960's. After millions of dollars and countless families being evicted, the land sit idle for the wildlife. What a waste. Obviously with a little more time and effort spent on that project, we wouldn't of wasted millions of dollars and located many many families for nothing.

I-228-002 | We live in the rural LaCrescent area in which the lines are prosed to possibly pass through. So if we REALLY do need these lines, then **location is another issue.** Recent and future data do not even support the need for this project in the LaCrosse area.

I-228-003 | The proposed line through the LaCrescent area appears quite ridiculas. The lines run along the back of the city across the ridge which will be viewed by everyone below in the city, not to mention the

I-228-001

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

I-228-002

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

I-228-003

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: weibergc@visi.com
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2009 4:00 PM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us
Cc: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 - Aviation Hazard - 1MN8

Dear Mr. Ek,
I am a pilot and resident of Sky Harbor (1MN8) with a significant safety concern over the CapX2020 project.

Our airport serves over 70 aircraft based at the field. We also have significant traffic from guests and/or visitors for local events. Our airport also serves as an emergency landing field 24 hours a day, as it is lighted. All traffic to and from 1MN8 would encounter transmission lines 1/2 mile from the runway end. This presents a serious navigational hazard during take-offs and landings, and would exist within our designated emergency landing area. The risk of collision and loss of life resulting from the CapX2020 transmission line near Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) must be taken into serious consideration. The lines cannot safely coexist near any airport. There will be accidents resulting from the height and proximity.

Please accept my comments regarding this projects, and I would encourage you to contact me to discuss the matter in detail.

Sincerely,
Carl F. Weiberg
4370 Canton CT
Webster, MN 55088

phone: 952-652-6123

I-229-001

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

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

4322 Chester Ct.
Webster, Mn. 55088
July 17, 2009

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Spec.
USDA Rural Utilities Sv.
Engineering & Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Av., SW. Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

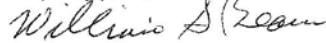
RE: CapX2020 transmission lines relocation proposal

The proposed relocation of CapX2020 transmission lines to 50th St., Webster, Mn. will create a serious problem in air navigation for resident pilots at Sky Harbor Airpark and other fliers such as the National Guard C130s and emergency aircraft. The 50th St. relocation would place the tall transmission lines in the airport traffic pattern—1/2 mile from the end of the runway. This would become a dangerous situation that must be avoided.

Sky Harbor Airpark has been in existence many years and consists of 51 properties all on, or adjacent by taxiway to, a 2800 ft. runway. It is a community of people interested in flying. The transmission lines would be a hazard and seriously interrupt flying activities jeopardizing the purpose of this unique airport community.

The transmission lines should not be constructed along 50th St.

Very truly yours,


William S. Beam

I-230-001

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

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

7/19/2009

Ms. Stephanie Streight

Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff

RE: CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have enclosed another copy of a letter I send to Scott Ek, at the Minnesota Office of Energy. If my information is correct there is to be a EIS from Hampton to LaCrosse, Wisc., but not from Brookings to Hampton. This does not make sense to me, why not a Environmental Impact Study on the entire line? Is the Brookings to Hampton less important than the Hampton to LaCrosse. It seems like they are changing routes and adding alternates every week, the more people evolved the more complicated it is becoming, actually I feel the whole project is becoming a real fiasco. I would appreciate any up to date information as to if the whole project is going to have a EIS.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle
3850 W. 50th Street
Webster, Mn. 55088
952-652-4041

I-231-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is will be available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication. The Brookings County-Hampton 345-kV Project will not be discussed in the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project DEIS.

The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Information on all of the CapX2020 projects is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

I-231-001

July 19, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Mn. 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

RE: CAPX 2020-Scoping decision PUC no. ET2/TL-08-1474 A-RIC-003 (Sirek)

Since my last letter to you I had the opportunity to fly over the proposed 50th street new alternate route being considered. I was amazed at the number of farms and residents that have livestock on the 50th street west route. Starting with 50th street west at Elmore there is the Larson dairy farm, directly east is the Coffing organic dairy farm. At 50th street west and city rd 5 is the Horejsi livestock farm, directly east is the Herman horse farm (the Clary Lake Veterinarian Equine rehabilitating horse farm) the Balfany residence horse farm, the Dupay cattle farm, the Hennek livestock farm, the Jones cattle farm, and last the Joe Simon Rodeo horse and bull breeding farm. I can certainly see why all these people are outraged that 50th street should be considered over 57th street which I found not to contain much livestock (mostly hay farmers) if any. I would hope not, but some residents feel that maybe having a couple of (ATF) members living in the 57th street area could have a effect on this proposal. I would be remised if I didn't add into the equation the air park of which the run way ends very close to 50th street west. I do appreciate your time bringing this information to your attention. I will be looking forward to seeing you again sometime in October.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle

3850 W. 50th Street

Webster, Mn. 55088

952-652-4041

cc: Stephanie Strength

In addition, the ATF will include:

- Five private citizens, who live, work, or own property on or near the proposed project

The ATF will comprise no more than 20 members.

The OES charges the advisory task force as follows:

1. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying impacts and issues in the area of concern that should be evaluated in the EIS.
2. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in Dakota, Rice, and Scott counties that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project in the area of concern.

ATF members are expected to participate with OES staff in up to three meetings and to assist staff with the development of a summary of the task force's work including their preferences, or recommendations, if any. Meetings will be facilitated by OES staff or a facilitator engaged by OES staff.

The Lake Marion to Hampton ATF will expire upon issuance of the EIS scoping decision. ?

OES EFP staff is directed to appoint, as appropriate, members of the ATF and to begin work on the above-noted charge.

Signed this 6th day of March, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY


William Glahn, Director

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

I-232-003

I-232-001

I do not think that there is a clear
need for these lines. ARE these lines
serving our AREA? Why can't the
existing lines be updated and used?
Why start new corridors of lines

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: M. Coughlan

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 220

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

I-232-001

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

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

I-232-002

These lines will pass over land that has organic farms. There will be spraying to maintain the lines - that will destroy the land as organic farms.

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

I-232-004

Why have the lines cross over the Mississippi River and then back over it again? Is it necessary to disturb the River with such lines in two different places? It seems that it would be more expensive to build & maintain lines over- through the river. What about the long term care/ cost of lines over the River?

I-232-002

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

I-232-003

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

I-232-004

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

July 16, 2009

Roger and Melinda Holtegaard
Blue Horizon Dairy Farm
1329 75th St. N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Re: CapX2020 High Voltage Power Lines Affecting Dairy Farms

We are one of the many dairy families that are extremely concerned about your proposed power lines and the devastating affect they will have on our family, employees and animals.

We have an extensive history on this family farm. We were chosen by the University of MN as "Farm Family of the Year" as well as hosting "Breakfast on the Farm" for our community. My two oldest daughters have represented Olmsted County and the dairy industry as Dairy Princesses. We are very involved in 4-H and our community. We have 5 children, who have lived and worked on our farm. After graduating from NBSU in Environmental Resource Management, our son, Nathan, returned to farm with his dad. Courtney is an oncology nurse (and will begin graduate school this fall as a cancer specialist in nursing) and Portia just graduated with her biology degree (and is currently working on the farm while waiting for future graduate schooling). Annabelle and Marjorie are in high school and work on our farm daily as well.

I-233-003

Now we are told that decisions have been made that will affect our future, our health and our animals. We are concerned that decisions are being made to come through areas where we live and work 24 hours a day. Would you live and work under such conditions? Would you expose your children to such conditions? Your current decision to disregard the health and well-being of an American family farm and people is disturbing. Who will be accountable for the negative financial, health, emotional and physical impact this decision will have on our business?

I-233-001

Please use common sense and use the route where there are no family dairy operations. Roger Stathes and his mother purchased this original farm after he served his time in World War 2. We have continued to live, work and expand this farm, please reconsider your hazardous decision. With all of the struggles currently facing the American Family Dairy Farmer, you should be able to do better for the backbone of this nation! As an elementary school teacher, I encourage my students to be involved and have a say. Let us have a say in such vital matters.

I-233-004

Sincerely,

Roger, Melinda, Courtney, Nathan, Portia, Annabelle and Marjorie Holtegaard

CC: Strength, Hillstrom/Xcel Energy, Thompson Dairyland Power, Amy Klobuchar, Andy Weid, Dept. of Agriculture, State of MN Pollution Control, President Obama, AT Franken

I-233-001

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

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

I-233-002

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

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

I-233-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-233-001 and I-233-002.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN & Centerville, WI

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

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: effects on livestock; danger of proximity to steel livestock buildings

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

I-234-001

Keep poles and wires in right-of-ways along roads and highways not through farm fields. Do through non-cropped land instead of farm land.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-234-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

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

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

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: wood lands

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

I-234-002

My land is almost entirely tillable. I
do not want poles or lines going through
this prime ground.

My farm is located near the intersection of
I-90 and HWY 76 - Waseo and Pleasant
Hill townships, Winona County, MN.

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

My crop land, because its valuable, expensive
productive open land.

I-234-002

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

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

I-234-003

It was all adequately explained, but I'm not buying it all, especially the need for the project. There is also reactions from people East of here that states they don't want this kind of power. They feel before 2020 very green alternatives can be in place.

I-234-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Vincent G. Kitching

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 29500 Kassica Road

City: Winona State: MN 55987-6270 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-452-2470

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

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

I-234-003

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

I-234-004

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jonathan Kroening

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 5595 Viola Rd NE

State: MN

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

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

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

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

We don't want the B119 proposed site going through our yard. If a new line needs to be ran why isn't the B415 site being utilized.

I-235-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

July 15th, 2009

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

Dear Sirs –

This letter is being written in objection to the proposed reroute / or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. As it understood, the reroute of the CapX2020 Brooking to Hampton line will bring the 200 foot towers within 1/2 mile barrier of Sky Harbor Airpark (TMN8) located in Webster MN. This private/public airport houses over 70 registered aircraft and operates as one of Minnesota largest in terms of aircraft on field aircraft.

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

Additionally, it should be noted that per both FAA and Minnesota Regulations, any such development within a the navigable airspace as presented in Federal Aviation Regulations, 14 CFR Part 77 would and does require federal review and review of the existing state and local airspace regulations. As listed in FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5190-4A, Model Zoning Ordinance to Limit Height of Objects Around Airports I believe that the proposed alternate rerouting has not addressed these critical safety issues to navigable airspace around TMN8, Minnesota Sky Harbor Airport.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Richard & Julie Klepperich

Sky Harbor Airpark
Webster, MN 55088

I-236-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Cochrane Fountain City School

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

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

I-237-001

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

I-237-002

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

I-237-003

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-237-001

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

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

I-237-002

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

I-237-003

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

I-237-004

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

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

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Recreation

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

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

S17 T21N R12W SE 1/4 quarter

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

I-237-004

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Joan Auerbeck

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 52073 Co. Rd. N

City: Alma State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-248-2754

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

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

⊖ 819 Route
⊕ 845-46 Route

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 28~~ July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

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

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

☒ Project Purpose and Need

Visual / Aesthetic resources

Proximity to residences

Use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

Wetlands (floodplains, river crossings)

Wildlife resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

Historic and cultural sites

Radio or television interference

Noise

☒ Health and safety

☐ Other: _____

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

(as above)

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Kessler, Ellen

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

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

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

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

I-223-001

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

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

I-223-002

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

I-238-001

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

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

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

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

I-238-001

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

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

Historic ar

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

July 3, 2009

RE: CapX 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

I-239-001

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

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

I-239-002

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

I-239-001
I-239-004

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

I-239-007
I-239-008

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

I-239-009
I-239-010

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

I-239-003

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

Sincerely,

Gary & Annette Peters

Gary Peters *Annette Peters*

I-239-003

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

I-239-004

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

I-239-005

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

I-239-006

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

I-239-007

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

I-239-008

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

I-239-009

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

I-239-010

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

I-239-011

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 29~~ ^{July 23}, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

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

I-240-002

Aesthetic is the most sensitive resource

I-240-001

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

I-240-001

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

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

I-240-002

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

I-240-003

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

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

I-240-004

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Michael Batzler

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 1898 Conestoga Ct

City: Richfield State: WI Zip Code: 53076

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

I-240-004

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

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

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-241-001

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

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

I-241-002

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

I-241-003

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: JoAnn Dubbels

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 5831 51st St NE

City: Rochester

State: MN

Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-282-2991

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

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

I-241-003

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

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Cap & 2020 Galesville in June, 2008 meetings by
LaCrosse Clean Energy Coalition, local concerned citizen meetings in Galesville, WI

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

☒ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☒ Historic and cultural sites

☐ Radio or television interference

☐ Noise

☒ Health and safety

I-242-001 ☒ Other: Decentralization of energy production

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-242-001

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

I-242-002

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

I-242-003

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I-242-003

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

I-242-004 No. In fact, it's unclear to this day where the lines
I-242-005 are actually going to be installed, or whether wind energy
will be accessed with this project. I've also been told
it's a "done deal" with permission from Wisconsin to move
forward with this project. If that's so what's the purpose
I-242-006 of this comment form? I want accurate detailed
information on the final corridor choice and an
opportunity for public input on it. Or is it the strategy of
the organizers to divide the public, so they can conquer, so to
speak?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

I-242-004

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

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

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

I-242-005

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

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

I-242-006

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

4372 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088
July 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ek:

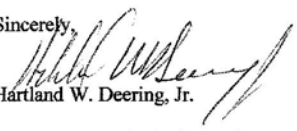
As a resident of Sky Harbor Airpark, I am writing to officially object to the proposed reroute or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. I understand the reroute of the CAPX2020 Brooking to Hampton line may bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile of the Sky Harbor Airpark (IMN8) located in Webster, Minnesota.

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Hartland W. Deering, Jr.

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

I-243-001

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

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

4372 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088
July 22, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ek:

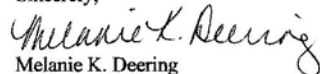
As a resident of Sky Harbor Airpark, I am writing to officially object to the proposed reroute or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. I understand the reroute of the CAPX2020 Brookings to Hampton line may bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile of the Sky Harbor Airpark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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Melanie K. Deering

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

I-244-001

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

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

personal care from lawyers who care

July 20, 2009

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



Attorneys

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

Anne M. Dennison**
Associate

Michael D. Klampe
[1947-2001]

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

Dear Ms. Strength:

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

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

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

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

LAW OFFICES OF **KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC**

Broadstreet Building | 300 First Avenue NW | Rochester, MN 55901 | 507 288 2447 | fax 507 288 4412 | 800 972 2447 | www.klampelawfirm.com

*Also licensed in Wisconsin

**Also licensed in Iowa

I-245-001

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

Stephanie Strength
July 20, 2009
Page 2

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

I-245-002

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

Respectfully submitted,

KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC



Mark W. Delehanty

MWD/je
Enclosures

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

Misc/kroening/strengthlr

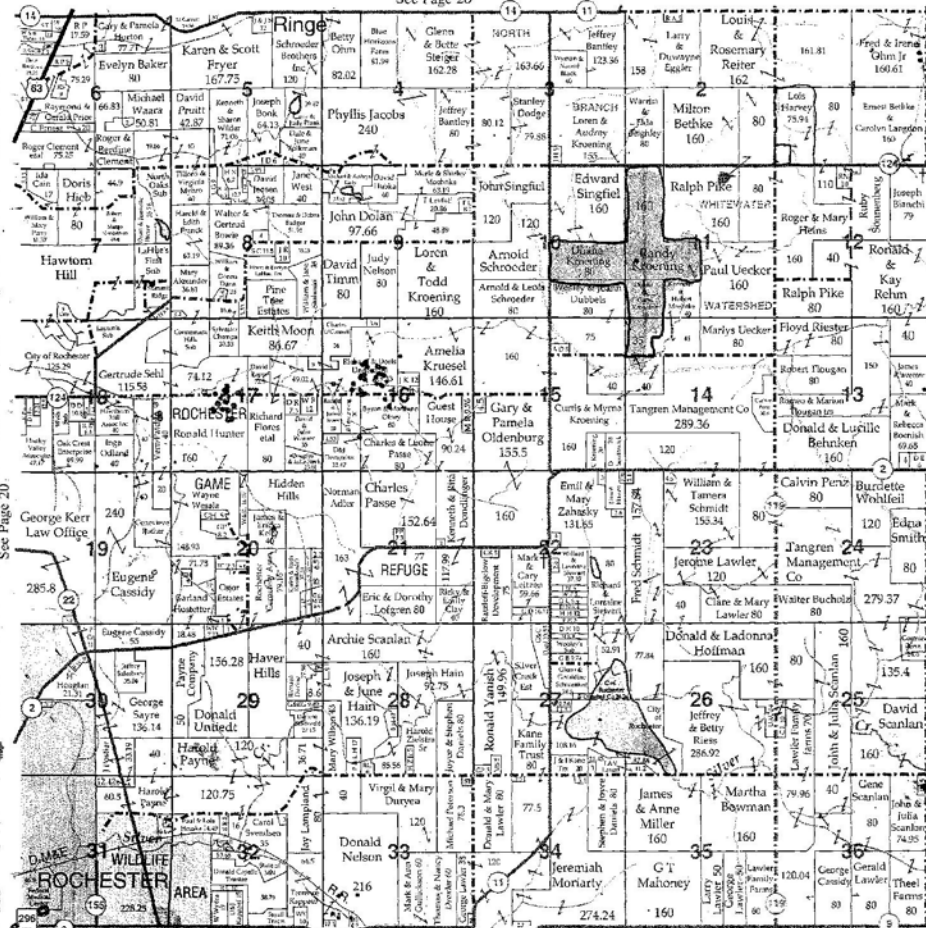
I-245-002

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

HAVERHILL TOWNSHIP

T.107N. - R.13W.

