

Appendix A

OES and RUS Scoping Decision



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In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative for a Route Permit for a 230-kV Transmission Line from Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING DECISION

PUC Docket No. E017, E015, ET6/ TL-07-1327

The above matter has come before the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) for a decision on the content of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in consideration of the Otter Tail Power Company, et al., Application for a Route Permit for a 230 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Wilton Substation, located east of Bemidji and the Boswell Substation in Cohasset (project). The project would affect portions of Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Itasca counties.

A Route Permit Application (E017, E015, ET6/ TL-07-1327) for the project was filed on June 4, 2008, and accepted on June 30, 2008.

Because of its size, the project requires both a certificate of need (Docket No. 07-1222) and a route permit (Docket No. 07-1327). An Environmental Report is being prepared for this project under the certificate of need proceedings (Docket No. 07-1222).

Minnkota Power Cooperative is requesting a loan for the project from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the United States Department of Agriculture. The RUS's decision to grant or deny the loan constitutes a federal action, and thus requires a review of project alternatives and environmental effects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§ 4321-4347 and implementing regulations 40 CFR 1500 -1508. In addition to RUS loan approval, the project also requires review under NEPA for a number of federal actions, including actions by the US Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest and US Army Corps of Engineers. RUS serves as the lead federal agency for NEPA review. OES and RUS both wish to minimize to the extent possible any duplication of procedures or work products as well as confusion of multiple review processes. To that end the OES and the RUS have entered into a memorandum of understanding to prepare a joint environmental review document that meets both Minnesota and federal environmental review requirements. Under this agreement, the OES serves as the lead agency in preparing the EIS.

The OES established an Advisory Task Force (ATF) to provide advice on: (1) what routes should be evaluated, and (2) what impacts and issues should be considered in the EIS for the project.

The ATF met twice during the summer of 2008. The meetings were open to the public and were attended by task force members, OES staff, representatives of federal agencies, and the applicants. The ATF, through a facilitated process, discussed the proposed project and the charge of the task force. Task force members identified and prioritized 15 issues and impacts to be considered in the EIS. The ATF identified no additional routes, beyond those proposed by the applicants, to be evaluated in the EIS. The ATF's recommendations were considered during preparation of this scope. The recommendations of the ATF can be found in their report, located on the project website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/19344/Final%20ATF%20Report.pdf>

The OES Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) unit held public information meetings on August 11-15, 2008, in Black Duck, Cass Lake, Deer River, Bemidji and Walker to inform the public about the project and the regulatory proceedings; discuss environmental, social and economic issues of importance in the area potentially affected; and to gather public input into the scope of the environmental documents to be prepared for the project. The meetings provided the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and specific impacts to address in the environmental review of the project. Approximately 120 people attended the public information meetings. In addition to the oral comments received at the public information meetings, more than 120 written comments were received by the close of the public comment period on September 30, 2008. All written comments as well as the transcripts for the public information meetings may be viewed at the project website maintained by the PUC, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19344>. All oral and written comments were reviewed and considered during the preparation of this EIS scope.

Having reviewed the matter, and having consulted with staff, I hereby make the following Order on the content of the EIS:

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The EIS on the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project will address and provide information on the following matters:

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL: The EIS will describe the proposed project, including a summary of the project background and a description of the general study area.

1. Purpose of the Transmission Line
2. Project Location and Environmental Setting
3. Engineering and Operation Design of Proposed Project
 - a. Transmission Line and Structures
 - b. Transmission Capacity
 - c. Construction Procedures
 - d. Right-of-Way Maintenance

B. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: The EIS will provide information on the regulatory framework, including the NEPA review and an explanation of the Minnesota environmental review and permitting process. The EIS will provide an overview of the public scoping process and comments.

C. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The EIS will include a discussion of the social 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. The EIS will address impacts and mitigative measures to:

1. Aesthetics
2. Air Quality and Climate
3. Geology and Soils
4. Water Resources
5. Wetlands
6. Flora
7. Fauna
8. Rare and Unique Species and Communities
9. Cultural Resources and Values
10. Land Use
11. Socioeconomics
12. Environmental Justice
13. Recreation and Tourism
14. Agriculture
15. Forestry
16. Mining
17. Community Services
18. Utility Systems
19. Traffic and Transportation
20. Safety and Health (including electromagnetic fields and safety codes)
21. Noise

D. ALTERNATIVES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS: The EIS will identify and discuss alternatives to the proposed project. The EIS will identify and describe alternatives considered but not carried forward for detailed evaluation and provide a rationale for not including them in detailed evaluation.

In addition to the two routes proposed in their Route Permit Application filed with the Commission, the applicants developed other routing alternatives as part of the scoping material developed for RUS under its NEPA process. These routing alternatives were study areas of approximately 2 miles in width, referred to as “macrocorridors.”

There was a widespread desire among members of the public, as well as federal agency partners that the EIS evaluate route alternatives in addition to the two proposed by the Applicants.

In conjunction with the Applicants, OES staff developed 1,000 foot routes within each of three “macrocorridors” identified in the scoping materials prepared for the RUS. Staff from OES and federal partner agencies reviewed more detailed social and environmental information on the five routes (the two applicant-proposed and one in each of the additional three “macrocorridors”). Based on the results of that analysis, it was concluded that potential impacts from three routes should be evaluated in the EIS. These routes are described below and shown in the map attached to this document:

- **Route 1:** This is the route preferred by the Applicants in their route permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This route is approximately 69 – 74.8 miles in length (depending upon the sub alternatives) and generally follows the Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company pipeline and a 115 kV transmission line rights-of-way.
- **Route 2:** This route was proposed by the Applicants as an alternate route in their route permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This route is approximately 68 – 72.4 miles (depending upon sub alternatives) and generally follows U.S. Highway 2 and the Enbridge pipeline rights-of-way.
- **Route 3:** This route follows existing pipeline, transmission and road rights-of way for most of its 116 miles. The route heads southeast out of the Wilton Substation, then northeast to the Blackduck area; there are several route variations around the city of Blackduck. From Blackduck, the route heads east and then south to Deer River, and then southeast to the Boswell Substation. This route avoids the heart of the Chippewa National Forest and largely avoids the Leech Lake Reservation.

E. IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS: The EIS will include a list of permits that will be required for the applicant to construct this project.

ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not consider the following materials:

1. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission right-of-way easements, as that is outside the PUC route permitting jurisdiction
2. Any route alternatives not specifically identified in this Scoping Decision

STATE AND FEDERAL COORDINATION

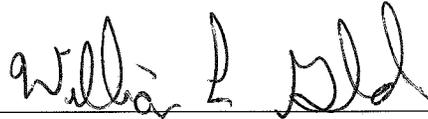
Minnesota Rule 4410.3900 anticipates coordinating state and federal review where possible. The OES, through the Department of Commerce, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rural Utilities Service to prepare an EIS to meet both federal and state requirements. OES will prepare both an Environmental Report and EIS for the project to meet the state requirements. OES anticipates continued cooperation with RUS on the EIS being prepared for the route permit proceedings.