See Page 26



See Page 16



ROOT RIVER
State Bank

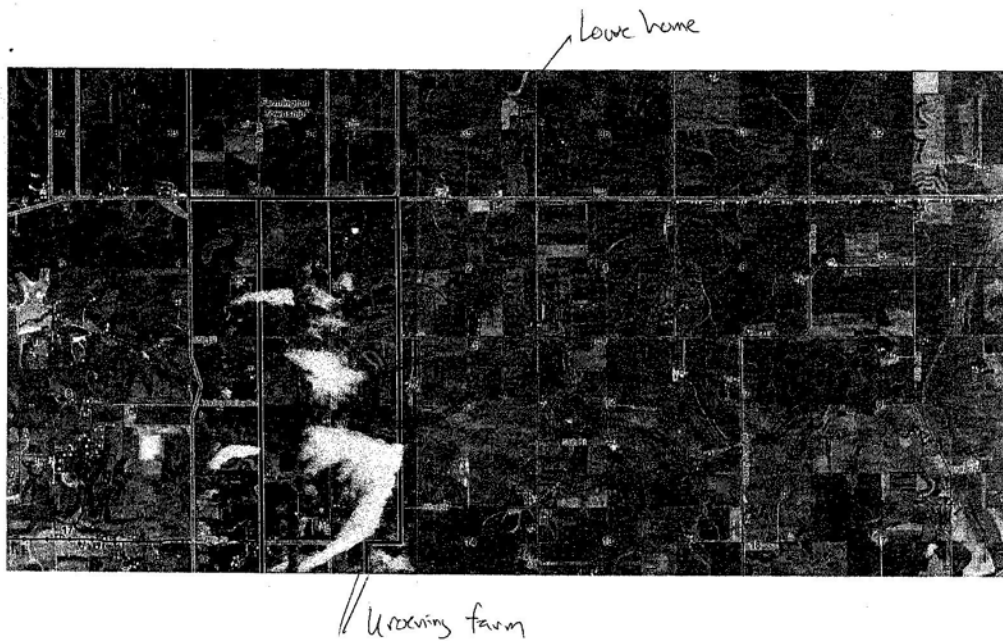
Established 1836 • The Oldest State Chartered Bank in Minnesota

CHATFIELD, MINNESOTA 55923

(507) 867-4120

FAX (507) 867-3940

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



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? JUNE 25, 2009 COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY
HIGH SCHOOL

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-246-001

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☒ Commercial ☒ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

PROPERTY LOCATION: T20N R12W SECTION 25 E36

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

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

I-246-001

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

YES it was adequate!

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: LESLIE J. HANEY & LORRAINE A. HANEY

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 52966 ST. HWY 35

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

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

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

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

CapX2020 COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

Delivering electricity you can rely on

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Unable

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

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project

I-247-001

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

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

I-247-001

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

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

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

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

Our farmland is zoned exclusive ag II. A second line has the following problems.
1- additional obstacles to farm around. Requires more time to farm around, more overlaps and constant fear of hitting poles and potential uprisings + cost.
2- Greater restriction to aerial applications of chemicals which is becoming more common.
3- Potential subtraction on farmland zoned to remain farmland.

Property in Town of Gale Sec. 36 T19N R8W
 In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Prime farmland - because it's my livelihood.

I-247-002

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

I-247-003

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

I-247-004

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project

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

I did not attend but did read the material.

I-247-005

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

I-247-006

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

I-247-005

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

I-247-006

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jonathan Kroening

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 5595 Viola Rd NE

State: MN

State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

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

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

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

We don't want the B119 proposed site going through our yard. If a new line needs to be ran why isn't the B415 site being utilized.

I-248-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The page contains faint horizontal lines, suggesting it was part of a lined notebook or document.)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representing (Optional): ~~4/6~~

City: KENYON State: MN Zip Code: 55946

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

July 22, 2009

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

I QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020

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

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

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

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

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:

Why do we need additional transmission lines?

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

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

—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and La Crosse, Wis.

WHY THE NEW LINE?

I-249-001

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

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

I-249-001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I-249-002

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

I-249-003

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

I-249-004

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

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

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

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

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

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



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

I-249-005

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

I-249-006

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

I-249-007

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

I-249-008

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

I-249-009

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

I-249-010

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

I-249-011

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

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

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

I-250-001

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

I-250-001

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

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

20202+0321

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____



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

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

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

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

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

507 - 4354 -3800

tmauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

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

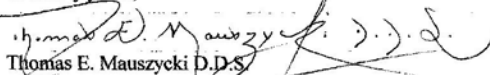
To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

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

Negative Impacts include:

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

Sincerely yours,


Thomas E. Mauszycki D.D.S.

I-250-002

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

I-250-003

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

I-250-004

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

Mr. Scott Ek

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

July 15th, 2009

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

Dear Sirs –

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

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted



Sky Harbor Airport
Webster, MN 55088

I-251-001

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

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

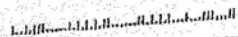
Tom Johnson
4219 Cass Ave
Webster, MN 55088

SAINT PAUL MN 550
21 JUL 2009 PM 2 L



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

20250-1571



Mr. Scott EK

Subject: CAPX 2020

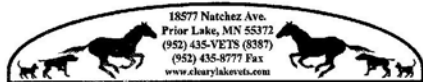
I am a Dairy Farmer on your Alternate Route for this new power line. My Son and I farm 500+ Acres and milk 120 Cows & ~~the~~ the Bams and Dairy Cows are located North of the proposed 57th St route, almost 1/2 mile, in Webster Township. This route was bad enough but now I understand the route is changed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

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

I-252-001

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

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



Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital

July 21, 2009

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

Re: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Ott, D.V.M.

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

I-253-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sent from my iphone

Begin forwarded message:

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

Do you have this info?

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

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

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

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

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

Cristeen Custer

I-254-001

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

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

Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Winona State University

507.457.2569

www.winona.edu

Kessler, Ellen

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

Sent from my iphone

Begin forwarded message:

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

Dean,

I-255-001

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

Dawn

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

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

Dawn, Stephanie,

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

(Embedded image moved to file: pic17495.jpg)

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

I-255-001

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Regnier,

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

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

Thanks again.

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

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

To: Tom Hillstrom (Project lead),

I-255-001

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

Thanks....

Dean Regnier

Kessler, Ellen

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

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

Dear Mr. Heimbecker,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I-257-002
I-257-001

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

I-257-001

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

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

I-257-002

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

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

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

www.capx2020.com

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

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): the Basics

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

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

What are electric and magnetic fields?

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

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

Studies on EMF and possible health effects focus on magnetic

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

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

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

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

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

Typical 60 Hz magnetic field levels from some common home appliances

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

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

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

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

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

What are 'typical' residential exposures to magnetic fields?

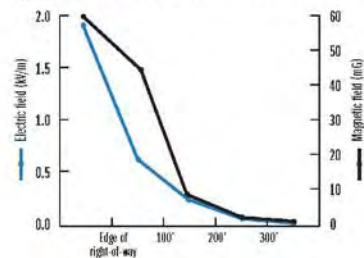
Exposure levels vary from individual to individual and from home to home, but a study by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) puts the background levels of magnetic fields in the typical U.S. home at between 0.5 mG and 4 mG with an average of 0.9 mG. Levels rise the closer you get to the source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

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

What EMF levels are found near transmission lines?

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

Typical EMF levels for a 230-kV transmission line



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

Do underground lines reduce EMF emissions?

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

Are there state or federal standards for EMF exposure?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do EMF emissions affect my health?

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

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

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

*The entire 2002 report is available at <http://www.capx2020.com/documents.html>.

Does EMF interfere with pacemakers or other medical devices?

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

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

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

How can I reduce my exposure to EMF?

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

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

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

Sources and useful links

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

- *EMF: Electric and Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, Questions and Answers*, June 2002, prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS), National Institute of Health, www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/booklet/emf2002.pdf. This booklet also includes an extensive list of references on a variety of EMF topics.
- "A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options," prepared by the Minnesota Interagency Working Group on EMF Issues. www.capx2020.com/documents.html
- *Electric and Magnetic Fields: Facts*, Western Area Power Administration, www.wapa.gov/newsroom/pdf/EMFbook.pdf.
- "Electromagnetic fields: Typical exposure levels at home and in the environment," World Health Organization Fact Sheet, www.who.int/peh-emf/about/whatsEMF/en/index.html. More general information on EMF can be found at www.who.int/emf.
- NIEHS/Department of Energy EMFRAPID program toll-free public information number to answer EMF-related questions: 800-363-2383.

Contacts

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

Project Development Manager: Xcel Energy

Pam Rasmussen - Routing Lead

Xcel Energy

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800-238-7968

lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

Chuck Thompson

Dairyland Power Cooperative

P.O. Box 9437

Minneapolis, MN 55440-9437

608-787-1432

lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com

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

Project Development Manager: Xcel Energy

Darrin Lahr - Routing Lead

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Minneapolis, MN 55440-9451

866-876-2869

fargoinfo@capx2020.com

Jim Musso - Manager, Siting and Land Rights

P.O. Box 9451

Minneapolis, MN 55440-9451

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fargoinfo@capx2020.com

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

Project Development Manager: Great River Energy

Craig Poorker - Routing Lead

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brookingsinfo@capx2020.com

Randy Fordice -

Communications Coordinator

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Elk River, MN 55330-0238

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Bemidji-Grand Rapids (230-kV)

Project Development Manager: Otter Tail Power Company

Bob Lindholm - Routing Lead

Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Project

P.O. Box 1735

Bemidji, MN 56619-1735

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bemidjiinfo@capx2020.com

Cindy Kuismi - Communications Specialist

Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Project

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8-30-2007

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

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

Understanding Easements and Rights-of-Way

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

What is an easement?

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

What is a right-of-way?

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

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

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

How long does an easement last?

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

How are landowners paid for an easement?

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

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

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

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

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

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

What activities are allowed within the easement area?

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

Why are there restrictions on the land?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11-06-2007

INVITATION TO PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



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

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

June 16

6 - 8 p.m.,
Plainview Elgin-Millville High
School Cafeteria
500 West Broadway
Plainview, MN 55964

June 17

6 - 8 p.m.,
Wanamingo Community Center
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN 55983

June 18

6 - 8 p.m.,
City of St. Charles
Community Meeting Room
830 Whitewater Avenue
St. Charles, MN 55972

June 23

6 - 8 p.m.,
La Crescent American Legion
509 North Chestnut
La Crescent, MN 55947

June 24

6 - 8 p.m.,
Centerville/Town of Trempealeau
Community Center
W24854 State Road 54/93
Galesville, WI 54630

June 25

6 - 8 p.m.,
Cochrane-Fountain City High School
S2770 State Road 35
Fountain City, WI 54629

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

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

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

PROPOSAL

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

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

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

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY & REQUESTS

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

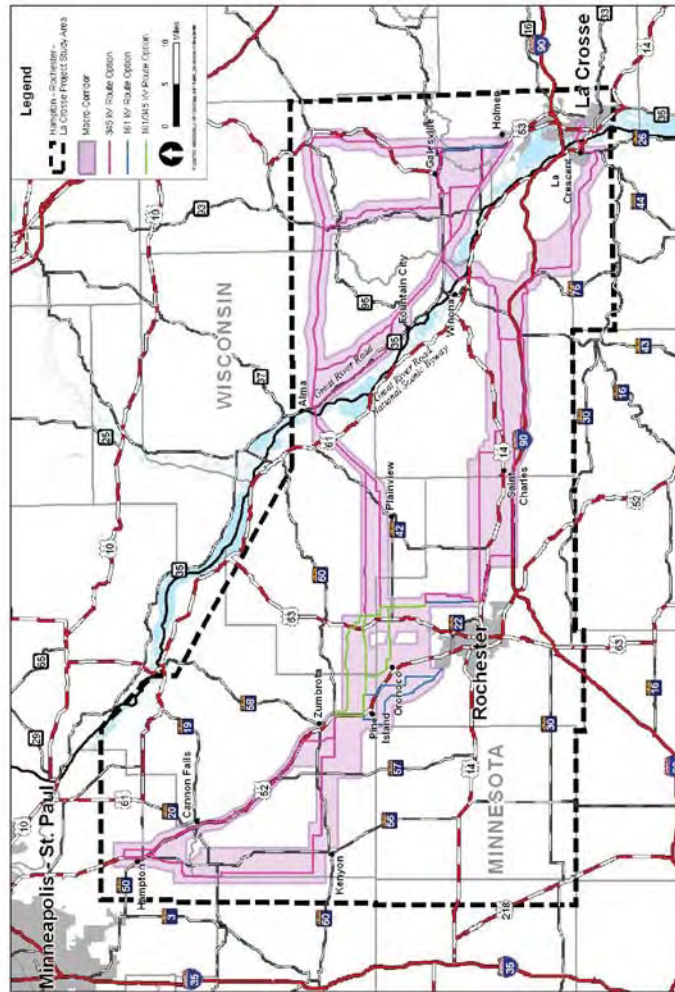
For more information, please contact:

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

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



Detailed project map on back.



Kessler, Ellen

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your letter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

1

SCOTT EK

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

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

I-258-001 | There are many reasons I don't want the huge dangerous power line polls. My first reason is because the radio
I-258-004 | active waves coming off of these polls can be very dangerous, they can cause many health and environmental
I-258-002 | issues. I don't want my children when I am older to have cansor or some mental,or physical issues also don't
I-258-003 | want the polls because it will pollute the air, my family moved out here for many reasons, one of the reasons is
to get away from the polluted air. I noticed that the are a lot of farms around us the polls can affect those
animals causing the farmers to not be able to sell there protectts, causing them not to make there income, putting
the on well fair,all ending up to the state to pay more money. I also don't like this idea because my family
bought this land for money,collage,and ficher plans, if you pot that on our land or near our land we are getting
cut out of our money, then all we can use for our land is growing corn which is again cutting our money,
because no ones going to want to build or buy land by that huge, bad, polluting, power poll. If your going to put
those polls any where go put them by the high way where no one lives by, please .Thanks for reading this.

This letter was rotten by Katie,

Family,	This letter is from the kids of my
Age:21	Josh
Age:18	Zach
Age:15	Danny
Age:14	Lizzy
Age:12	Cory
Age:12	Katie

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

I-258-001

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

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

I-258-002

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

I-258-003

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

I-258-004

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



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

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

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

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

PROJECT PURPOSE

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

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

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

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

SCOPING PROCESS

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

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

Advisory Task Forces

Two geographically-based advisory task forces (ATFs) were established by the OES, the Lake Marion to Hampton ATF and the Minnesota River Crossings to New Prague ATF. The ATFs were each charged with: (1) identifying local site or route specific impacts and issues of local concern, and (2) identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in their respective area of concern that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project. The task forces each met three times between March and April 2009. The recommendations of the ATFs have been considered during the preparation of this scope and can be found in their respective reports. The ATF reports are available at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19866>.

Public Scoping Meetings

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

Public Comments

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

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

Table 1. Major Issues Raised During Public Scoping Period

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

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

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

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

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

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

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

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

I. INTRODUCTION

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

II. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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

III. ENGINEERING AND OPERATION DESIGN

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

IV. CONSTRUCTION

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

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

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

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

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

VI. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS

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

Brown County

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

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

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

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

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

Dakota County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Sueur County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lincoln County

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

Lyon County

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

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

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

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

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

Redwood County

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

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

Renville County

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

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

Rice County

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

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

Scott County

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

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

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

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

Sibley County

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

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

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

Yellow Medicine County

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

VII. REJECTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

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

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

Brown County

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

Dakota County

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

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

P-DAK-008 (Braun) – Approximately 0.9 miles north of 240th Street West, head east cross-country and along 307th Street West from the preferred route for approximately 1.8 miles to Biscayne Avenue West and follow Biscayne north to 230th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties and would also run through a fairly large wooded area. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-DAK-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1A]) – From Interstate 35 head east cross-country to CR 90 (307th Street). Continue east on 307th Street to an existing 69 kV line and follow line northeast connecting with alternate route near Danbury Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-DAK-001 (Mertens) – From 220th Street East approximately 0.6 miles east of Collier Court head south cross-country approximately 5.5 miles then east 3.5 miles to Fischer Avenue, follow Fischer north to U.S. Highway 52. From U.S. Highway 52 head north cross-country approximately 4 miles to termination. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-001 (ATF – Henderson [SW Alt 5]) – From preferred route east of 320th Street follow State Highway 28 northeast to CR 155 and take CR 155 southeast to 320th Street connecting with the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-LES-010 (Malecha) – From preferred route, continue east along CH 28 (320th Street) to CH 31 and turn south continuing cross-country to State Highway 99. Proceed east on State Highway 99 to CR 137 and follow CR 137 north to CH 28, connecting with the alternative route. This alternative adds considerable length to project, impacts more homes, and impacts more wetlands than the segment that it is attempting to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-002 (Markell) – From 340th Street follow 190th Avenue north turning east and following 350th Street to 220th Avenue. Continue east cross-country approximately 1.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street and continuing to 265th Street. The route continues east cross-country for another 0.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street finally connecting to the preferred route. This alternative would negatively impact windbreaks/tree groves, would impact just as many homes, and would span a large wetland complex. This alternative has more negative impacts than the route segment it is intended to replace.

P-LYN-003 (Engels) – Just northwest of 340th Street head southeast along State Highway 68 turning south at 190th Avenue following 190th to 310th Street. Follow 310th Street east with a couple of 0.5 miles sections of cross-country to 280th Avenue connecting to the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines and bisecting properties, includes more cross-country routing, impacts windbreaks/tree groves, and more impacts to homes. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-LYN-004 (Markell) – From preferred route at 340th Street head north on 180th Avenue and east along 350th Street terminating at CH 23. This alternative would run through a large wetland complex and is incomplete in its description and depiction.

P-LYN-005 (Markell) - From approximately 0.2 miles west of State Highway 68 proceed south cross-country approximately 0.9 miles to 170th Avenue and south to 320th Street. Proceed east along 320th Street crossing State Highway 68 and heading 0.5 miles through the north portion of the city of Ghent to 280th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-LYN-002.

P-LYN-006 (Grandview Township) - From 330th Street follow Lyon Lincoln County Road south following an existing 69 kV line. At approximately 1.5 miles proceed east approximately 5 miles cross-country to 160th Avenue and head south to 300th Street and head east on 300th finally connecting with the preferred route at 280th Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Nicollet County

P-NCL-001 (Multiple) – From preferred route continue east from 340th Street heading cross-country through Minnesota River Valley for approximately 4.25 miles connecting again at 340th Street and following the road east approximately 1.5 miles with numerous cross-country segments including crossing over Clear Lake finally meeting up with 571st Avenue and heading north connecting with preferred route. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties and would cross over Clear Lake (a public water). The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Renville County

P-RVL-002 (Fors) - From 420th Street follow 630th Avenue east to 430th Street and continue east cross-country 2 miles connecting with 630th again and head east (1 mile cross-country between 465th Street and CH 4). At 520th Street turn north and follow to 300th Street and head east to 651st Avenue. Follow 651st south approximately 1 mile and head east cross-country for 1.75 miles to 310th Street, following 310th east to 611th Avenue where route again heads cross-country 4 miles connecting to the preferred route. This alternative adds more length of cross-country routing that would bisect single-owner agricultural land. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Rice County

A-RIC-004 (Jones) - Connects to alternate route at Interstate 35 just south of 45th Street West and heads north cross-country approximately 3 miles to 270th East Street where it terminates. A large majority of this alternative route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace. The alternative was also incomplete in its description and depiction.