SCHEDULE

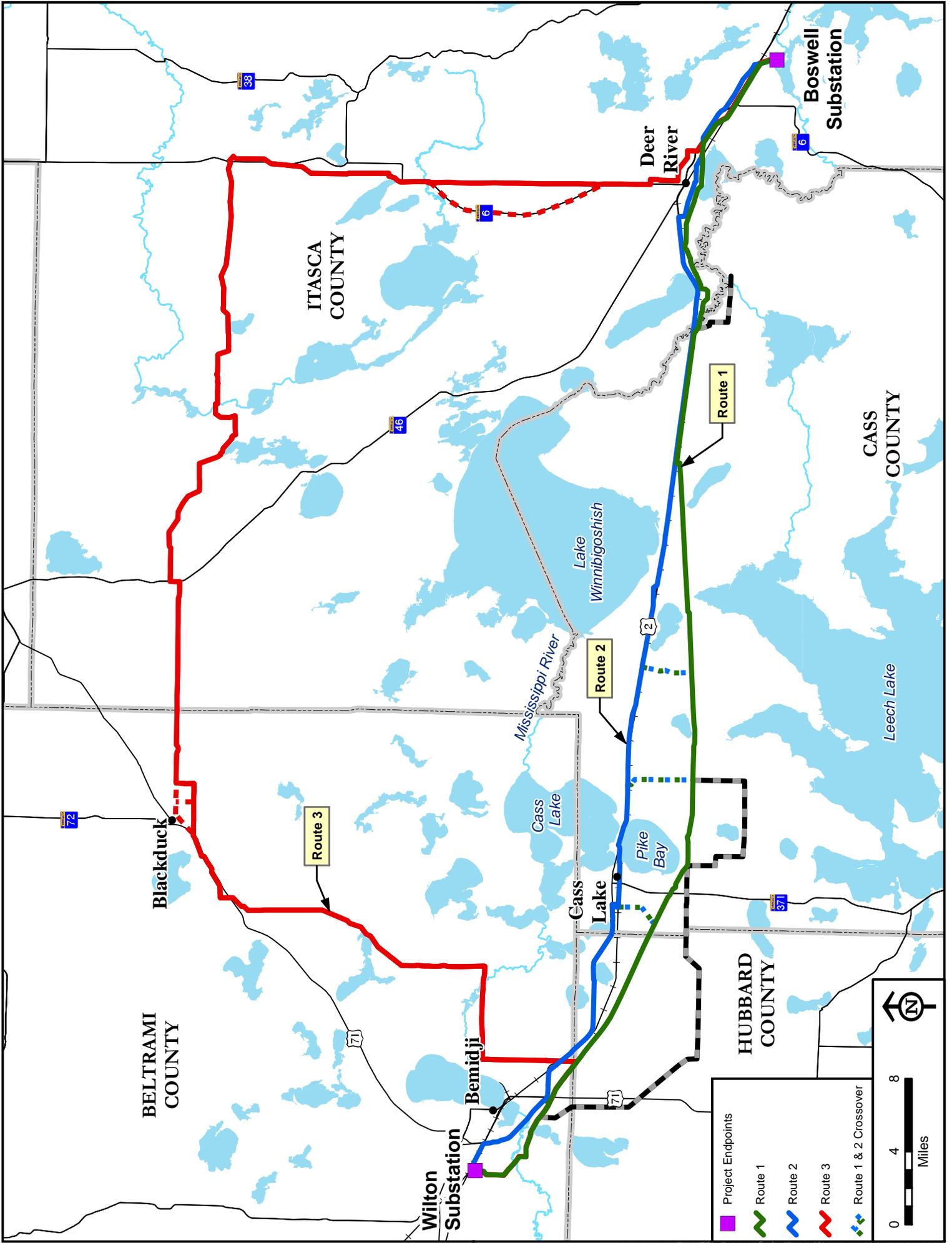
The Draft EIS shall be completed and available by August, 2009.

Signed this 31st day of March, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director





In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative for a Route Permit for a 230-kV Transmission Line from Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT
REVISED SCOPING DECISION**

**PUC Docket No. E017, E015, ET6/
TL-07-1327**

The above matter has come before the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) for a decision on the content of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in consideration of the Otter Tail Power Company, et al., Application for a Route Permit for a 230 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Wilton Substation, located east of Bemidji and the Boswell Substation in Cohasset (project). The project would affect portions of Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Itasca counties.

A Route Permit Application (E017, E015, ET6/ TL-07-1327) for the project was filed on June 4, 2008, and accepted on June 30, 2008. The Director issued a Scoping Decision for the EIS on March 31, 2009.