A-RIC-005 (Malz) From 141st Avenue head northeast cross-country to CH 6 (45th Street West). Follow CH 6 to the point where the road veers south (Kannebec Avenue) and continue east cross-country approximately 3 miles to CR 96 (Halstad Avenue) and follow Halstad south connecting to the alternative route. A large majority of the alternate route runs cross-country and bi-sects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Scott County

P-SCT-004 (ATF – Henderson [NW Ali 3]) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head northeast cross-country approximately 1.1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-SCT-005 (Nytes) At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to Delmar Avenue. Head north along Delmar connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A slight variation of P-SCT-004.

P-SCT-006 (Nytes) - At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to West 270th Street. Follow 270th east to Naylor Avenue and go northeast cross country approximately 0.25 miles then head north approximately 0.9 miles to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-SCT-004 and P-SCT-005.

P-SCT-008 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [SW Alt 2]) - From CH 2 (East 260th Street) go north on Langford Avenue approximately 4 miles then go east on CH 8 (220th Street East) for approximately 10 miles. Continue east on CH 70 to Interstate 35 and continue south along Interstate 35 connecting with the preferred and alternative route. This alternative would impact many more homes/properties, add considerable length to route, cross or come very near many Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public waters. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-SCT-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1B]) - Follow existing 115 kV transmission line north from 57th Street West connecting with the proposed/alternative route just north of 245th Street East. This alternative route would have the lake Marion substation moved south. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

B-SCT-001 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.3 miles north of West 263rd Avenue on Fabor Avenue from the alternate route head east cross-country 3 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-002 (West) - From the alternate route at 290th Avenue to State Highway 23 then north along Highway 23 to 200th Avenue. This was an incomplete route alternative.

VIII. ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

The EIS will evaluate a total of 26 alignment alternatives suggested in comments. These are alternatives that fell within the applicants' requested route widths and generally entail site specific concerns such as building on one side of the road or the other, avoiding tree groves, and avoiding recreational areas or environmentally sensitive areas.

IX. REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The EIS will include a list of permits that will be required for the project.

X. ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The following issues will not be considered or evaluated in the EIS:

1. Any route or substation alternatives not specifically identified in this scoping decision
2. Questions of need, including size, type, and timing; questions of alternative system configurations; or questions of voltage.
3. The no-build option regarding the high voltage transmission line.
4. The impacts of specific energy sources, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities.
5. Policy issues surrounding whether utilities or local government should be liable for the cost to relocate utility poles when roadways are widened.
6. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission rights of way easements, as that is outside the jurisdiction of Public Utilities Commission.

XI. SCHEDULE

Following is the anticipated schedule:

October 2009 – Draft EIS available.

October and November 2009 – Draft EIS public meetings.

January 2010 – Final EIS available.

Signed this 30 day of June, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Collins, Carly; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project
Attachments: RUS NEPA Process Fact Sheet.pdf; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:39 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: CapX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,
I am a bit confused about the project and the area that is noted in your email.

I-259-001 On my ignorance, but is Webster Township, Rice County, MN part of the Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse line, or is it another segment? The scope of the project has my head spinning, and I want to be sure that the comments that I have raised, as well as the comments of my neighbors and friends, are attached to the appropriate route. (Although, likely, the concerns are "route wide".)

I-259-002 Also, I am confused about the deadline and whether it applies to the segment that we live in.

Thank you for taking the time to email, your effort is truly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Anastasia Balfany

On Jul 28, 2009, at 8:08 AM, Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC wrote:

> Your comments on the CapX 2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse 345-kV
> Transmission Line Proposal have been received.
> All comments will be analyzed and summarized in a public scoping
> report, which will be posted on the following web address in
> approximately 60 days:
>
> <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Dairyland%20Power%20Cooperative,%20Inc>
> .
>
> The scoping comment period is now closed. Please see the attached
> timeline for future public comment opportunities in the
> Environmental Impact Statement process.
> If you have further comments or questions please send them to:
>
> Stephanie A. Strength
> Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
> 1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
> Washington, DC 20250-1571
> stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
>
>

I-259-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project in Webster Township with which you have raised concerns.

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-259-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-259-001.

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 3:05 PM
> To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
> Subject: CapX2020 Project
>
> Dear Ms. Strength,
> I am strongly opposed to the CapX2020 project, and have attached a
> letter documenting some of my concerns, and specifically the use of
> 50th Street as an alternative route for the project.
> I want to be sure to note that I feel that both 50th Street and 57th
> Street in Webster, MN (Rice County) are unsuitable for identical
> reasons, with 50th Street slightly more so, due to the even closer
> proximity to the Sky Harbor Airpark.
> Again, thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call
> or email with any questions or comments.
> Sincerely,
> Anastasia Balfany
> 3720 50th Street West
> Webster, MN 55088
> 952-652-2786
>



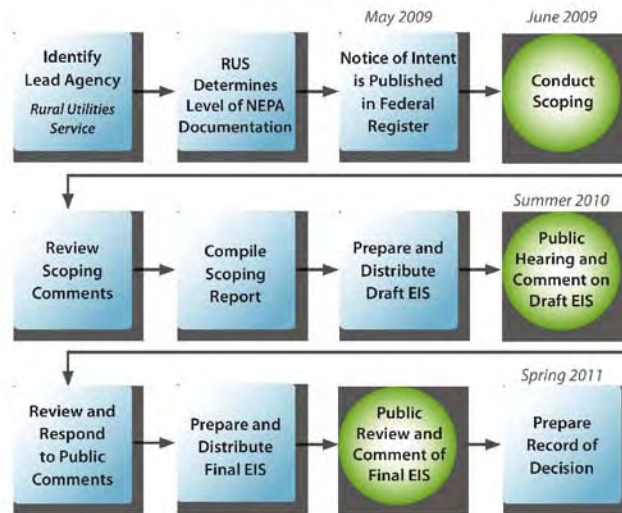
FEDERAL REVIEW PROCESS

Dairyland Power Cooperative has requested financial assistance from Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a federal agency that administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Programs, for its anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS and other federal agencies involved in the NEPA review will jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each federal agency will independently develop its own decision document. The EIS preparation process is detailed below.

The NEPA process evaluates the project's potential affects on environmental resources, such as:

- land use
- threatened and endangered species
- wetlands
- cultural and historic properties
- socioeconomics
- scenic areas



www.usda.gov/rus

The table below shows permit, regulatory compliance or other coordination required by federal agencies.

Agency	Permit, regulatory compliance, or other coordination
RUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study NEPA Compliance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 10 Permit of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) for crossing the Mississippi River
USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationwide permit or individual permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977
U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use authorization if right-of-way required on National Wildlife Refuge or Wetland Management District lands (Standard Form 299) and Special Use Permit if crossing National Wildlife Refuge Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 50 C.F.R. 22 consultation) Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668, 50 C.F.R. 22) Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 701–712)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 7460–1, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace
National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation: Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968 (if proposal affects federally designated areas)

Public scoping

The RUS NEPA process provides several opportunities for public review and comment (identified in green on the NEPA process graphic). The CapX2020 utilities had several rounds of public information meetings prior to the NEPA scoping meetings; public comments received at those meetings were considered in corridor development and route option identification. Public comments received at scoping meetings will be recorded as part of the project record.

The NEPA scoping process serves multiple goals for the proposed project, including:

- Soliciting public comments
- Discovering alternatives to a proposed action (preferred route)
- Identifying significant impacts
- Eliminating insignificant issues
- Communicating information
- Consulting with agencies and organizations

Track EIS development, download comment forms, and access all public documentation at the RUS Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Please contact Stephanie Strength for more information:
 USDA, Rural Utilities Service
 1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
 Washington, DC 20250-1571



Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Colliris, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: CapX Environmental Criteria.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:32 PM
To: decocker_5@hotmail.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Denise,

Thank you for your e-mail. When we are considering routing, we absolutely consider impact to private landowners. State routing criteria generally promotes the view of limiting impacts to sensitivities (for examples of sensitivities, please see the attached) and promoting the concept of corridor sharing. Once the potential route corridors are determined, the sensitivities along those various options are identified and route segments are compared against each other to determine which segments provide linear connectivity while impacting the fewest sensitivities.

Given the uncertainty of which route would be chosen, and where specifically the line would be placed along any given route, it's hard for me to discuss impact to your trees. We would certainly meet with you prior to placing any poles to discuss with you your specific concerns.

As for TV reception, there is very little risk that the line would have any interference with your TV signals. The only way the line could interfere is if a pole were placed very close to the receiver and physically blocked the signal. We're committed to careful design in general and avoiding any interference on any communication or television reception in particular.

Your comments are being forwarded to Stephanie Strength for inclusion in the USDA Rural Utility Service's federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments for the EIS are due July 25. Should you think of anything else, you may also e-mail Stephanie directly. Thank you for your input.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North
Xcel Energy
CapX2020
800-238-7968

Denise Cocker (507) 843-5281 decocker_5@hotmail.com
59684 415th Ave
Mazeppa MN 55956

Concerns: The proposed power lines have caused us a great deal of stress and sleepless nights. The newspaper said that all affected homeowners were notified. That is not the case for us. Although we had read about the proposed lines, none of the routes were actually affecting us personally. It was only the last week in May that our neighbor informed us that a route would be changed. We went to the meeting in Plainview on June 16th and

- there discovered the route went right across our front yard. We still have not been officially notified except for general letters informing us of informational meetings. Earlier in May we discovered a pink ribbon tied to a tree up in our woods. We were upset that someone had trespassed on our land with out permission. We now assume it had to do with the power lines.
- I-260-001** | *Do you take into consideration that the proposed power lines are in someone's front yard? Our house is built into the hillside with windows only on the south and west sides. Our three bedrooms and living room all face south overlooking our front yard.
- I-260-003** | *We heat our house and greenhouse exclusively with wood heat. We are dependent on the trees in our woods for our future needs for heat. It would be a hardship if trees are cleared for power lines.
- I-260-002** | *A few years back we bought a dish so that we could finally get TV reception. Because we are basically surrounded by hills, the only direction we can point the dish is south. Will these power lines interrupt our ability to pull in TV stations? 7/23/2009 12:06:00 PM

I-260-001

Your letter/comment card has been comment noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. As Ms. Schultz stated in her letter the impact to landowners and land use is taken into consideration in the routing process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-260-002

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-260-003

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to vegetation resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additional The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Environmental Siting Criteria

Opportunities

For transmission lines, advantageous siting "opportunities" are characterized by corridors with the potential for sharing or running alongside existing facilities, infrastructure, and landscape features.

Advantageous substation "opportunities" are sites that allow a substation to be located on or adjacent to a property with existing electric facilities or compatible structures.

Sensitivities

"Sensitivities" are those environmental siting criteria, including point locations, areas, or features, which are taken into account with regard to routing, construction, or additional licensing/permitting procedures.

Opportunities
Existing ROWs (electric transmission lines, railroads, pipelines, highways/roads)
Identified utility corridors
Section lines/property lines
Sensitivities
Population centers
Existing/planned residential areas
Memorial parks
National register historic sites
Designated or registered national historic districts
Native American tribal land
National landmarks
National parks/monuments
National recreation areas
State parks and recreation areas
Scenic areas/scenic travel routes
Wild and scenic rivers
Special management areas (areas of environmental concern [ACECs], natural conservation area [NCAs])
National and state wilderness areas
State natural areas/scientific areas
Nature conservancy preserves
National wildlife refuges
State wildlife refuges, wildlife areas, game management areas
Threatened and endangered species critical habitat areas
Unique habitats (habitat conservation plans)
Waterfowl nesting or rearing areas
Floodways/floodplains
Open water expanses greater than 1,000 feet
Wetlands considered areas of special natural resource interest
Airport obstruction-free zones/flight approach paths
VORTAC tower sites
Military reservations/installations
Other federal and state land (not otherwise protected)
Mines
Geologically unstable or highly erosive areas
Agriculture types (row crops, irrigated crops, vineyards, orchards)
Mechanical wheeled or line irrigation systems
Schools/daycare centers

*Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative • Great River Energy
Minnesota Power • Minnesota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy*

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:12 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Powerline on 50th Ave
Attachments: 08-1474 FINAL EIS SCOPE (Text).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us [mailto:Scott.Ek@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 9:38 AM
To: jodydoyle@integra.net; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Powerline on 50th Ave

Ms. Doyle,

There has been no decision made on the route for the proposed Brookings - Hampton 345 kV transmission line. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Decision Document was recently issued on June 30, 2009. The scoping document is one step in the environmental review process for transmission line projects. The scope outlines the issues, concerns, and alternatives suggested by the advisory task forces and in comments made by the public and government units during the scoping process conducted in March and April of this year. The Office of Energy Security (OES) will now begin preparing the EIS for this proposed project using the Scoping Decision Document as a guide or "blueprint" for the issues and alternatives to be addressed and analyzed. I have attached a copy of the Scoping Decision Document for your convenience. The figures are not attached as the file size is quite large for email, but can be viewed at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

The draft EIS is anticipated to be available in October 2009. After the draft EIS has been issued the OES will conduct public meetings in select areas along the route that will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the information in the draft EIS. There will also be a public comment period tied to these meetings that will enable the public to send written or email comments. The comments will then be addressed by the OES and incorporated into the final EIS. The draft EIS and the final EIS make up the complete EIS and will be forwarded to the Public Utilities Commission to assist them in making a decision on a final route for the proposed transmission line sometime in January 2010. So as you can see there is still quite a bit of work and fact gathering to be done before a decision on a route permit can be made. Many factors go into making a transmission line route decision.

If have not already done so, I suggest you add your contact information to the project mailing list managed by OES at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>. This will ensure you receive any future notices regarding the proposed project.

Scoping Document - <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/19860/08-1474%20FINAL%20EIS%20SCOPE%20063009.pdf>

General project information - <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns you may have or just to find out where we are at with regards to the schedule.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EK
Office of Energy Security | Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

1

I-261-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Office: 651.296.8813 | Fax: 651.297.7891
scott.ek@state.mn.us
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us
www.energy.mn.gov

From: Jody [mailto:jodydoyle@integra.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 8:48 PM
To: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Powerline on 50th Ave

I am writing about concerns of a possible powerline on 50th Ave in Webster. This powerline would be in the flight path of the Sky Harbor Airpark.

The Sky Harbor Airpark has been in existence for 35 plus years. It is also the busiest airpark in the state of MN. There are 50 homes and 72 registered airplanes on the airpark. A powerline in the flight path is a huge safety and liability issue. If harm or death occurred because the powerline was in the way of approaching aircraft it would open the Rice county and power company up for major lawsuits.

Jody Doyle Pilot
3299 45th St W.
Webster, MN 55088

952-652-2042



**In the Matter of the Route Permit
Application for a 345 kV Transmission
Line from Brookings County, South
Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474**

The above matter has come before the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) for a decision on the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared on the Great River Energy and Xcel Energy (applicants) route permit application before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a proposed transmission line between Brookings County, South Dakota, and Hampton, Minnesota, under the full permitting process (Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicants propose to construct and operate a 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 237 miles long, beginning at the state's western border near Hendricks, Minnesota, and ending south of the Twin Cities metro area near Hampton, Minnesota. The applicants have proposed two possible routes for the transmission line, a preferred route and an alternate route. These routes would cross portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur, Scott, Rice, and Dakota. The project would also include the construction of four new substations and the expansion of four existing substations. New substations include the Hazel Creek substation near Granite Falls, the Helena substation near New Prague, the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, and the Hampton substation near Hampton (Figures 1 to 5).

The applicants are requesting a 1,000 foot wide route width for the majority of the proposed project. The maximum route width of 1.25 miles is requested for the areas where new substations are proposed and a number of other locations along the route to facilitate system interconnection and address river crossing areas and/or environmental and land use concerns.

The applicants propose using single-structure steel poles which would require a 150-foot right-of-way. A 100-foot right-of-way would be required for the route segment connecting to the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, Minnesota. There may also be some limited situations along the route where specialty structures (H-frames or triple circuit structures) may be required. A right-of-way up to 180 feet in width would be required in these instances.

Proposed construction of the transmission line would begin in 2011 with completion by 2013.

PROJECT PURPOSE

As indicated by the applicants in the route permit application, the project has been designed to improve the reliability of the bulk electric system serving Minnesota and portions of neighboring states and would also serve to meet infrastructure additions that have been deemed needed to meet the forecasted growth in demand of several thousand megawatts over the course of the next decade.

The applicants also indicate the project would enhance customer service capabilities in western Minnesota and the southern suburbs of the Twin Cities. Moreover, the project would provide renewable resource generation outlet capability of approximately 700 megawatts from the Buffalo Ridge area in southwest Minnesota. Detailed information regarding the purpose and need for this transmission project is provided in the May 22, 2009, Order issued by the Commission granting Certificates of Need for the CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115 (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showDocketsSearch&showDocket=true>).

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The applicants filed a route permit application on December 29, 2008, under the full permitting process of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statute 216E). The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 29, 2009. Under the full permitting process the Commission has one year from the date the application was accepted as complete to make a decision on the route permit.

SCOPING PROCESS

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7849.5200 to 7849.5340 (full permitting process). Scoping is the first step in the permitting process after application acceptance. The scoping process has two primary purposes, to ensure that the public has a chance to participate in determining what routes and issues to study in the EIS, and to help focus the EIS on the most important issues surrounding the route permit decision.

OES staff collected and reviewed comments on the scope of the EIS by convening two advisory task forces, holding public scoping meetings throughout the proposed project area, and accepting written comments from March 30, 2009, through April 30, 2009. This scope identifies potential human/environmental issues and project route or substation site alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. The scope also presents a tentative schedule of the environmental review process.

Advisory Task Forces

Two geographically-based advisory task forces (ATFs) were established by the OES, the Lake Marion to Hampton ATF and the Minnesota River Crossings to New Prague ATF. The ATFs were each charged with: (1) identifying local site or route specific impacts and issues of local concern, and (2) identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in their respective area of concern that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project. The task forces each met three times between March and April 2009. The recommendations of the ATFs have been considered during the preparation of this scope and can be found in their respective reports. The ATF reports are available at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19866>.

Public Scoping Meetings

Twelve public information meetings were conducted by the OES between March 30 to April 9, 2009, at nine different locations that included the cities of Marshall, Hendricks, Granite Falls, Redwood Falls, Gaylord, Henderson, New Prague, Lakeville, and Cannon Falls. Approximately 1,065 people attended the twelve public meetings, according to the meeting sign-in sheets. The scoping meetings provided the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and the route permitting process, review the route permit application, and ask questions and submit comments. A court reporter was present at each of the public meetings and transcribed questions asked and comments made by the public as well as responses from the OES and the applicants.