During the development of the Draft EIS, routing constraints and additional routing opportunities were identified in certain areas. In order to avoid the identified constraints it is possible that a final route may be located somewhat outside of the route alternatives identified in the March 31, 2009 scoping decision. In addition to the routing constraints, certain opportunities to route along existing transmission lines and pipelines were also identified. OES staff, with the assistance of the Applicants, developed nine additional segment alternatives to route around the identified constraints and allow the opportunity to consolidate with existing infrastructure. These new segments range in length from 0.2 to 5.6 miles. All of these areas are within the area noticed by the Applicants prior to the scoping meetings held in August, 2008.

In order to develop a more complete record on these new segments, OES staff recommended that these segments be included in the EIS being prepared for the Project.

Having reviewed the matter, and having consulted with staff, I hereby make the following Order on the content of the EIS:

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The EIS on the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project will address and provide information on the following matters:

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL: The EIS will describe the proposed project, including a summary of the project background and a description of the general study area as identified in the March 31, 2009 Scoping Decision.

B. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: The EIS will provide information on the regulatory framework as described in the March 31, 2009 Scoping Decision.

C. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The EIS will include a discussion of the social and environmental resources potentially impacted by the project and its alternatives as identified in the March 31, 2009 Scoping Decision.

D. ALTERNATIVES TO BE EVALUATED IN EIS: The EIS will identify and discuss alternatives to the proposed project as identified in the March 31, 2009, Scoping Decision. In addition to the three route alternatives identified in the March 31, 2009, Scoping Decision, the EIS will evaluate 20 segment alternatives. Eleven of the 20 segment alternatives were identified in the route map attached to the March 31, 2009, Scoping Decision. Nine additional route segments will be evaluated in the EIS, to allow for the Project to be routed around the identified constraints and possibly consolidate with existing transmission lines or adjacent to existing pipelines:

- Segment Alternative F is a 1.3 mile segment that would provide an alternative route through Cass Lake between Minnesota Highway 371 and Pike Bay. The segment would deviate from Route Alternative 2 by heading south along Minnesota Highway 371, then east across a Chippewa National Forest parcel.
- Segment Alternative G is a 1.6-mile segment in the Bemidji area that follows Enbridge pipeline and 115 kV transmission line from the Wilton Substation to the point where the pipeline and transmission line diverge north of Division Street.
- Segment Alternative H is a one-mile segment that could connect Segment Alternative G with Route Alternative 2 along the same 115 kV transmission line followed by Segment Alternative G.
- Segment Alternative I is a 0.5 miles segment connecting Segment Alternative G with Route Alternative 2 parallel to the Enbridge pipeline.
- Segment Alternative K is a 5.9 mile segment connecting Route Alternatives 1 and 2 between approximately Hubbard County Road 15 and the existing Cass Lake Substation.
- Segment Alternative L is a 2.5 mile segment connecting Segment Alternative A with Route 1 along Otter Tail Power Company's Nary-to-Cass Lake 115 kV transmission line. This segment would terminate at a new Cass Lake Substation location in Pike Bay Township.
- Segment Alternative M is a 2.4-mile segment connecting Routes 1 and 2 along the Otter Tail Power Company's Nary-to-Cass Lake 115 kV transmission line.
- Segment Alternative P is a 0.4-mile segment connecting Route Alternatives 1 and 2 across US Highway 2 between the Mississippi River and Ball Club Lake.

- Segment Alternative Q is a 0.2-mile segment connecting Route Alternatives 1 and 2 east of Deer River.

E. IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS: The EIS will include a list of permits required for the applicant to construct this project as described in the March 31, 2009 Scoping Decision.

ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not consider the following materials:

1. The manner in which land owners are paid for transmission right-of-way easements, as that is outside the PUC route permitting jurisdiction
2. Any route alternatives not specifically identified in this Scoping Decision

STATE AND FEDERAL COORDINATION

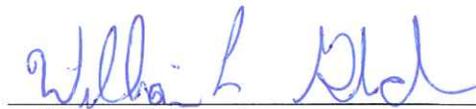
Minnesota Rule 4410.3900 anticipates coordinating state and federal review where possible. The OES, through the Department of Commerce, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rural Utilities Service to prepare an EIS to meet both federal and state requirements. OES will prepare both an Environmental Report and EIS for the project to meet the state requirements. OES anticipates continued cooperation with RUS on the EIS being prepared for the route permit proceedings.

SCHEDULE

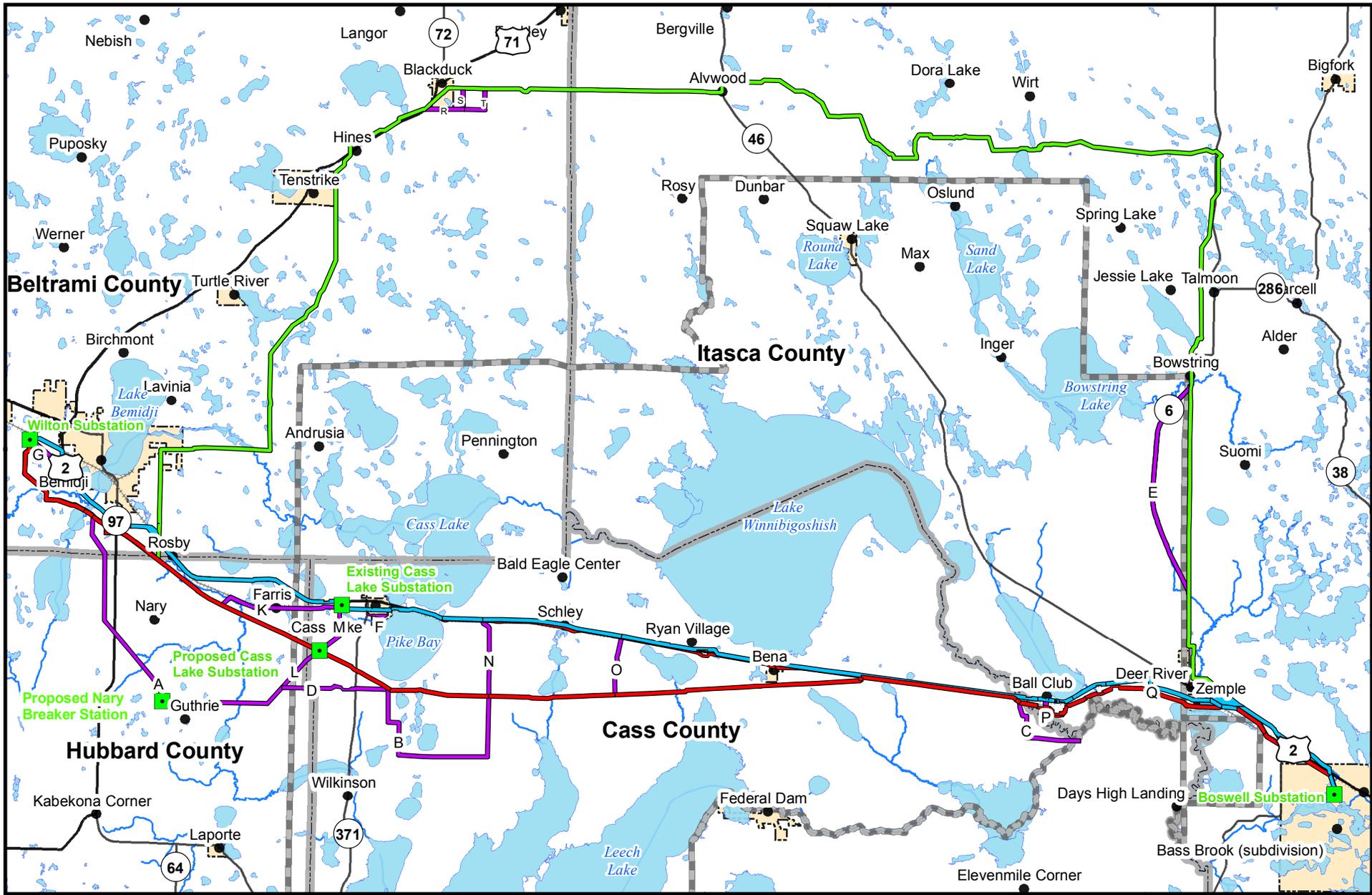
The Draft EIS shall be completed and available by February, 2010.