Public Comments

A public comment period beginning the day of the first public scoping meeting and ending on April 30, 2009, provided the public an additional opportunity to submit comments and alternative routes to be considered for the scope of the EIS. A total of 999 comments were received by the close of the comment period which included 801 written or emailed comments and 198 oral comments from the public scoping meetings. There was also approximately 827 form letter/postcards from the Watt Munisotaram Temple indicating opposition to the line near their Temple.

All of the written and oral comments submitted at the scoping meetings along with comments received by mail and email were reviewed and entered into a database. Each comment was evaluated for issues or concerns that should be considered for detailed evaluation in the EIS and were classified based on the major topics of the comments. Table 1 below summarizes the major issues raised in these comments, as well as the relative frequency the issue was raised.

Table 1. Major Issues Raised During Public Scoping Period

Issue	Number of Times Issue Mentioned	Percentage of Major Issues
Health/EMF	428	43%
Property Value/Compensation	369	37%
Specific Route Selection (Suggested Alternatives)	297	30%
Proximity to Homes	294	29%
Other*	228	23%
General Route Selection (Support or Non-Support of Proposed Routes)	174	17%
Rare or Unique Species	138	14%
Aesthetics	133	13%
Stray Voltage	83	8%
Trees/Wind Breaks	45	5%
TV/Radio/GPS	41	4%
Noise	37	4%

*Other included issues related to: data in route permit application, general opposition to the project, project need, and easement negotiation process, among others.

The public suggested over 297 route alternatives to the applicants' proposed routes through comment. Of the 297 route alternative suggestions 197 of them were comments expressing opposition or preference for the applicants' preferred route, alternative route, or no project at all. This left 100 remaining route alternatives that were divided into those that fell within the applicants' requested route width and those that fell outside the requested route width. After further refinement and removal of missed duplicates, 26 alternatives fell within the requested route width and were categorized as alignment alternatives (an "alignment alternative" in this case means a suggested change in the applicants' proposed transmission centerline, such as a shift from one side of a roadway to the other, but where the line would still be located within the original route width) and 74 alternatives fell outside the requested route width and were categorized as route alternatives. Alternative routes recommended by the ATFs were also included in this review.

The task force meeting reports and scoping meeting comment reports, as well as each individual comment (letter or email) are available on the project website maintained by the Commission at:
<http://energy/facilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19860>.

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

Having reviewed the matter, consulted with OES Energy Facility Permitting staff, and in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7849.5300, I hereby make the following Scoping Decision.

The applicants' route permit application describes their route analysis and contains the information required by Minnesota Rule 7894.5220, subp. 2, as determined by the Commission. The EIS will summarize the process the applicants' used to identify, evaluate, and select the routes. The EIS will also verify and supplement information provided in the route permit application and will incorporate the information by reference as appropriate.

The EIS on the proposed Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project will address and provide information on the following matters:

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Project Description
- B. Purpose of the Transmission Line
- C. Project Location
- D. Route Description
- E. Route Width
- F. Rights-of-Way
- G. Project Cost

II. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- A. Certificate of Need
- B. Route Permit
- C. Environmental Review Process

III. ENGINEERING AND OPERATION DESIGN

- A. Transmission Line Conductors
- B. Transmission Line Structures
- C. Substations

IV. CONSTRUCTION

- A. Transmission Line and Structures
- B. Substations
- C. Property/Right-of-Way Acquisition
- D. Cleanup and Restoration
- E. Damage Compensation
- F. Maintenance
- G. Underground Options

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

The EIS will include a discussion of the human and environmental resources potentially impacted by the project and its alternatives. Potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposed project and each alternative considered will be described. Based on the impacts identified, the EIS will describe mitigative measures that could reasonably be implemented to reduce or eliminate the identified impacts.

- A. Environmental Setting
- B. Socioeconomic Setting
- C. Human Settlement
 - 1. Noise
 - 2. Aesthetics
 - 3. Proximity to Structures
 - a. Homes and Farmsteads (including farming related structures such as silos, grain bins, etc.)
 - b. Businesses
 - c. Schools/Daycares
 - d. Hospitals
 - e. Cemeteries
 - 4. Displacement
 - 5. Tree Groves/Windbreaks
 - 6. Existing Utilities (pipelines, propane tanks, septic systems)
 - 7. Domestic Water Well Installation/Maintenance
- D. Public Health and Safety
 - 1. Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - 2. Implantable Medical Devices
 - 3. Stray Voltage
 - 4. Explosives/Fireworks
- E. Recreation
 - 1. Parks (city, county, state, and federal)
 - 2. Golf Courses
 - 3. Trails
- F. Transportation and Public Services
 - 1. Emergency Services
 - 2. Airports
 - 3. Highways and Roads (including scenic highways/byways and rest stops)

- G. Interference
 - 1. Radio and Television (digital and satellite)
 - 2. Internet
 - 3. Cellular Phone
 - 4. GPS-Based Agriculture Navigation Systems
- H. Archaeological and Historic Resources
- I. Zoning and Compatibility/Federal, State and Local Government Planning
- J. Land-Based Economies
 - 1. Agriculture
 - a. Prime Farmland
 - b. Organic Farms
 - c. Livestock
 - d. Aerial Crop Spraying/Dusting
 - e. Bee Keeping/Bee Colonies
 - 2. Forestry
 - 3. Mining
- K. Property Values
 - 1. Residential
 - 2. Industrial
 - 3. Agriculture
- L. Air Quality (As it pertains specifically to this transmission line project only.)
- M. Natural Resources
 - 1. Surface Water
 - a. Lakes
 - b. Surface Flows
 - 2. Groundwater
 - 3. Wetlands
 - 4. Floodplains
 - 5. State Wildlife Management Areas/Scientific Natural Areas
 - 6. National Wildlife Refuge/Waterfowl Production Areas
 - 7. Forests
- N. Flora
- O. Fauna
- P. Rare and Unique Natural Resources/Critical Habitat

VI. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS

The EIS will identify and evaluate alternative routes and route segments to the proposed project. Nine of the 21 ATF identified routes and 38 of the 71 alternative routes suggest through public comment will be evaluated in the EIS and are presented below and illustrated in Figures 6 to 16.

Brown County

P-BRN-001 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to 330th Avenue. Head north along 330th approximately 0.25 miles and go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-002 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 325th Avenue and proceed north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001.

P-BRN-003 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 280th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 320th Avenue and proceed north following along 320th where it forks and proceed north cross-country 0.5 miles north then 0.25 miles west to 420th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line.

P-BRN-004 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330th Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1 mile and turn east cross-country to 325th Avenue. Follow 325th Avenue north where it connects with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001 and P-BRN-002.

P-BRN-005 (Prah) – Approximately 0.5 miles south of 330th Street on Terrace Avenue head east cross-country to 330th Avenue and follow 330th Avenue north for approximately 1.25 miles then go east cross-country 0.25 miles and then north 0.25 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is intended to maximize the distance between existing homes and the transmission line and is a variation of P-BRN-001, P-BRN-002, and P-BRN-004.

Dakota County

P-DAK-002 (Kaufenberg) – Follow Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Hamburg Avenue and follow it north to Lakeville Boulevard. Proceed east on Lakeville Boulevard then south on Denmark Avenue to 225th Street West where it would head southeast cross-country 0.5 miles and then north-northwest 0.3 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-004 (Rother) – Approximately 0.5 miles west of U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard) the route would head north cross-country approximately 0.25 miles then turn east for 0.5 miles to Coates Boulevard. This alternative was suggested to avoid bisecting agricultural land and instead follow property/section lines.

P-DAK-005 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue. Proceed north along Blaine Avenue approximately 0.2 miles and head east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to Coates Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

P-DAK-006 (Multiple) - Interstate 35 north from where the preferred and alternative routes meet, crossing Interstate 35 east to 215th Street West. Proceed east along 215th Street to Flagstaff Avenue. The route would continue east cross-country approximately 1 mile then turn south 1.5 miles, briefly running along Essex Avenue eventually turning east for 1.2 miles connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-007 (Mertens) - From the alternative route at Interstate 35 and 57th Street West head east cross-country approximately 3 miles to 307th Street West. Continue along 307th Street to Eveleth Avenue and east cross-country approximately 1 mile and northeast following along an existing rail line and 69 kV transmission line for approximately 7 miles to 240th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative utilizes an existing 69 kV right-of-way and railroad, may impact fewer homes, and may be a more direct and shorter route.

P-DAK-009 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 2]) - From preferred route follow Pillsbury Avenue north to 215th Street West. Head east along 215th Street to Cedar Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then southeast 1.8 miles and again east approximately 1 mile to 220th Street West. Proceed down 220th Street to Denmark Avenue and head south along Denmark veering southeast cross-country at 225th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-006 which also seeks to avoid existing residences on 240th Street West and reduce the amount of cross-country route.

P-DAK-010 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [Buddhist Temple]) - Approximately 0.5 miles east of Blaine Avenue the route would turn north from 220th Street cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles then east 0.5 miles to Blaine Avenue and continue east cross-country for approximately 2 miles to 215th Street East and on to U.S. Highway 52 (Coates Boulevard). This alternative is a variation of P-DAK-005 and also seeks to avoid the Hampton Woods area, the Watt Munisotaram Buddhist Temple and residences along 220th Street East.

A-DAK-002 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “right-angle” and NW Alt 1C]) - From Northfield Boulevard east along County Highway (CH) 86 (280th Street East) then north on Fischer Avenue to U.S. Highway 52. Route continues north cross-country terminating just north of Northfield Boulevard. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NE Alt 3 “diagonal”]) - Travel east from alternate route at Hampton Boulevard/240th Street East to U.S. Highway 52. Head north on U.S. Highway 52 to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard) continuing northeast along CH 47 approximately 0.75 miles and terminating. This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton and reduce number of potentially impacted homes.

A-DAK-004 (Gerber) - From just north of Lewiston Boulevard head northeast cross-country 240th Street East. Head north from 240th Street East cross-country to CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative seeks to avoid the city of Hampton.

A-DAK-005 (Kaufenberg) – From Interstate 35 head east along 280th Street E/W connecting with alternative route at CH 47 (Northfield Boulevard). This alternative may utilize more existing roads and reduce approximately 6 miles of cross-country route bisecting agricultural land.

Le Sueur County

P-LFS-002 (Binczik) - From 320th Street proceed north along 241st to Street 302nd Street and turn east following 302nd to CH 32 and connecting with the preferred route. This alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and would follow along existing roads.

A-LFS-001 (Schmidt) Connect with alternative route approximately 0.5 miles north of 310th Street and proceed east cross-country to Le Sueur Avenue. Follow Le Sueur Avenue south to 70th Street West connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may reduce the impacts to homes within 300 feet of the transmission centerline from 6 homes to 1 home.

A-LFS-002 (Hoy) – Follow 210th Street north from the intersection of 300th Street and 210th Street. At approximately 0.75 miles turn east cross-country for approximately 0.75 miles and turn southeast connecting with alternative at 300th Street. The alternative seeks to avoid residence/daycare on 300th Street.

B-LFS-001 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 2]) - From preferred route head north along 265th Avenue, west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue to West 280th Street. Proceed east on 280th to German Road and head north on German Road for approximately 1 mile then continuing cross-country 1.3 miles reconnecting with German Road and ultimately the alternative route. This alternative appears to utilize more existing right-way and seeks to avoid existing residences, and an airfield.

B-LFS-002 (ATF – Henderson [NE Alt 5]) – From the alternative route on CH 28 near Township Highway 30 head northeast following along existing 345 kV transmission line to West 270th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce transmission line proliferation by utilizing an existing 345 kV transmission line right-of-way.

B-LFS-005 (Meyer) From the preferred route follow U.S. Highway 169 northeast from just south of Dobby Lane to German Road connecting with the alternative route. This alternative seeks to utilize U.S. Highway 169 as a route connecting the preferred to the alternative reducing some of the need for new right-of-way and impacts to homes.

B-LFS-006 (Multiple) - From the preferred route on 320th Street head north on 265th Avenue for 1 mile to CH 28. Head west on CH 28, north on 271st Avenue, east on West 280th Street, and north on German Road ultimately connecting to the alternate route. A variation of B-LFS-001, B-LFS-003, and B-LFS-004.

B-LES-007 (Davis) - Follow preferred route from river crossing to CH 32 and head north to County Road (CR) 157. Proceed east on CR 157 and north on CR 121 connecting with alternate route. Proposed by the Scott County Board. This alternative may avoid conflicts with the preferred route along CH 2 as identified in the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, such as future public right-of-way expansion.

B-LES-008 (ATF Henderson [NE Alt 4]) - From the preferred at 221st Avenue head east along CH 28 to 141st Avenue connecting with the alternative route. This alternative follows a county road/established right-of-way and may avoid impacts to dairy farms, day cares, and wetlands, and may also reduce the amount of route that goes cross-country.

B-LES-009 (Anonymous) - From preferred route follow CH 32 (Hickory Boulevard) north to approximately 0.5 miles north of West 280th Street and continue north cross-country to West 260th Street. Turn east continuing cross-country for approximately 4 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes and avoid a pyrotechnics plant.

B-LES-011 (Anonymous) - Approximately 0.25 miles north of 302nd Street head east cross-country from CH 32 for approximately 1 mile connecting with the alternative route at 300th Street. Follow 300th Street to 181st Avenue and turn north following 181st north connecting with the preferred at West 260th Street. This alternative may follow more existing roads than the segment it is meant to replace.

Lincoln County

P-LNC-001 (Sterzinger) - From CR 134 go north on CH 8. Then east cross-country to 340th Street continue east cross-country to Lyon Lincoln Road. This alternative appears to follow more existing roads and would impact a similar number of homes when compared to the segment it is meant to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-001 (Grandview Township) - From 330th proceed north along CR 8. At 340th Street head east cross-country for approximately 1 mile to 340th Street following 340th to Lyon Lincoln Road and continue east cross-country connecting to the preferred route at 340th Street. This alternative seeks to reduce potential impacts to homes.

A-LYN-001 (Prins) - From alternative route proceed south on CH 9 to 240th Street. Head east on 240th Street to 310th Avenue and head north on 310th connecting with the alternative route. This alternative avoids bisecting agriculture property and appears to follow an existing road.

A-LYN-002 (Maevaert) – Head north on 170th Avenue from the intersection of 260th Street and 170th. Continue on 170th Avenue to CH 19. Proceed east on CH 19 for approximately 3.5 miles turning south cross-country for approximately 1.5 miles then east for approximately 1.25 miles and east-southeast approximately 0.75 miles crossing CH 23, finally turning south and connecting with the alternative route. This alternative appears to follow section lines where the alternative does not and provides an alternative Redwood River crossing and avoids a golf course and residential area. This alternative segment was originally looked at by the applicants.

A-LYN-003 (City of Lynd) – Same as Alternative A-LYN-002 except after crossing CH 23 the route would continue in an east-southeast direction to 320th Avenue and follow 320th south connecting with the alternative route. The alternative may avoid new future residential developments north of the city of Lind, and encroachment of Savannah Oaks Golf Course. The alternate is also outside Lind city limits and may avoid disturbing a heavily wooded area near the Redwood River.

B-LYN-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route follow State Highway 23 north. This alternative may minimize impacts to agriculture land, potentially impact fewer homes, and would follow existing State Highway 23 to Granite Falls.

Redwood County

P-RDW-001 (Zwaschka) – From 290th Street at Crown Avenue head south cross-country to State Highway 19. Proceed east along State Highway 19 connecting with the preferred route at Dayton Avenue. This alternative seeks to avoid residences.

A-RDW-001 (Prins) – Route would turn east from CH 7 approximately ¼ mile north of 350th Street and head cross-country for approximately 0.5 miles and turn north connecting with the alternative route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural property owned by one entity by moving to a shared property line.

Renville County

P-RVL-001 (Multiple) – From the preferred route at 420th Street follow 640th Avenue east (road changes to 300th Street) continue east to 571st Avenue connecting with the preferred route. This alternative was initially evaluated by the applicants and may reduce the length of the route by approximately 4 miles impacting a similar amount of homes as the segment it is meant to replace.

P-RVL-003 (Hoffbeck) – From 420th Street follow State Highway 19 east to 460th Street where the route would head north cross-country to 660th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. The alternative seeks to reduce transmission line proliferation in the area (other lines exist) and appears to follow along existing roads and railroad.

Rice County

A-RIC-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton, ATE [NE Alt 2]) - From alternative route at 141st Avenue continue cross-country approximately 1.5 miles to Leaf Trail. Follow Leaf Trail southeast to 60th Street West. Take 60th east to CH 19 connecting to the alternative route. This alternative may reduce impacts to homes and avoid future growth of the city of Lonsdale.

A-RIC-003 (Sirek) - From 57th Street West continue north along Elmore Avenue to 50th Street West. At 50th Street turn east cross-country to Interstate 35 connecting with the alternative route. This alternative is intended to avoid homes along 57th Street West.

Scott County

P-SCT-001 (Zweber) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Avenue follow East 250th Street east to Texas Avenue. Follow Texas Avenue north connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and follow existing roads in its entirety.

P-SCT-002 (Multiple) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head east cross-country approximately 1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may reduce potential impacts to homes on Aberdeen Avenue and West 260th Street.

P-SCT-003 (Lake Marion to Hampton, ATE [NW Alt 3]) - From the preferred route at 245th Street East and Pillsbury Avenue head east along 245th Avenue to Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may impact fewer homes, appears to follow existing roads, reduce cross-country routing, and may be shorter and more direct than the segment it is meant to replace.

P-SCT-007 (Johnson) - From the preferred route at Jonquil Ave and East 260th Street head east along 260th (CH 2) through Elko New Market to Interstate 35. This alternative would utilize an existing county highway and may be a shorter and more direct route.

Sibley County

P-SIB-001 (Kahle) - From the preferred route at CH 13 head east cross-country 3 miles to CH 9. Head north on CH 9 to 310th Street and go east to 391st Avenue and continue east 0.5 miles, south 0.25 miles, then east 1 mile to 375th Lane and head south to 316th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative is similar to applicants route segment, and appears to potentially impact fewer homes.

P-SIB-002 (Multiple) - From the preferred route at 324th Street head south cross-country 0.75 miles to U.S. Highway 169. Go east on U.S. Highway 169 across the Minnesota River and rejoin the preferred just east of the river. This alternative seeks to utilize existing Minnesota River crossing (U.S. Highway 169).

P-SIB-003 (Hildebrandt) - From the preferred route head south along State Highway 22 turning east on 320th Street and following 320th to CH 13 connecting with the preferred route. This alternative may avoid bisecting agricultural land and appears to follow existing roads.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-001 (Multiple) From the preferred route at 520th Street, take the alternative route north along State Highway 23. This route alternative appears to utilize State Highway 23 to connect the applicants' preferred route to their alternative route.