Signed this 5th day of February, 2010

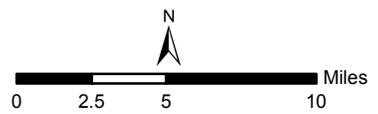
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY



William Glahn, Director



- Substation/Breaker Station
- Leech Lake Reservation
- County Boundary
- US Highway
- State/County Highway
- Route Alternative 1
- Route Alternative 2
- Route Alternative 3
- Segment Alternatives



Alternative Overview Map
230kV Bemidji to Grand Rapids Transmission Line Project
 February 2010





United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Washington, DC

December 3, 2009

TO: Interested Parties

RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project, Minnesota

Attached is the Scoping Decision/Report (Report) for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project (the Project). The proposed Project is the subject of a joint federal and state Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (July 24, 2007) for the purpose of preparing a joint environmental review document to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project to be constructed and owned by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., Otter Tail Power Company, and Minnesota Power.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500), RUS has agreed to be the lead federal agency with the following cooperating federal agencies and tribe: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chippewa National Forest; and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO). RUS is finalizing ongoing discussions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to determine the level of their involvement in the EIS process. To minimize duplication of efforts, all of the agencies and tribe have agreed to work cooperatively to prepare the environmental review document so that it will comply with all federal and state laws.

Since the state EIS process differs slightly from the federal process, the Report discusses and documents a more extensive evaluation process regarding alternative analyses than is necessary in the state process. Of note is the continued evaluation (including recommendations for elimination from further consideration) of the Macro-Corridors (identified in the Macro-Corridor Study, September, 2008) within the EIS. As appropriate, information presented in the Report will be

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integrated in the Draft EIS which is expected to be released to the public early January of 2010

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Stephanie Strength at USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 2244, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, or via email at stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

MARK S. PLANK
Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service

Enclosures

Scoping Decision/Report
for
Bemidji-Grand Rapids
230 kV Transmission Line
Project

Prepared by



December 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

A group of three Minnesota electric service utilities (“Utilities”) are proposing to construct an approximately 68-mile 230 kilo volt (kV) transmission line between Bemidji and Grand Rapids, Minnesota (“Project”). One of the utilities, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., intends to obtain financing for its ownership portion of the Project from the Rural Utilities Service (“RUS”) of the US Department of Agriculture. RUS financing of the Project constitutes a “federal action,” which requires RUS to conduct an environmental review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the US Forest Service (USFS) Chippewa National Forest (CNF), and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Indians (LLBO) pursuant to 40 CFR § 1506.2, “elimination of duplication with state and local procedures,” have agreed to cooperatively and jointly prepare an environmental review document that will comply with federal and state law with RUS acting as the Lead Agency (see Section 6.0). RUS is finalizing discussions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to determine their level of involvement in the EIS process.

The purpose of the “scoping” process is to identify the potential environmental issues associated with the Project. This involves actively soliciting input on the Project from members of the public, as well as from federal, tribal, state, and local authorities. The comments are discussed in Section 3.2.4. The information obtained through this process identifies environmental issues and impacts that need to be further analyzed in the EIS, as well as mitigation measures that may lessen or eliminate those issues/impacts.

This “scoping decision” identifies the issues and alternatives that the Federal and Tribal entities cooperating in the preparation of the EIS have determined are appropriate for further assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Proposal

The Utilities propose constructing a 230 kV transmission line between Bemidji and Grand Rapids, in northcentral Minnesota. The primary purpose of the Project is to improve long-term reliability of the local and regional transmission system. The Project is also needed to meet projected future customer demand in the Bemidji area (northcentral Minnesota), see **Figure 1 – Project Overview Map**. Construction is proposed to begin in 2010, so the Project can be completed by December 2011 to meet the anticipated 2011/2012 winter peak demand in the Bemidji area.

The proposed Project would also provide an ancillary benefit: facilitating the addition of new generation sources in the region. Specifically, portions of the Red River Valley and eastern North Dakota have been identified as areas for the potential development of wind-energy generation sources, and the added transmission capacity from this Project would assist in the development of such resources.

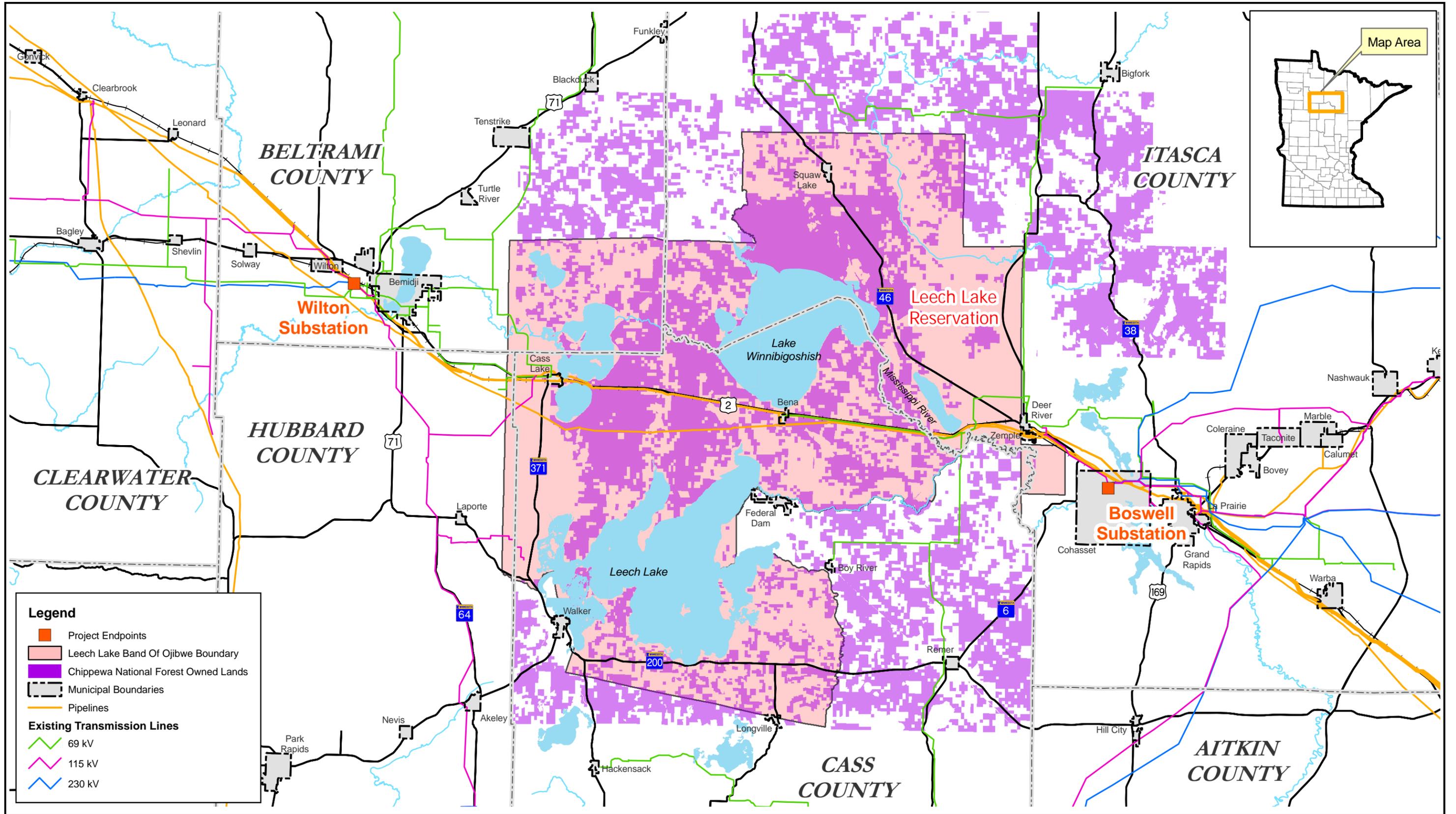
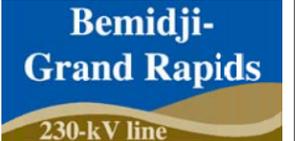
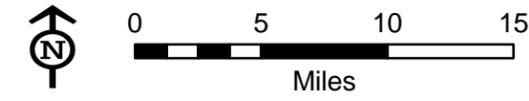