VII. REJECTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Twelve of the alternative routes suggested by the ATPs (NW Alternative 1A, NW Alternative 1B, NW Alternative 3, SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, SW Alternative 2, SW Alternative 5, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90, as delineated in the ATF reports) and 33 of the alternative routes suggested through public comment will be described in the FIS, but will not be considered for further study or evaluation in the FIS. The route segments were rejected as they either did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115), had more impacts relative to the criteria used by the Commission in route permit determinations as defined in Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subd. 7., or were incomplete in their description and/or depiction.

The following seven rejected routes are not described in the list below and were rejected because they specifically did not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need (CapX 345 kV Transmission Projects, Docket No. ET-2, E-002, et al./CN-06-1115): SE Alternative 2, SE Alternative 3, I-90 to I-35, I-29 to I-94, I-90 to U.S. 52, I-90 to MN 56, and U.S. 14 to I-90.

Brown County

P-BRN-006 (Prah) From the preferred route head south from Terrance Avenue to 260th Street and go west along 260th to 320th Avenue proceed north following along 320th and terminates. This was an incomplete route alternative.

Dakota County

P-DAK-001 (Multiple) Connect with preferred route at Pillsbury Avenue and 245th Street East and head east along 245th for approximately 0.3 miles before turning southeast and cross-country one-tenth mile then east 0.5 miles and northeast approximately 0.75 miles then turning east-northeast along the east side of Dodd Boulevard connecting with the preferred route at 240th Street West. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-DAK-003 (Braun) – From north of 240th Street at preferred route head east cross-country to Audrey Street and terminate. This alternative heads cross country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion and would impact a large wetland complex. This was an incomplete route alternative.

P-DAK-008 (Braun) – Approximately 0.9 miles north of 240th Street West, head east cross-country and along 307th Street West from the preferred route for approximately 1.8 miles to Biscayne Avenue West and follow Biscayne north to 230th Street West connecting with the preferred route. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties and would also run through a fairly large wooded area. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-DAK-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1A]) – From Interstate 35 head east cross-country to CR 90 (307th Street). Continue east on 307th Street to an existing 69 kV line and follow line northeast connecting with alternate route near Danbury Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-DAK-001 (Mertens) – From 220th Street East approximately 0.6 miles east of Collier Court head south cross-country approximately 5.5 miles then east 3.5 miles to Fischer Avenue, follow Fischer north to U.S. Highway 52. From U.S. Highway 52 head north cross-country approximately 4 miles to termination. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

Le Sueur County

P-LES-001 (ATF – Henderson [SW Alt 5]) – From preferred route east of 320th Street follow State Highway 28 northeast to CR 155 and take CR 155 southeast to 320th Street connecting with the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

B-LES-010 (Malecha) – From preferred route, continue east along CH 28 (320th Street) to CH 31 and turn south continuing cross-country to State Highway 99. Proceed east on State Highway 99 to CR 137 and follow CR 137 north to CH 28, connecting with the alternative route. This alternative adds considerable length to project, impacts more homes, and impacts more wetlands than the segment that it is attempting to replace.

Lyon County

P-LYN-002 (Markell) – From 340th Street follow 190th Avenue north turning east and following 350th Street to 220th Avenue. Continue east cross-country approximately 1.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street and continuing to 265th Street. The route continues east cross-country for another 0.5 miles re-connecting with 350th Street finally connecting to the preferred route. This alternative would negatively impact windbreaks/tree groves, would impact just as many homes, and would span a large wetland complex. This alternative has more negative impacts than the route segment it is intended to replace.

P-LYN-003 (Engels) – Just northwest of 340th Street head southeast along State Highway 68 turning south at 190th Avenue following 190th to 310th Street. Follow 310th Street east with a couple of 0.5 miles sections of cross-country to 280th Avenue connecting to the preferred route. No reason provided as to why this alternative should be included in scope. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines and bisecting properties, includes more cross-country routing, impacts windbreaks/tree groves, and more impacts to homes. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-LYN-004 (Markell) – From preferred route at 340th Street head north on 180th Avenue and east along 350th Street terminating at CH 23. This alternative would run through a large wetland complex and is incomplete in its description and depiction.

P-LYN-005 (Markell) - From approximately 0.2 miles west of State Highway 68 proceed south cross-country approximately 0.9 miles to 170th Avenue and south to 320th Street. Proceed east along 320th Street crossing State Highway 68 and heading 0.5 miles through the north portion of the city of Ghent to 280th Avenue connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-LYN-002.

P-LYN-006 (Grandview Township) - From 330th Street follow Lyon Lincoln County Road south following an existing 69 kV line. At approximately 1.5 miles proceed east approximately 5 miles cross-country to 160th Avenue and head south to 300th Street and head east on 300th finally connecting with the preferred route at 280th Avenue. This alternative would run cross-country not following section or property lines bisecting properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Nicollet County

P-NCL-001 (Multiple) – From preferred route continue east from 340th Street heading cross-country through Minnesota River Valley for approximately 4.25 miles connecting again at 340th Street and following the road east approximately 1.5 miles with numerous cross-country segments including crossing over Clear Lake finally meeting up with 571st Avenue and heading north connecting with preferred route. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties and would cross over Clear Lake (a public water). The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Renville County

P-RVL-002 (Fors) - From 420th Street follow 630th Avenue east to 430th Street and continue east cross-country 2 miles connecting with 630th again and head east (1 mile cross-country between 465th Street and CH 4). At 520th Street turn north and follow to 300th Street and head east to 651st Avenue. Follow 651st south approximately 1 mile and head east cross-country for 1.75 miles to 310th Street, following 310th east to 611th Avenue where route again heads cross-country 4 miles connecting to the preferred route. This alternative adds more length of cross-country routing that would bisect single-owner agricultural land. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Rice County

A-RIC-004 (Jones) - Connects to alternate route at Interstate 35 just south of 45th Street West and heads north cross-country approximately 3 miles to 270th East Street where it terminates. A large majority of this alternative route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. The alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace. The alternative was also incomplete in its description and depiction.

A-RIC-005 (Malz) From 141st Avenue head northeast cross-country to CH 6 (45th Street West). Follow CH 6 to the point where the road veers south (Kannebec Avenue) and continue east cross-country approximately 3 miles to CR 96 (Halstad Avenue) and follow Halstad south connecting to the alternative route. A large majority of the alternate route runs cross-country and bi-sects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Scott County

P-SCT-004 (ATF – Henderson [NW Alt 3]) - From West 270th Street and Aberdeen Avenue head northeast cross-country approximately 1.1 mile to Delmar Avenue and proceed north along Delmar to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. This alternative heads cross-country bisecting properties in a diagonal fashion. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

P-SCT-005 (Nytes) At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to Delmar Avenue. Head north along Delmar connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A slight variation of P-SCT-004.

P-SCT-006 (Nytes) - At a point on West 270th Street approximately 0.3 miles west of Aberdeen head southeast cross-country 0.1 mile, east 0.25 miles, northeast 0.25 miles, then east 0.75 miles to West 270th Street. Follow 270th east to Naylor Avenue and go northeast cross country approximately 0.25 miles then head north approximately 0.9 miles to West 260th Street connecting with the preferred route. A slight variation of P-SCT-004 and P-SCT-005.

P-SCT-008 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [SW Alt 2]) - From CH 2 (East 260th Street) go north on Langford Avenue approximately 4 miles then go east on CH 8 (220th Street East) for approximately 10 miles. Continue east on CH 70 to Interstate 35 and continue south along Interstate 35 connecting with the preferred and alternative route. This alternative would impact many more homes/properties, add considerable length to route, cross or come very near many Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public waters. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

A-SCT-001 (Lake Marion to Hampton – ATF [NW Alt 1B]) - Follow existing 115 kV transmission line north from 57th Street West connecting with the proposed/alternative route just north of 245th Street East. This alternative route would have the lake Marion substation moved south. This alternative does not meet the stated need of the project as defined in the Certificate of Need.

B-SCT-001 (Multiple) – Approximately 0.3 miles north of West 263rd Avenue on Fabor Avenue from the alternate route head east cross-country 3 miles connecting with the preferred route at West 260th Street. A large majority of this alternate route runs cross-country and bisects a number of properties. This alternative has more impacts relative to the criteria considered by the Commission in route permit decisions than the route segment it is attempting to replace.

Yellow Medicine County

B-YEL-002 (West) - From the alternate route at 290th Avenue to State Highway 23 then north along Highway 23 to 200th Avenue. This was an incomplete route alternative.

VIII. ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

The EIS will evaluate a total of 26 alignment alternatives suggested in comments. These are alternatives that fell within the applicants' requested route widths and generally entail site specific concerns such as building on one side of the road or the other, avoiding tree groves, and avoiding recreational areas or environmentally sensitive areas.

IX. REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The EIS will include a list of permits that will be required for the project.

X. ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The following issues will not be considered or evaluated in the EIS:

1. Any route or substation alternatives not specifically identified in this scoping decision
2. Questions of need, including size, type, and timing; questions of alternative system configurations; or questions of voltage.
3. The no-build option regarding the high voltage transmission line.
4. The impacts of specific energy sources, such as carbon outputs from coal-generated facilities.
5. Policy issues surrounding whether utilities or local government should be liable for the cost to relocate utility poles when roadways are widened.
6. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission rights of way easements, as that is outside the jurisdiction of Public Utilities Commission.

XI. SCHEDULE

Following is the anticipated schedule:

October 2009 – Draft EIS available.

October and November 2009 – Draft EIS public meetings.

January 2010 – Final EIS available.

Signed this 30 day of June, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Lntgrandpa@aol.com [mailto:Lntgrandpa@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 8:27 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020

Stephanie,

I keep getting mail on the project and have been missing the meetings lately.

I think, I met you at Red Wing, Mn and expressed my "fine with me". About a year or so ago.

My property is on west side of County rd. 6 Blvd. 40463 is the mail box # or fire #. Located between Goodhue and Zumbrota bordering the old RRR bed to the North.

You at that time would send me a map of that area. My area is not in flood plain.

I-262-001

It appears this area is not being considered, as I hoped it would. Please respond if possible as I want to be a part of this project as I would in positive mode. My email address: Lntgrandpa@aol.com

Louis Torkelson
626 44th ave. NW
Rochester, Mn

507-273-9038

Download the [AOL Classifieds Toolbar](#) for local deals at your fingertips.

I-262-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

July 24, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808
Wabasha County/Zumbro Twnshp
T.109N.-R.14W

Dear Ms. Strength,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We had the pleasure of meeting you on June 16, 2009, in Plainview, Minnesota, at the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting. We provided you with a packet of information and our concerns regarding the route proposal at that time affecting our land and area. The route has changed yet again since then, but still directly impacts our parcel.

I-263-001 | We will be referring to the CAPX route number B95. I have enclosed the maps that show this route and our property.

This route lines along our northern border, which will impact our farmed white pine, red pine and black walnut. They grow up to that border. There is no established corridor here. We would lose that timber and its value, and all future plantings.

I-263-002 | We have marked the spot where we are planning our residence. This was shared with the CapX routing team. This route would negate our ability to build there. It would devastate the aesthetics and depreciate substantially our property value.

I-263-003 | Please note that the line marked T-282 a PRIVATE drive. The Zumbro Township surrendered responsibility for this road in 2005. We have done all maintenance.

I-263-004 | Our parcel of land is part of the Richard Dorer Memorial State Hardwood Forest, and has an active DNR forestry management plan. It was started in the 1970s, and was updated in 2002. In addition to our tree farm, there is a blend of native soft and hardwoods throughout the property. It is habitat for deer, pheasant in the fields and cedars, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and fox, to name a few. Implementation and reintroduction of native prairie and woodland plant species is underway. We have a small pond which

I-263-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

I-263-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line, as well as potential impacts to the aesthetic quality and land use of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-263-005 |
I-263-006

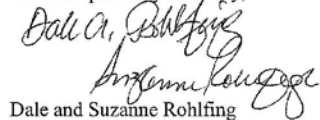
assists native amphibian/reptile populations, and includes our attempt to restore the wood duck population in our area.

Fragmentation of forested land and wildlife habitat is evident with this proposed route. We ask that you utilize existing roads/established corridors south of this route. Also, the southern I-90 to LaCrosse option would deter disruption of the McCarthy Lake Management/Weaver Dunes areas along and near the Alma route.

We strongly urge you to support the efforts and expenditures made to promote healthy forest and wildlife, and recreation on and near our property. We are doing what our state and country asks of us. We ask that you promote the importance of what conservation means, for the sake of future generations.

Thank you, as always, for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours respectfully and truly,



Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Tree farmers/ land stewards

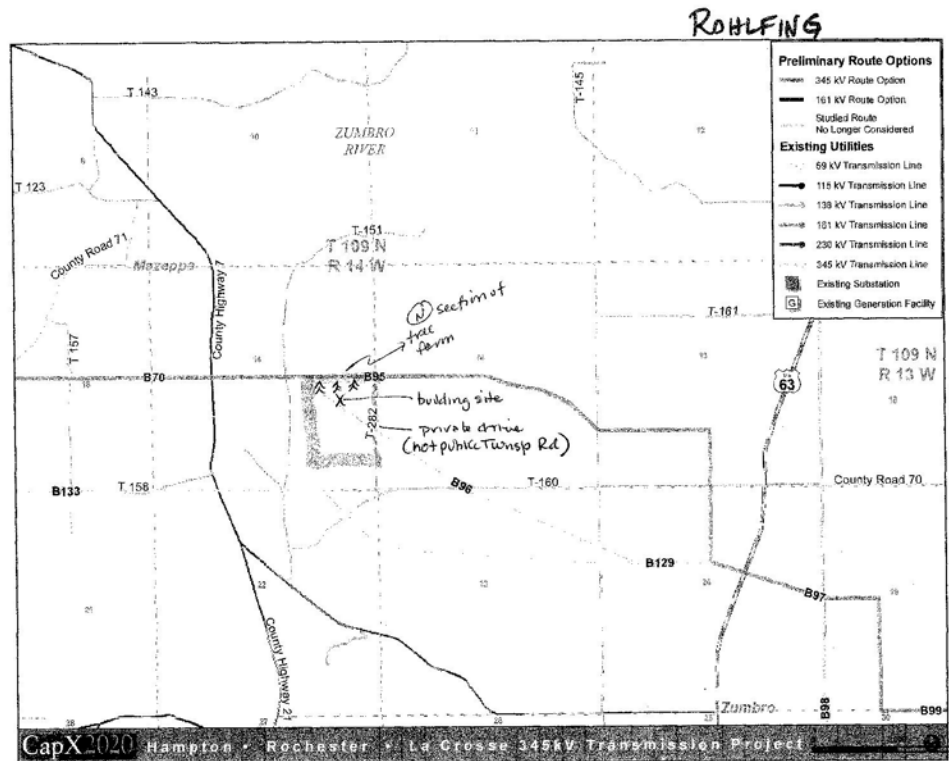
Enclosures

I-263-005

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process as well as potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

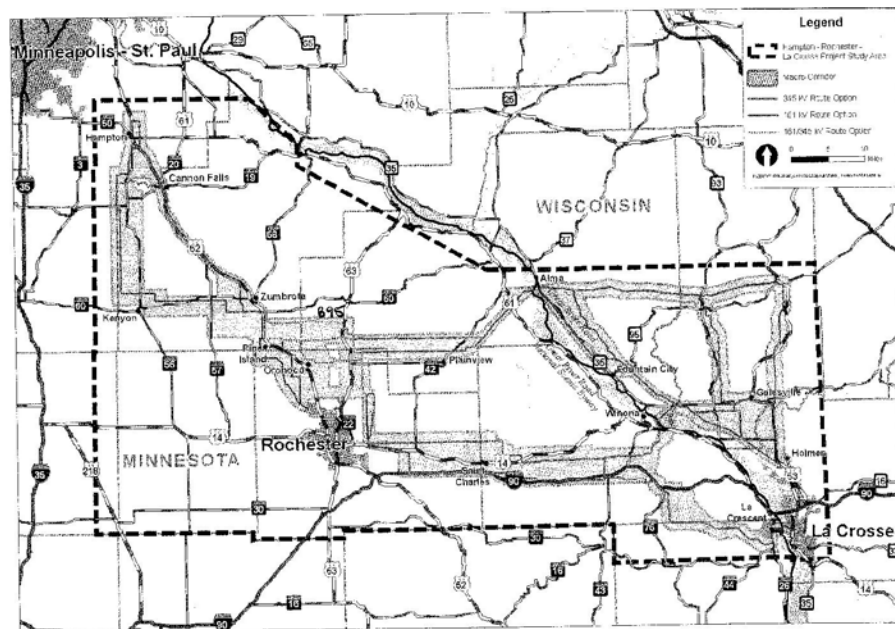
I-263-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.





ROHLFING



June 16, 2009

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, RUS
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
2310 15th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2808

Dear Ms. Strength,

Thank you for coming to Plainview, MN for the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse scoping meeting.

We own and operate a tree farm in Minnesota, Wabasha County, Zumbro Township: T.109N.-R.14W. The northern most route proposal touches our property.

This route disregards Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, of the route permit criteria, by fragmenting property and natural/critical habitat. It transects a state designated canoe route, another tree farm, and is the closest to a registered bald eagles nest of all the northern routes crossing the Zumbro River.

This route would devastate the aesthetics, and alter the river bottoms and the riparian ecosystem of this region within the Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

We ask that you please reinforce the use of existing corridors, road, rail and energy lines, when choosing the final route, pursuant to the above mentioned MN Statute.

Enclosed is a letter sent to Tom Hillstrom of Xcel Energy in April of 2009 with specific impacts of the route, area map, and photos.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfling
Droh124057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

February 27, 2009

RE: CAPX added route 2/23/09
Rohlfing 50 acres
T.109N.-R.14W.

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

Thank you for coming to Zumbro Falls last evening during the storm warning... We hope you got home safely after the long meeting.

We were shocked, actually, to see the proposed CAPX route change yet again, now diagonally across our 50 acre Tree Farm. We were unaware of this change until the meeting. This change will directly impact our parcel by plowing through the center of our property with the 150 foot swath. This would devastate our Tree Farm which consists of black walnut, white and red pine. Part of the route is directly over our proposed home site. It is closer to a registered Eagles nest and directly crosses an area of dense eagle activity. It interferes with our land stewardship plan with the Lake City Forestry Office.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.03, subdivision 7, we ask that you follow the Route Permit Criteria, utilizing existing rail, road, energy and property lines. This most recent route proposal will negatively impact our property from economical, ecological, residential, aesthetic and agricultural standpoints.

This route change is difficult to understand, considering the letter and photos we sent to Mr. Hillstrom January 2. We would be happy to provide you with that information. As per your encouragement, we have made a call to Mr. Hillstrom this morning. Our neighborhood group will be meeting shortly to discuss alternate routes, and communication with you.

Again, we thank you for your presentation and look forward to further dialog with regard to this project. Please note that we are forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. Hillstrom, and Matthew Langan of the DNR, who received our previous mailing.

Respectfully yours,

Dale and Suzanne Rohlfing

Drohl24057@aol.com
Caraway57@aol.com

April 2, 2009

Mr. Thomas Hillstrom
Supervisor, Siting and Permitting
Mr. Grant Stevenson
Senior Project Manager
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall (MP 8A)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mazeppa/Zumbro-Hyde
Citizens/Landowners
c/o Suzanne Rohlfling
2310 15th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dear Mr. Hillstrom and Mr. Stevenson,

We are citizens and land owners of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, Wabasha County. We are responding to the most recent route change proposals for the CAPX2020 transmission line. These routes were displayed at the community meeting in Zumbro Falls at the Zumbro Community Church on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Mr. Grant Stevenson attended and spoke to the group at that meeting.

We would like to express our concerns and address them for you with respect to the Public Utilities Commission Minnesota Administrative Rules, 7849.5910 "Factors Considered".

Factor A. "effects on human settlement, including, but not limited to, displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation and public services" The new proposals appear to have no less effect on settlement. There would be, however, increased effects on recreation for the following reasons: 1- this stretch of the Zumbro River is a designated Minnesota state canoe route, with one of the two most popular routes being from the Zumbro dam to Zumbro Falls, according to the DNR. 2-this stretch of the Zumbro River is used for other water recreation, camping, fishing, sport and hunting by individuals and patrons of local camps/businesses. Aesthetics will clearly be impacted by the 150-foot transmission towers, the transmission lines, and the 150-foot clear cut needed for their maintenance. Many of the area's recreational activities will be adversely affected.

Factor C. "effects on land-based economics, including, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, tourism and mining" Major economic impacts include the following: 1- Steeplechase Ski Area. This four-season resort relies heavily on the present landscape and aesthetics for visitor use of the ski hills themselves and the 5-mile trail network used for hiking, biking, snowmobiling and cross country skiing. Of special consideration are the specifics of downhill ski terrain specifications, leaving only the north half of the property for expansion potential. This business contributes to the local economy through employment, operating expenditures, and contribution to the activity of other local businesses. 2- Two working Tree Farms, sections 15 and 16. The white pine, red pine,

and black walnut planted on these two properties represent years of invested labor and expense that cannot be compensated. The actual monetary value of these cannot be realized until tree maturity and harvest. The clear cut for the transmission lines and the required maintenance would also prevent further plantings and potential return on the farms. These farms also utilize local businesses for tree and equipment maintenance. 3- The value of any property within sight of the transmission lines will be significantly reduced, as much of the value of rural property in the area derives from the remote setting.

Factor D. “effects on archaeological and historic resources” Between Wabasha County 70 and south to South Troy, there are historical points of interest. 1- The historic wagon trail north of County 7 and west of Hwy 63. 2-Troy/ South Troy. This includes the old Dale cemetery, the old South Troy town site near the existing cemetery and schoolhouse, the South Troy Church, and the grave of Frederick Ingalls, the infant son of Caroline and Charles Ingalls and brother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Historical Society has agreed to enter this site onto their Historical Society List. There is consideration for a historical marker, according to Mr. Allen Whipple, local historian.

Factor E. “effects on natural environment, including effects on air and water quality, resources and flora and fauna” Environmental effects and conservation concerns of the transmission line and its 150-foot clear cut are numerous. Following are a few examples: 1- This land is part of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. Only a small portion is state owned. It was intended to help preserve the river and the land around it. 2- The recently proposed routes would eradicate a significant acreage of forest land, which is also extremely susceptible to erosion. This has multiple implications: a- decreased natural habitat for native wildlife species which impacts food sources, nesting and protective options which then results in reproductive compromise and increase predation susceptibility. b- Increased erosion which contributes to alteration of native flora allowing invasive species, ie. buckthorn, and potential for alteration of shading and temperature fluctuations in the river. c- decreased sources of CO2 absorption and potential sources of carbon credits 3- This part of the Zumbro River has a designated “catch and release” regulation for smallmouth bass. This fishery depends on high water quality, which will be damaged by disturbing the surrounding forests. 4- The river crossing on the most northern route proposal is in close proximity to a registered eagles nest. There is dense eagle activity north of Wabasha County 7 and the green bridge.

Factors H. “use or paralleling of existing rights-of-way, survey lines, natural division lines and agricultural field boundaries” & **J.** “ use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-ways” Parts of the most recent route have transected property and do not appear to incorporate the need to parallel or utilize existing rights-of-way, survey lines, and existing transportation and transmissions lines. The primary beneficiaries of the transmission lines are the cities of Rochester and LaCrosse, both of which are serviced by existing transportation rights-of-way, ie: US Highway 52 and Interstate 90. These corridors are the logical routes for the transmission lines.

Factor L. “costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route” Several of the proposed routes have many corners and angles that add to the cost of construction, and these same routes require significant timber removal expenses. Routes following highways will have fewer corners and timbered areas. Utilizing the angle of US Highway 52 to Oronoco and Interstate 90, rather than using the northern routes, will reduce the length of the lines. These routes will also be constructed primarily on farmland, which does not need to be cleared initially or in the future. The timbered areas on the northern routes would need regular clearing or spraying, both of which carry monetary and ecological costs.

We sincerely hope you consider the above mentioned factors, and choose alternately a more appropriate route which has less impact on an area that has minimal existing damage. We also suggest that you consider route proposals closer to Route 52 and Interstate 90, and the cities that this project will benefit: Rochester and LaCrosse.

We thank you for these considerations, and look forward to future contact.

Respectfully submitted,

The Citizens of Mazeppa and Zumbro-Hyde Townships, and other interested parties.

Enclosures

Cc:

Bob Cupit, PUC MN
Matt Langan, MN DNR

[illegible][illegible]

⊗ All signatures on file with CAPX routing team.

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview MD June 16 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

*Please refer to
all enclosed letter
information
thank you.*

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:36 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: mlbarthel@comcast.net [mailto:mlbarthel@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 11:26 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Until 2 years ago I was not aware of the beauty southern Minnesota offered. My daughter went to school at Winona State College from 2002 through 2007, and we always enjoyed the drive from the Twin Cities, seeing the bluffs that you could experience from HWY 61. But it was not until a good friend of mine bought land in the Houston, MN area that I saw the deep, lush beauty that the Root River area had to offer.

Our friends bought land in Sather Valley a few years ago. We spent the weekend there, just two weeks ago, and had a chance to be part of nature. We could see how they had fallen in love with all the beauty nature has to offer from the hills, spring fed streams, agriculture and some of the most active wildlife I have seen. There was everything from trout filled streams, deer, coyote, wild turkey, birds that came in every shape, size and color and even the mooing of the cows from across the fields. We sat by the fire after dark and listen to mother nature talking (coyotes were calling from hill to hill) and watched the stars flutter in the night. (And all without a visit from the infamous state bird, the mesquite).

During the day we had a chance to see the beauty of the area with a tube ride down the Root River. After spending the weekend we could see why they decided to move down south to live in Sather Valley.

That was just two weeks ago. Today I heard for the first time about the proposed CAPX2020 that could literally go right over the farm house my friends currently live in. I never professed to be a Rhode Scholar, and have no clue on just how much damage a project like this would have on humans and animal life; but, I have been near these large power lines and have heard the noise they generate and know they do not belong in any scenic corridors that the state of Minnesota has to offer. As citizens, and/or leaders, in our community it should be our responsibility to preserve the beauty of the area for years to come. We already have an Interstate road systems designed to move vehicles efficiently across the nation. If it is necessary to transfer power across the country, why would we not use the same paths to efficiently transfer power from point A to point B?

Please reconsider any notion to interfere with the natural habitat of the area. I am sure if you are honest with yourself, you know the impact is severe to many families, farmers, nature lovers as well as the health of humans and wildlife. There has got to be better alternatives!

Sincerely,

Larry Barthel
Maple Grove, MN

I-264-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-264-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise and to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-264-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-264-001
I-264-002

I-264-003

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020
Attachments: August 1.doc; Capx2020.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:07 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Fw: Capx2020

I-265-001

Stephanie,
I feel I need to send this to you. I have been to all 3 meetings but this last one was very difficult to make ----we arrived at 8:00 the meeting was from 5:00pm-8:00pm. This is our milking time on our farm and may of our neighbors. They were already packed up and leaving. Yes 3 were willing to stay and talk but everything was packed up. If this power line is going through our land do you think they could at least accommodate to our work hours? This line looks to be on our front lawn, my kids will be mowing lawn around it!

Please read my attachments and file them.
Thank you
Carrie Kerfeld

I-265-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

August 1,2009

To the Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing to state how disappointed I am to hear that you are considering putting your high power lines on our property and in our beautiful landscapes here in central Minnesota. We are in Section . We live between Mcrose and Freeport.

Do you realize that we have many vacationers in this part? We have Big Birch Lake right here that people come down to visit on their vacations. We have bald eagles, we'll see as many as 5 at one time, there are 2 that fly above our house every morn and evening, we have frogs that sing to us nightly, the tree look wonderful on our hills especially in the fall. We love our wildlife and we abide by the ways of keeping them here and safe. By our house, and down the road we have up to @ 30 deer and countless turkeys eating at times in the evening and early mornings for years. We love watching these animals, there are people who drive by here just to see them. They eat right up to the edge of the field, close to County Road 17. We enjoy this tremendously, we are the farmers of central Minnesota. We care for our land. We care for our farm animals, they are our lively hood. We have cows in our pasture, right on the south side of Co. Rd. 17. Beach Valley Rd. comes to a T at this pasture. There are trees, hills, valleys & a waterway, and cows that feed off the land, with our farm in the back ground. This is a road that people go down to their homes or to their cabins. They comment on how they enjoy this picture perfect look. They stop to take pictures of our land!

We need you to understand the affects it will have on us individuals. We need your help to keep these lines off our property so we have pure nature out here. We need you to keep these lines on I94, where it will just blend in with all the other utilities, road signs, industries and noises. Please stay on our side, we are a few people who need you to understand our position.

You already have the state cut in half with the interstate, the state owns this and has the right to use it for a straight line from Monticello to Fargo. MNdot does not own the freeway. Wobegan bikers do not buy a license to keep up the trail, we have talked to bikers that use the trail and they use a different stretch more often because it's more scenic. So to keep the power line away from the interstate because of the Wobegon Trail is not a reasonable excuse. Snowmobilers use the trail to get to each town faster, if they want beauty they take another route. You can ask any biker or snowmobiler. There are fewer homes to go around next to the interstate. Please check this out.

To fight this is like having another part time job. This is probably a reason why you are not hearing from a lot of farmers. We are busy all year around, up to 16 hours per day. We want to be home with our families, we are working from before sunrise to after sunset. We don't have the time to be with you watching each step and fighting each person who wants to put these lines on our private property. Most feel that no matter what they say or do won't make a difference, feeling that you already made your choice of routes. We have put a tremendous amount of time and money into our land and buildings. We have future generations coming to live and work here. They would feel cheated to know that you did not think of them. If we lose this battle, we would appreciate an on going compensation for us now and for our grandkids. We need to know you appreciate what we are doing for you. We want this stretch of line on I94.

Thank You, Carrie Kerfeld and family

To whom it may concern:

July 25, 2008

I am writing about the project on the high power line "CapX 2020". I have went to your two recent meeting held in the Melrose area. I hope that you will look at this project closer to see if you can eliminate going over farm land. We are scared of the consequences, the noise, the threats it entitles, the beauty it may kill around it, if it be the birds, animals or people. We enjoy pure nature, the beauty of the skies, land and sounds. It looks like it will be affecting us dramatically - Cutting the trees down, ruining homes, lakes and pastures (shelter for our cows and other animals). We chose to live on a farm in the country to hear and see the land and to take care of it for future generations.

If you choose to go through farm land, do you think our land will be worth as much with these power lines? We need to consider the future generations on this land, such as a loan on the land with rental payments, free electricity or get paid a certain % for each post on their land per month now and generations to come. We need to have a contract; we need it in writing for every acre it affects, post or no post. Year after year, we need to know we are appreciated in having this on our land.

I would like you to challenge this group to go to schools on this route and have a question/answer time. Also challenge this group to go to the extension office to get a list of farmers who are willing to give tours of their farms. More young families are health conscience, doing preventive health. Companies like this need to help support healthy ways of living.

If it comes by our place we will have personal contact with it 24 hours a day. I am a stay at home Mom of 5 children, school age and younger. We're here all the time. Our future generation will be here and possibly die here - which is true for many farmers.

I would like to give you a taste of what it would be like for CapX 2020 going through our land and possible farmstead. Depending on what time of year it will be put up, it will affects us differently. If it is being put up in the Spring, they will use X amount of acres for their equipment. We won't be able to seed that part of the land that year - we will have lost that amount of grain for our cows. Then you take the summer, we'll have spend hours upon hours buying seed, working the fields 2 times, sowing the seed, picking rocks, fertilizer, spraying up to 2-3 times for weeds and bugs. The poles get put up and all this time, acres of crop will be lost, money and effort gets thrown to the wayside. Winter would of course be the best, but a farmer has to wonder what kind of top soil will be left for us to farm on. We farm miles of land along Co. Rd. 17 so we will be dealing with a many power line post. Another thing what if the cows have new issues that come up, we have to hire people to figure out the problem that we never had before. Per acre farmers use less electricity then a city of houses so why dump this on us.

Please reconsider, find another way so it doesn't drag across the state and onto precious farm land. Stay on the I-94 route, town people can move easier then a farmer and most will only be around the high power line for a third or half the time.

Thank You,
Sincerely,



Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 12:40 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tim & Carrie Kerfeld [mailto:tkerfeld@albanytel.com]
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:13 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020

Hi
I just sent you an e-mail but I never wrote what section I am inplease help remove us from this power line.
Tile H-8 #5 & #8

Thanks,
Carrie Kerfeld

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

fyi

From: Lexa, Caroline A [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:00 AM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: Lexa, Caroline A
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:56 PM
To: 'stephanie.strength@usda.gov'
Subject: EIS Scoping Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

Please ensure that the larger picture is addressed and a pragmatic approach is taken when reviewing the scope of the CAPX2020 project. I am a homeowner living near the proposed Brookings CAPX2020 line. The following are my families concerns:

* If there is an alternative plan that is less costly to rate payers, such as using local power and conservation, please look at this option seriously. Sometimes a simpler and less costly approach just makes sense.

* With the recession, people around me seem much more consciences about the money they spend on energy consumption. People are cutting back and being careful about their energy use. Please use recent forecasts that take into account the changing attitudes towards energy consumption!

* Please include the Brookings line with the scope, this is one large project. It's all connected.

* Please consider not only the visual impact but also the property value impact and the potential increased risk for cancer when reviewing the cost/benefits of this project.

* Please consider alternatives, such as local power generation and a no build option for the entire project.

* Please review the extent to which CAPX2020 will facilitate more coal generation and the environmental increasing coal generation.

I-266-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I am a parent of two very young children living on a farm that has been in our family for over 100 years. I don't want to have to choose between exposing myself to electromagnetic fields and leaving the farm we all love so much. But even if my particular family isn't considered, I'm just not sure this project makes sense. Is this really the best option? The least expensive? The most efficient? What if there's a better idea that would accomplish the power needs without disrupting so many lives? Couldn't we product wind power here? It's awfully windy at our house on the farm. Please consider the big picture, the entire project. Is this really the best way?

Best Wishes,

Caroline, Mike, Inga (age 3) and Vlad (age 2) Lexa

Webster, MN

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Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal

From: Chris Nagel [mailto:nage0049@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 8:13 PM
To: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC; Plank, Mark - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Powerlines proposal

Hi Gentlemen,

Please consider my thoughts below.

Thanks.
Chris Nagel

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Nagel <nage0049@gmail.com>
Date: June 30, 2009 2:10:31 AM GMT+02:00
To: stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov
Subject: Powerlines proposal

Hello Ms. Strength,

I-267-001 |

I am concerned by the 345 kV power lines, which are planned to be installed or expanded along the stretch of Mississippi between Alma and LaCrosse, WI. The concerns I have are aesthetic and concern safety. It is important to me that the project not contribute to the loss of the wilderness area along these backwaters. Is there a way to bury the lines, or otherwise minimize their impact? Is there a way to not locate them in the very visible Mississippi channel?

In terms of safety, I encourage the use of highest industry standards of safety. I will be content paying for this additional service.

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email:

I-267-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line and to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-267-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-267-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

nage0049@gmail.com

430 Dacota,
Winona, MN

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email: nage0049@gmail.com
Phone: (0049) 211 9653 671

CapX2020

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

Delivering electricity you can rely on

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville WI and another alternative organizations

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

The fact that citizens do have
some good ALTERNATIVE Ideas
Listen to EM with the idea
of USING them instead of
just listening & falling on ears
that shut out the POSSIBILITY
ya, know maybe just maybe there
are some ideas other than just
you
Please LISTEN

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project

Delivering electricity you can rely on

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

This area was zoned Exclusive Ag - for a reason - to keep it as it is! A lot of time & effort went into creating these zoning laws and that should & does exclude a Sub station. What good & what impetus will this show to anyone if your big powerful corporation comes along & says damn we want it - we get it - Doesn't anything have the legal status to be MOG's status honored & what is "standby"? On Hwy 54 - ~~proposed~~ - proposed substation south of it. In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

This is agriculture and our home! I'm a quack
and work VERY HARD every day to maintain
a healthy body. We have worked hard to
maintain clean air and a quality of life
style by ~~necessitating~~ keeping the area to a
country like setting. We have worked as a
neighborhood to keep housing ~~in the country~~
~~we need it~~ or urban sprawl to a minimum so we
can keep that quality AND be ABLE to Afford to
~~stay~~ stay on the family farm proudly. This project
DOES NOT PROMOTE a Quality Healthy Lifestyle
Regardless of your inconclusive studies. It's not
natural for the Human Body to be exposed to EMF's

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-268-001

Yes in explanation
But no in putting, acting, thinking and thought
to other very sound and worthwhile Alternate ideas
or plans. If you want to know why there often
seems to be a low number of concerned citizens
at some of the meetings or comments its because

I-268-002

people feel like no matter what they say or
do the outcome is still going to be the
same. Come on please LISTEN to some of
these ideas that JUST MAY WORK. Push some
of the STATUS QUO - always done like this
I TRY something out of the box. Remember
the wheel - good invention but as time goes
on there have been alot of new technology. For
example why cant this line run along the

I-268-003

Please tell us how to reach you. freeway system? No one has
a good answer to that. If it
it still seems like a viable
solution. ~~Good~~ Just because
CONTACT INFORMATION
Name: Deb Congdon
Representing (Optional):
Mailing Address: WI 6618 State Rd 54 a citizen thought it - well it
City: Galesville WI 54630 State: not the Zip Code:
Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-582-4476
4476

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-268-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-268-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-268-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages

and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-268-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-269-001

Our land may be used for wind-producing electricity. I don't want electric line's in the way.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wesley Dubbels

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 5831 51ST NE

City: Rochester State: Mn- 55906 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-282-2991

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-269-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list.

Which meeting did you attend? none

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-269-002

What do they do ~~want~~ when the crops are
growing and the line needs repair?

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I-269-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7/21/09

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

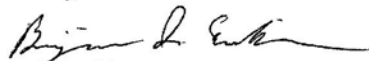
Re: CapX2020

Dear Stephanie Strength,


We wish to state our strong opposition to the proposed CapX2020 transmission lines proposed on 50th Street West in Webster, Minnesota. This line will run near our property. During these times of economical stress and loss of jobs, our families have needed to move in together to share expenses and are still trying to save our home from forecloser. The installation of this line would not only devalue our property but make us not want to live near it. Our family has enough health issues with out adding more. With the devaluation of our property after the addition of the line we feel we will not be able to sell it. We feel like we have been trapped by the proposal of this line. We are also frustrated that with the new proposed alternate route for this line, we were informed by concerned neighbors and not by the agents putting this line through. We ask that you reconsider this matter during these times of economical stress, and realize the land devaluation is a huge issue for those involved.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, we ask that you find an alternate route that will have less impact on our property at 4925 Elmore Ave. Webster, MN.

Sincerely,



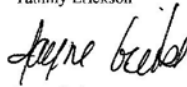
Benjamin Erickson



Tammy Erickson



Timothy Geibe



Jayne Geibe

I-270-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-270-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Glen Haag

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 18437 Hwy 14

City: Lewiston State: MN Zip Code: 55952

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

It would be nice if you could follow property lines, instead of breaking up parcels.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Sensitive areas include dairies that are very close to the proposed lines

I-271-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crosse, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-272-007 No. The actual "need" for this project has never been proven, especially when recent usage data (2005-09) is not being considered by Excel. The fact is, usage in these years has declined!

I-272-008 Transporting power such a long distance is not an efficient way to provide service.

I-272-009 Many of the proposed routes are not efficient - they do not take the shortest, quickest, logical route.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Doug Kleese
Representing (Optional): Holden Township Kenyon MN
Mailing Address: 4667 Co. 30 Blvd
City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-649-1783

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-272-003

My wife and I have young kids in our family who play and work in the proposed area. There are many well documented safety issues to living, working and playing near these transmission lines.

I-272-004

Being concerned about electrical shock when getting off farm equipment on a daily basis concerns me.

I-272-005

Destroying the viewshed of ^{our} township greatly concerns me!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-272-006

In our area we have a wonderful natural wildlife habitat along production agriculture. These two have co-existed beautifully. The swath that these transmission lines would create would hugely disrupt both of these.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Multiple grassroots meetings held in our local community

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-272-001 Is there really a need for increased electrical power supply in our country?

I-272-002 When agriculture has not created the need, why does agriculture have to "pay the price" by the disruption + destroying of farmland have to to transport it?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-272-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-272-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will also be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-272-008

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-272-009

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

No, purpose/need

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ROGER LACHER, H & V LACHER TRUST

Representing (Optional): WISCOY HEADWATERS

Mailing Address: 30960 HEADWATERS DRIVE

City: RUSHFORD State: MN 55971 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☒ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: FORESTRY

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-273-001

*Depending on routing could impact
native prairie propagation, rare
calcareous fen, organic livestock
crop & produce leased land.
Wilson Twp. Sec. 34, Wisconsin Twp. Sec. 3, 4, 9, 10*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

*all are important. I grew up in
a farmhouse bedroom within 50 yards
(closest residence in miles) from Dairyland-
Xcel East-West line @ Wilson/Wisconsin twp.
border - the corridor affects everything.*

I-273-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands, and agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? WINONA, MN FORUM 6/29/09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ ① Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ ② Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ ⑤ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ ④ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ ③ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ ⑥ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

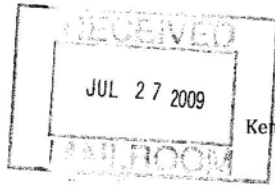
What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

①, ⑤, ② in much greater detail. The "Driftless Bioregion" has no need for "imported power", especially with easily attained 25% conservation efforts. The Kilowatts are destined for the big footprints (carbon) out East.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-273-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.



Mary Lazaretti
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition for the proposed high-voltage transmission lines being routed through Holden Township. After my youngest child moved out a few years ago, my husband and I couldn't wait to leave city life behind and retire to the peaceful and serene countryside of southern Minnesota where he had grown up. After nearly 15 years of searching, we came across the property for sale. We immediately knew that this was the place where we would want to live. The 200+ acres of quiet, pristine woodland combined with the character of the late 19th century farmhouse created the perfect environment to lay down our roots for this new era of our lives, an era that we both envisioned being our happiest. The property has a valley that harbors a stream and a wide variety of wildlife that comforts both of us, particularly in this age of environmental decline. Knowing that we are doing something to help with preservation and to save the world that we leave to our children is very important to us.

When we first moved down to the area, we began our work restoring the 1890's farmhouse, paying meticulous attention to keeping the historic character of the building. The farmhouse is almost complete and we are planning to move into the home later this year. Needless to say when we heard CapX 2020 was planning to run high-voltage transmission lines directly over the top of our home, our hearts and spirits were crushed. The anguish that we feel stems not only from the undoing of the past 2½ years spent restoring the farmhouse, it runs far deeper than that. Moving to the countryside, finding this quiet, unspoiled sanctuary and transforming it into a home has truly been the realization of our lifelong dreams. So to say that the proposed transmission lines undo several years of hard work is a vast understatement. It undoes the fulfillment of years of aspirations. Unfortunately, at our age we don't have another 15 years in us to spend looking for another dream spot and refurbishing it.

When there is already an existing corridor available along Highway 52 for a utility such as this, we cannot understand why CapX2020 has chosen a route that adds nearly 17 miles to the proposed route, encumbers small farms for those farmers already struggling to maintain their way of life, and razes sensitive forest and wetland areas in a part of the state where these natural resources would be best preserved.

Sincerely,
Mary Lazaretti

I-274-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-274-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: MARK LENWAY

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 23

City: KENYON

State: MN

Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5608

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☒ Conservation Easement *OUR OWN*

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*ONE OF THE CORRIDORES (HOLDEN TOWNSHIP
50th AVE (44755) GOES RIGHT OVER
OUR HOUSE*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? CANNON FALLS & LECAESSENT

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☒ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☒ Historic and cultural sites

☒ Radio or television interference

☒ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☐ Other: PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Mark Lenway
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern: *STEPHANIE A. STRENGTH*

It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-275-001

I-275-002

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO₂ SO₂ NO_x and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-275-003

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.
- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.
- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

I-275-004

I-275-005

I-275-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-275-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-006

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.
- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

I-275-007

Sincerely,
Mark Lenway

I-275-006

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-275-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

July 23, 2009

Department of Commerce
Scott Ek
MN Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101- 2198

Att: Cap X 2020 transmission line

Dear Mr. Ek,

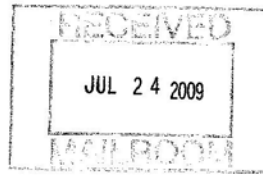
I-277-001 | QUESTION THE NEED FOR CAP X 2020

CAP X 2020 Would carry coal generated electricity, hundreds of miles with a 20% compounded loss to an area that is producing electricity from wind projects and proposing new wind projects to be built.

Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous and solid waste products.

Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy which generates the majority of its electricity from coal (which spews global warming gases into the atmosphere) could easily be a big loser if a strong climate-change bill passes in Washington. A strong climate-change law could dramatically decrease the value of hundreds of millions of dollars of Minnesota Power's and Xcel Energy's investment in coal-burning infrastructure.

Minnesota Power now reports that money invested in wind power produces cheaper electricity than money invested in coal power and money invested in energy-efficient buildings is more than paid for by energy savings.



I-277-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED:

I-277-002 Why do we need additional transmission lines?
EXEL'S has had a shrinking demand for electricity from the year 2006
DAIRYLAND POWER'S representative stated "there is already too much
electricity being produced by the new wind projects in Southern Minnesota and
they need to move it to other locations. We can't use it all."
—These new wind projects can supply additional electricity to Rochester, MN and
La Crosse, Wis. **WHY THE NEW LINE?**

I-277-003 **GEOLOGIC IMPACT:** Holden Township —a proposed line route --
is a fragile area with a large underground limestone cavern.
A governmental study was taken in Holden Township, Wheeling Township
and Richland Township Minnesota in 1986. — A witness post sign can be found
on 210th Street East, Wheeling Township verifying the study — The study was to
determine how big the cavern was, if it contained natural gas, and if the limestone
was solid or fractured. The study - project was abandon when the large cavern
was found to have large limestone faults. During the governmental study family
water wells were destroyed when the limestone faults shifted. Heavy equipment
and earth pounding was used during the study. Mineral Rights were purchased
from some land owners.

VISUAL/AESTHETIC RESOURCES: we have a rolling country farming
I-277-004 community and the large poles would ruin the view, disrupting and destroying our
I-277-005 rural landscape. A swath 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state
will remove woodland habitat and farmland from our State's precious natural
resources.

PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES: No people should have a line build on their
I-277-006 homestead, for their health and safety. Electric and Magnetic fields still have
unknown effects on all living creatures.

I-277-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-001.

I-277-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-277-004.

I-277-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

LAND USE AGRICULTURE: I have worked for thirty years to build my farmland. I have installed tile, build terraces, with the goal to stop erosion and run off. Farmland is not a renewable resource we need to protect every field, every acre. Holden township and Goodhue County are both dedicated to keep our family farms and our agricultural base. We do not want the transmission lines, as those proposed by the Cap X 2020 project. The proposed lines run directly down the middle of the section, resulting in a greater disruption of the farming acreage.

I-277-007 |

I-277-008 | Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area and drive down property values, and cause problems for farmers.

I-277-009 | **WATER RESOURCES:** Most of the family water wells are shallow and will be disturbed with the digging of large holes and limestone fracturing,


I-277-010 | **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: RAPTORES:** Hawks nest in my woods on my farm, in Holden township. They thrill everyone who hears their call or sees them fly. They are majestic and should not be disturbed.

I-277-011 | **TELEVISION INTERFERENCE:** The large poles will interrupt the poor television we now receive Also there will be interference with GPS systems..

I-277-012 | **NOISE:** We enjoy the quite in the country. We can hear the birds, insects, and the trees rustle. We do not want to hear the mum of electricity lines.

PROPOSED WIND PROJECTS: Three companies are proposing wind projects for the Holden, Kenyon and Wheeling Township areas.

Farm Owner in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota,



Norma Monroe
2162 HWY 246 BLVD
Kenyon MN 55946
Phone 507-789-5497

I-277-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-008

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line as well as potential impacts to agricultural and visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil as well as water resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-277-011

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-277-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-278-002

I have seen statistics proving energy consumption is on a decline so hard to question the need for this proposed line. Why must we have this proposed line running through our area when we receive no direct benefit, not even close. As I understand, it wouldn't be utilized in our state. I dislike the idea of looking out my windows and seeing this scenic landscape marred by tall towers and wires.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Hazel Musgjerd
 Representing (Optional): _____
 Mailing Address: 43645 County 14 Blvd
 City: Kenyon State: Mn. Zip Code: 55946
 Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-6300

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*My property lies 1/2 mile north of
projected link. My view as of now is
unobstructed and want to keep it that way.*

*Good agricultural land will be
taken out of production and it's time we
keep in mind*

*GOD'S NOT MAKING ANY MORE
LAND*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

*Many of the farms in this area are
owned and operated by descendants of
original homesteaders, proud of their
heritage and do not want conditions to
change. Change is not always good.*

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Neighborhood gathering

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-278-001

Presence of electromagnetic fields
in vicinity of lines

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-278-001

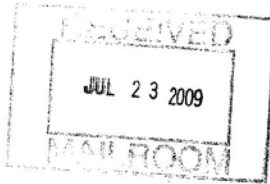
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-278-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Gary Peters
Annette Peters
2779 450th Street
Kenyon, MN 55946



July 3, 2009

RE: CapX 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to you because we are concerned about the proposed CapX 2020 project that may be coming through Minnesota. Our property is in the area for the Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse 345 KV Transmission Project. Our home is located in Section 28 of Holden Township in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Our property is residential and sits on approximately 3.50 acres. We live in a rural agricultural community. Our home is surrounded by farm fields a small woods that is home to deer, wild turkeys and a wide variety of other wildlife.

The various power companies involved in this project have been providing data showing the increased demand for power through 2004 and thus the need for this project. However, the data for the years after 2004 show that there is an actual decrease in usage. Our hope is that all alternatives to this massive project have been studied and fairly evaluated. This project will stretch from the Dakotas through Minnesota and Wisconsin. The transmission lines are said to lose 30% of the power they are carrying. They propose to use coal. We seem to be making strides in conservation and in using renewable resources to produce energy. Is a project of this magnitude really the best solution?

I-279-001 |

As we stated before, ours is an agricultural community and our township and county are dedicated to keeping our family farms and our agricultural base. The acres of land that will be taken for right of ways if this project is approved is astounding. There are also small woods and stands of trees that will suffer if these huge lines are allowed to come through our state. Transmission lines will mar the beauty of the area, drive down property values, cause potential health threats, and cause various problems that farms will need to "work around" for years to come. Becoming a corridor for transmission lines (for which we see no direct benefit) is not something we or anyone else I know wants. I was told that height of the poles for these lines will be approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty!

The proposed route through our township appears to be very close to many homes. We know that these power lines can be harmful to both people and

I-279-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.


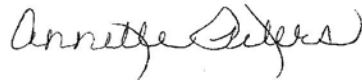
wildlife but still do not know the full effect of long term exposure. We know it interferes with various electrical and GPS systems, etc. We were informed at one meeting we attended that farmers may need to ground their machinery when working around these lines. We also understand that it can interfere with radio and television transmission.

I have read many of the comments submitted by others regarding this project and I have heard many others speak at previous meetings. The reasons for not wanting these lines in our area are the same reasons others do not want them in their areas; including the effect on our property values. We don't want the view from our homes to be massive transmission lines. There is no compensation for those living near the lines and no amount of money would suffice for the loss we would incur in so many ways.

We hope that another solution can be found so none of us will have to have these huge transmission lines near our homes. However, we know that the power companies involved as well state and local governments will prosper from this project and fear that it will be approved. If this project is approved we hope that the least invasive route would be used. We appreciate attempts to stay away from homes when possible, but these lines will still be very close to many homes. Also, is taking this valuable rural land really the best answer? If the project goes forward we feel that the most logical route is not through Holden Township and Highway 56 or Highway 60. The other route goes along Highway 52. Homes in this area would be further from the line. It would also seem to be a shorter and thus less expensive route to use. This route is also more industrial and commercial than the route along Highways 56 and 60.

Sincerely,

Gary & Annette Peters

I-279-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-279-002 |

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DICK REYNOLDS

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 2124 ORCHARD RUN

City: LACROSSE State: MN. Zip Code: 55947

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-280-001

TRANSMISSION LINE WOULD DEVALUE
THE PROPERTY VALUE

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

WE DON'T WANT THE LINE
IN THE LACRESCENT AREA

I-280-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? LACRESSENT, MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

yes

I-281-001

Was anyone from this area on Commission?

I-281-002

Why not follow 52-90 from Rochester to La Crosse rather than destroy the beauty of our area?

I-281-003

Why are Eastern States opposed? Can we not generate locally?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *S. Rochl*

Representing (Optional): *home owner*

Mailing Address: *2373 Meadow Lane*

City: *Winona* State: *MN* Zip Code: *55987*

Daytime Phone (Optional): *2-5185*

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

I-281-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-281-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-281-004 |
I-281-005 |

Aesthetics Property Value
near 17 + 16 - Valley View
Estate

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-281-006 |

road - Winona will not use
electricity going from Rochester to La Crosse
health concerns for several neighbors
and children

I-281-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-281-005

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-281-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-282-001

Why don't you bury
the line?

Why are the engineers against
bury line?

Even if it is costly over the
time it will be more friendly.
The Public the ones going to
live with it not you. We
might as well pay for it being buried
and out of sight now.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: TIM STRONG

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: N9289 Hwy 53

City: Holmen State: WI Zip Code: 54636

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-282-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-282-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-282-002

When I want to sell a few lots
later on we won't be able to
build under power lines right?
Just a dead zone strip of hardly
any vegetation, forever!

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Looking at a line out my
front of home instead of trees.
And listening to the hummm.
Its not why I moved and bought
property 20 yrs ago.
Other wise I'd stay closer to
town + people.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 6-24-09 Centerville, WI.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-282-003

Burying the line to keep it
out of sight

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-282-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-283-001

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 65521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-283-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

- I-283-002 | My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.
- I-283-003 | The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.
- I-283-004 | Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.
- There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems
- In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?**
- I-283-005 | The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.
- I-283-006 | The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-283-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-283-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-006

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-283-007 | Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

I-283-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

No

I-284-001 Statistics were given, but not really relevant and specific to our area as far as purpose, cost, path, long range effects, farmers losses, need in this area, need in areas all along the line route, other options, smaller less obtrusive energy sources in more distant & different places.

It sounded like they had a plan, didn't care who or what it hurt, they were going to do it, & make their profit from it. Statistics can prove anything you want them to, lots of words can be used and not really say anything important

People, nature, prime farm land, towns, should all be considered not just some company's greed and thoughtless whims.

I-284-002 Routes by existing power lines should be looked into - or some place other than prime farm land & beautiful landscapes - --- if they insist on line Transmissions.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jan Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 Co 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-284-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-284-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I am on a farm in Holden Township - see my address. It is a shame to consider transmission lines going near my family farm and that of my neighbors. It is a waste of natural resources and a penalty imposed on small farms that have a difficult time making a living dealing with the delicate balance of cost of seed, chemicals, fuel, and time; mixed with weather; and the health and production of animals, and market values. To have other obstacles like sick or infertile animals, poisons, contamination, or land taken away is a burden that would end the farm.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-284-003

I am concerned about my own health and that of my family and grandchildren. There has not been enough research into the long range effects of the magnetic fields and emissions. Devastating effects have been noted on pacemakers, implants, and more. Life and health are too precious to put into jeopardy.

I-284-004

Electrical appliances + TV will experience interference. Emissions will affect the life of machinery and vehicles. (Consider another burden for farmers.)

I-284-005

The natural beauty and clean environment with trees, waterways, wetland, pastures of fields, streams, wildlife, nice natural skylines with beautiful sunrise and sunset scenes are here. Wouldn't it be a shame to destroy this unnecessarily!! - just on some company's greed and thoughtless whim!

I-284-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-284-004

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-284-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Informational Mtg. - Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

If this project goes through with all the expense and damaging effect - how soon would technology find a better way? What a waste!

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

3149 Co. 30 Blvd.
Kenyon, MN 55946
Tel. 507-789-6826
July 20, 2009

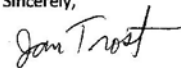
Scott Ek, Dept. of Commerce
MN Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place E., Suite # 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Attention Scott Ek,

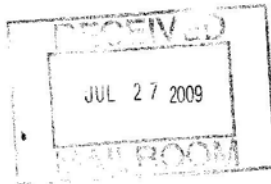
I am writing to you to let you know that I do not want the CapX 2020 transmission lines running across Holden Township in Minnesota.

- I-285-001** We do not need extra energy here or nearby, there is a decline in energy use in this area including Holden Township due to new technology. We do not need energy carried a long way and losing a large percentage of that just by sending it that distance – that is poor use of energy money. There are new, better and more efficient ways to produce energy (including nuclear) and probably new discoveries in the making. This would be foolish if this is supposed to be a line that travels all the way to the east coast, for so much energy would be lost along the way and so much land and natural resources would be wasted. There could be less obtrusive sources closer to the users with less expensive transport; and I don't want to be part of this frivolous waste when there are other options and answers.
- I-285-002** It is a shame to even think of having transmission lines here in prime farming land. That is a waste of natural resources and a penalty imposed on small farmers in this area that have a difficult time anyway to make a living in farming. There is a delicate balance with cost of seed, chemicals, fuel, and time; mixed with weather and growing conditions; and the health and production of animals; and market values. To have another obstacle such as land taken away or sick animals or infertile animals, or animals that miscarry or contaminated animals and crops because of transmission leaks is a burden these farmers do not need. It would mean their demise.
- I-285-003** I am concerned about my own health and that of my family and grandchildren. There has not been enough research into the long range effects of the magnetic fields and emissions. Devastating effects have been noted on pacemakers and implants, and more. Life and health are too precious to put into jeopardy.
- I-285-004** Electrical appliances and TV will experience interference. Emissions will affect the life of machinery and vehicles (and create another burden for farmers).
- There is a natural beauty in this county and it is the envy of other areas and it is a desirable place where many people would say they would like to live. There are trees, waterways, vital wetlands, patchwork of cropped fields, streams, wildlife, nice natural skylines with beautiful sunrise and sunset scenes. Wouldn't it be a shame to destroy this unnecessarily!!!! - just on some company's greed and thoughtless whim!
- I-285-005** If for some reason the lines have to go through, pick an existing corridor like highway 52.

Sincerely,



Jan Trost
A land & animal farmer, nature & health
lover, and common sense citizen



I-285-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-285-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-004

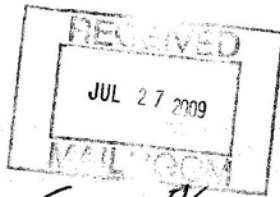
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-285-004.

I-285-006

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment



Mark Lenway
P.O. Box 23
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-285-009

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO₂ SO₂ NO_x and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-285-010

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.

I-285-011

- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.

I-285-012

I-285-013

- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-285-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural and water resources, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, and aesthetics will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-008

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-009

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-285-010

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-014

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

I-285-015

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.

I-285-016

- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

Sincerely,
Mark Lenway

*PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO
HAPPEN TO OUR STATE*

I-285-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-013

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to recreation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-014

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-285-015

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process. If an agreement cannot be reached between a utility and the landowner, a utility may pursue a state-governed process called

condemnation, under which a judge and a panel of impartial individuals decide whether the easement is needed and its value. The condemnation process varies from state to state. In general, states establish strict procedures for determining the amount a landowner should be paid by a utility for acquiring a right for construction and maintenance of a transmission line. A government's right to acquire – or authorize the acquisition of private property for public use, with just compensation being given to the owner, is called eminent domain. In some states when a transmission line crosses a rural property, a landowner, under certain conditions, may request that the utility purchase the entire property.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-285-016

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I attended an informational meeting for the certificate of need. I had the impression that the decision was already made, & the meeting was just one more hoop that the power companies had to jump through. We were fed information, how accurate, is any one's guess. When something is strong armed through, statistics can say whatever you want them to.

I-286-001

It was never really said how far this power was intended to be shipped, Minnesota really doesn't need this power, that was glossed over.

I-286-002

My real question, why are we expanding a very antiquated system, when nuclear would be the perfect way to go? Coal is dirty, nuclear is clean, & the plant could be built where power is needed, not hundreds of miles away.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 Co. 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-286-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-286-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

My property is a 160 acre farm, there is nothing special, except it is my home in one of the most beautiful areas on MN.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Holden Twp is a very picturesque area, rolling hills, savanna prairie, smaller farms, streams. I feel this antiquated system is not only an eye sore, but more importantly, what is the long term health effects of those that live in area, there is also the concern of the effect the EMF has on the animals. We do try to make money on livestock.

I-286-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-286-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-286-003

I-286-004

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by ~~June 29~~ ^{July 23}, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Informational Mtg - Cannon Falls, MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-286-005

With all the "green", why are we expanding coal?
We work all our lives, take care of our property & the community,
with the intention of selling (maybe), what does that do to
property values?
It's just a bad idea

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-286-005

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts, including potential impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-287-001 *No. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that*
- I-287-002 *lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed that the assessment of need didn't include the past 3 years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefiting Minnesotans - it*
- I-287-003 *will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener)*
- I-287-004 *options need to be considered and Minnesotans need to get the truth and whole story behind these lines.*
- I-287-005

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-287-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-287-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-287-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-005

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-287-006 | Our farm is located in Holden Township. We
I-287-007 | produce feed and raise livestock. These lines
I-287-008 | would disrupt the agriculture in this area
I-287-009 | and could pose dangers to the livestock and
farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared,
which would disrupt hunting- another important
activity for my family. Massive transmission
lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this
rural agricultural community.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-287-010 | Natural and biological resources definitely need to be
I-287-011 | considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such
I-287-012 | lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not
meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are
in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this
area and power lines should not be an exception.
I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the
power lines can have on plant and animal species as
well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a
resource that is becoming more valuable everyday.
We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland
in this area to make way for transmission lines.

Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-287-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-007

Your comment card has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Family member attended Mtg- Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) -These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- ☒ Radio or television interference, and GPS on farm equipment
- ☒ Noise

- I-287-013 ☒ Health and safety, EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ Other: Property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- I-287-014 This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy needs, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution and destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-287-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-013

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-287-014

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

NO! This Project is really being expedited at a very rapid pace for some unknown reason to the public. Why are we not investigating other methods to produce this power, we supposedly need. I know we have experts in the field of producing electricity and know if these transmission lines are the only option we have. Why are we not listening and exploring these other ideas.

I-288-001

I-288-002

We seem to get all our information about the need for this project (FROM the people who are selling it). Do you believe they would say we don't need the lines. This is their income & what they sell. Like a Dairy Farmer telling you to drink less milk. We need to listen to other ideas & please tell us how to reach you. Then do what is best!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Weibel

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 48

City: La Crescent State: MINN Zip Code: 55947

Daytime Phone (Optional): (715) 459-9166

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-288-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-288-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

FARM 272 T2142 T104 R4 Sect 17 LACROSSE
Our house built in 1994, was built away from existing roadways, power lines & etc. to be isolated on a ridge facing Lacrosse, LaCrosse for the million dollar view. People who choose to build next to roadways w/power lines already there, expect in ~~the~~ ^{the} This proposed line will cut across the view we built ~~for~~ for. Doesn't make good sense for access & maintenance of these proposed lines. There are existing fields along roadways which would make much more sense to build next to.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

would still have them on my land, but not right next to me. Why ~~et~~ not look at Pfeiffer Valley and get the pipe below the sky line.

The existing proposed path cuts North to South across that ridge which will be highly visible to all the people living in LaCrosse, only to cross the highway & travel back North past the whole town of LaCrosse again, then to head to Lacrosse. Far from a straight path these power lines will go about 2/3 around the town.

wouldn't it make more sense to ~~put~~ ^{not} these lines through a less populated area. Wouldn't some farmer up North with land and no one around them use the more straight path?

I-288-003

Your comment has been noted. Access and terrain issues will be assessed at a route level and with individual landowners. Alternatives to the project as well as potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-288-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-288-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? All of them

I still never get any mailings - Although I keep signing up.
Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting. Why???

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-289-001

I have not attended any meetings regarding the proposed power lines, but have become involved with local people in researching this project and the need for it to cut across farmland. I would like to know more as to the reasoning why this route was chosen and not the Hwy 52 corridor. It makes more sense to run it down the corridor versus crossing land and disrupting vegetation, wild life and waterways.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Elise Wroblestad

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 4254 450th St.

City:

Kenyon

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55946

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-289-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our farm has been in our family for many generations, located amongst a protected waterway, forests and prime farm land. Constructing high energy power lines would significantly mar the landscape and drive down property value of land and residential homes.

Our farm is located in Goodhue County, Holden Township, Southeast Minnesota.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

Our farm has been in my family for 5 generations. It was homesteaded in 1855 and has been farmed since that time until my parents moved off of it 14 years ago. At the present time, my family has been living on the farm enjoying the beauty and aesthetics of the surrounding area. The farm is currently owned and operated by my mother and continues to be used for agricultural purposes. The power lines would forge right through prime agricultural land, destroy natural

habitats and be an eyesore for those living in the area.

I-289-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-289-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources, wildlife, and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? N/A

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-289-004

Using agricultural land to place high power lines; particularly in an area that has committed itself to preserving its heritage.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-289-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

[illegible]

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representing (Optional): _____

City: LACrescent State: MD Zip Code: 55947

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-895-2834

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend?

July LaCrosse

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-291-001 | The Need is not Adequately Identified.

I-291-002 | The Future ^{Need} is not based on current consumption & Projections.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DENNIS YEITEV

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 170 Briarwood Ln

City: La Crosse State: WI Zip Code: 54601

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-785-2834

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-291-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-291-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-291-001.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: *Forest, Mangrove*

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? July 09 LA Crosse

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-291-003

This will significantly affect the wild life
and natural beauty of our area -

I searched for 10 years to find our rural home. We
have abundant Wild Life + Beauty that I paid
dearly for. No Gov Payment can compensate
us for that loss. -

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-291-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-292-001

We do understand the need to meet growing demands for power. We just ask that consider the B46 route vs the B119.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Emil & Mary Zahasky

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4001 19th Ave NW

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55901

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-292-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-292-002

The routing option B119 cuts directly across our family farm that we have owned for 50 years. This will complicate on-going efforts to farm this land. This is prime farm land. The addition of a power line corridor across it will reduce its re-sale value as well. Please don't run this line across our farm. We urge you to consider route B 46 instead.

I-292-003

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-292-004

• This is prime farm land and a beautiful setting.

I-292-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-292-003

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-292-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? *None. We recently became aware that one of the routes would cut across our farm.*
Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-292-005

• Another key issue that should be considered is avoiding running lines across farm land whenever possible.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-292-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Farmington tap & Zumbro tap

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

With the added number of
wind farms and alternate
sources of energy - I do not
believe we need these High
Voltage transmission lines
Crossing over Country side
Now or ever.! LSH

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I-293-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-293-001

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: tree farm

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

tree farm
Minnesota
Wabasha County
Zumbro Twp.
T109 R014 S15
Farm # 1298
tract # 690

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-293-002 | This area is very sensitive
I-293-003 | in respect to land use —
I-293-004 | wildlife - plant and trees
as well as erosion of soil

I-293-005 | The installation of this power line
I-293-006 | not only raises havoc with the
ecological aesthetics of this land
it is disruptive and destructive
to the natural beauty of this land.
LSTH

I-293-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to geology and soil resources caused by the transmission lines will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-293-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

The need for this project was explained very well. However what was not explained was the fact that the City of Rochester needs this power source. So why do we have to supply the Route - Hwy #52 travels between the twin cities and Rochester why do you think you need to divert the transmission line through our property around Rochester???

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Laverne S. Hofschulte
Representing (Optional):
Mailing Address: 11948 Co Rd 11 NE
City: ELGIN State: MN 55932 Zip Code:
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-876-2588

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-293-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-294-001

IF energy consumption is decreasing, why is this needed?

I-294-002

IF they need more electricity out East then they should produce it out there rather than running lines across our farmland.
Holden township is a strong and proud Ag Community and I would like to see it stay that way for future generations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-294-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-294-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-294-001.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Section 19, Holden Township in Goodhue County

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I don't think running power lines down the middle of township sections in Agricultural communities is a good idea. Why not run them along Hwy 52 where there is already power lines running.

I think in Holden township we have a good balance of wildlife and Agriculture and running power lines through our area I feel would upset this balance.

I-294-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-294-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-294-004 I ~~would~~ would like more information on possible
I-294-005 health hazards, how much will this interfere
I-294-006 w/ electronic devices, will there be more
I-294-007 static electricity and stray voltage issues.
I also feel the power companies aren't
trying to ^{help} get the information in regards to
this project out to the general public.
we only received one flyer in regards to
this and it didn't have a lot of information in
it. Only recently did we become aware of the
fact it could be going through the section
we live in.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Lisa Karl

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 238 430th St

City: Nersbrand State: MN Zip Code: 55053

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-294-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-294-005

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-294-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-294-007

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

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COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-295-001 | if energy consumption is decreasing
why is this needed?
I-295-002 | I think if they need more electricity out
East they should produce it their
rather than lines running across our
farmland.
Holden township is a strong and proud
agriculture community and I would like
to see it stay that way for future generations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-295-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-295-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-295-001.

I-295-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Section 19 Holden Township

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I think in Holden township we have
a good balance of wildlife and agriculture
and I feel this would upset this
balance

I don't think running power lines down
the middle of the sections is a good
idea. there are already power lines running
down Hwy 52 I think that's where
they should be run. if there is a need
for the power lines. - although I feel this
is not needed.

I-295-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-295-004

I feel the power companies are trying to slip these lines in without letting the general public knowing about it.

I-295-006

I-295-005

are there any health hazards?
are we going to have stray voltage problems?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Tim Karl
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 238 430th St.
City: Merstrand State: MN Zip Code: 55053
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-295-004

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-295-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-295-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? UNABLE TO ATTEND - DISABLED

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Impact to Raising Crops
BURDEN TO AGRICULTURAL USE'S
EVEN THOUGH AG. DIDN'T CREATE NEED
FOR THIS LINE

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-296-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

I-296-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-296-001

I-296-002

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

NORTH OF MENYON, MN ON STATE HWY 56
AT COUNTY ROAD 30 INTERSECTION. -
DIFFICULTY IT WOULD CREATE FOR
FARMING OPERATION.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

AGRICULTURE - THIS IS ONLY USE MY
PROPERTY HAS AND POWER LINE WOULD
BE A HINDRANCE

I-296-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-296-003

[illegible]

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: LARRY ROTHER
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 3305 - 200TH ST. WEST
City: FARMINGTON State: MIN. 55024 Zip Code: _____
Daytime Phone (Optional): 651-460-6500

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☐ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☒ Historic and cultural sites

☒ Radio or television interference

☐ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I am very much in favor of using the I-90 corridor for this transmission line. The route going just south of Mazeppa crosses many wild life sanctuaries where I have personally spent much time watching eagles & hawks soar, foxes play, badgers attack, and deer browse. It has been a sanctuary for me as well as the animals.

I-297-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

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I-297-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Colleen Stacey

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 39986 590th Street

City: Zumbro Falls State: MN Zip Code: 55991

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 284-8819

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:38 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

FYI

From: wlystrom@ups.com [mailto:wlystrom@ups.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 4:24 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Stephanie,
Thanks,
Wayne

Wayne Lystrom
UPS - IE
Lakes Package Planner
Mpls 612-617-2807

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [mailto:Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 1:03 PM
To: Lystrom Wayne (APP1WLL)
Subject: RE: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Wayne,
Thank you for contacting me with your questions. The comment period is closed, however we are still preparing the Scoping Report and comments received in the next couple of weeks will still be considered.

Once your comments have been processed, you will receive confirmation and see the summary of your comments to ensure it is correct.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

From: wlystrom@ups.com [mailto:wlystrom@ups.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 9:50 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Proposed Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345kV Transmission System Improvement Project

Stephanie,
We meet in Wanamingo, MN at the community building. My wife and I had the property at 46728 135th Ave. One of the two proposed line were running along our back property line. My wife wrote on the maps but I didn't I was concerned who would see it. I asked for a large map be sent to me and THANKS you for that. I received that and wanted to document two additional things why I think the proposed line should go straight east until it meets up with the other proposed line and then continue south. We have Bees on the back side of our property and a small hay shed on the back of our property.

If I didn't explain my requested change well enough please call me at 952-994-2466.

Thanks
Wayne Lystrom
Cell 952-994-2466
Home 952-431-9913

I-298-001

I-298-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

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Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:35 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 routes

FYI

From: Suther, Thomas W. (Tom) [mailto:Suther.Thomas@mayo.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 4:41 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 routes

Ms Strength,

I-299-001 | I just found out that during the public reviews the CAPx folks changed the route of the power line and put it on my land. The public comment time has been closed and they did not bother to contact me for comment.

This action is not really good business or fair.

I-299-002 | I propose that these folks use the existing corridors where land has already been taken from people and then you do not have to ruin what others have built and worked on for years.

I-299-003 | I am very concerned that these folks have done it this way to eliminate any comment. I ask that you stop this and require the current corridors to be used.

Tom Suther

Opinions are my own.

Tom Suther | Department of Information technology | Planning and Technology Services Division | Phone: 507-266-7865 | Admin Asst: phone 284-1422 | Suther.Thomas@mayo.edu

Mayo Clinic | 200 First Street S.W. | Rochester, MN 55905 | www.mayoclinic.org

I-299-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

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I-299-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-299-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the

RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.