Figure 1 - Project Overview Map
 230-kV Bemidji to Grand Rapids Transmission Line Project
 Minnkota Power Cooperative, Otter Tail Power Company and Minnesota Power



Map Document: (N:\GIS\Proj\Otertail\496\map_docs\mxd\US_app\macro_com\report\Special_edition\map_11x17L_overview_map.mxd) 10/2/2007 - 10:36:10 AM

This Project, as proposed by the Utilities would utilize the Wilton Substation (west of Bemidji) and Boswell Substation (Cohasset) as end points. The Utilities preferred (Central Macro-Corridor) is approximately 68 miles and is located primarily along existing rights-of-way (ROWS), running east from Bemidji to Grand Rapids (see **Figure 2 – Macro-Corridor & Route Map**). Two primary routes (1,000 feet wide) have been identified within the Macro-Corridor, as well as a number of alternative segments. Route 1 generally follows the Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company pipeline right-of-way from the Wilton Substation located west of Bemidji, to a point just east of Deer River where it then follows a Minnesota Power 115 kV transmission line to the Boswell Substation in Cohasset, Minnesota. Route 2 generally follows US Highway 2 and the pipeline rights-of-way of Enbridge Pipelines LLC. Routes 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2C include alternative segments proposed to avoid impacts to sensitive resources.

The Project may also include the modification of the Wilton Substation west of Bemidji, and a 1.3 acre expansion of the Boswell Substation in Cohasset, just northwest of Grand Rapids. The Project also includes constructing either a 230 kV expansion (2.2 acres) of the Cass Lake 115 kV Substation or a entirely new substation (approximately 10 acres) in the Cass Lake area. If Route 1A is selected, a 115 kV breaker station would be constructed at Nary Junction, south of Bemidji. The project would affect portions of Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Itasca counties.

2.2 Alternatives

RUS environmental review of the Project is initiated by submittal of a draft Macro-Corridor Study Report and an Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) to RUS. Upon review and modifications to the documents they were provided to the public and agencies to elicit comment on the Project. The AES assesses different technological alternatives such as no action, load management, conservation, baseload generation, intermediate generation, peaking generation and several transmission alternatives. The AES was released for public review and comment in June, 2008.

Since the outcome of the AES was the need for a new 230 kV transmission line between Bemidji and Grand Rapids, MN, the MCS was developed to identify Macro-Corridors within which the transmission line could be built. Upon consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, and tribes with an interest in the Project area, the Utilities identified a total of four Macro-Corridors. These are referred to as the “North Macro-Corridor,” “South Macro-Corridor,” “Non-CNF Macro-Corridor,” and the Utilities’ preferred “Central Macro-Corridor.” The first two alternative Macro-Corridors were identified as potential locations for the Project because they mostly (South Macro-Corridor) or completely (North Macro-Corridor) avoid passing through the Leech Lake Reservation (LLR) of the LLBO. The Utilities identified the Non-CNF Macro-Corridor as an alternative for consideration that completely avoids the CNF. There are no practicable alternatives to impacting waters of the United States, wetlands, or floodplains.

For assessment purposes, five “Routes” were identified within the four Macro-Corridors (the Central Corridor contains two routes with additional segments). Route 1 within the Central Macro-Corridor has been identified as the Utilities preferred route. The MCS was released for public review and comment in June 2008 with a revised version released on September 2, 2008.

Map Document: (\\mspe-gis-file\gisprj\0\OtterTail\4849\map_docs\mxd\US_apps\macro_corridor\report\Special_edition\map_11x17L_corridor_overview_map_revised_20090930.mxd)

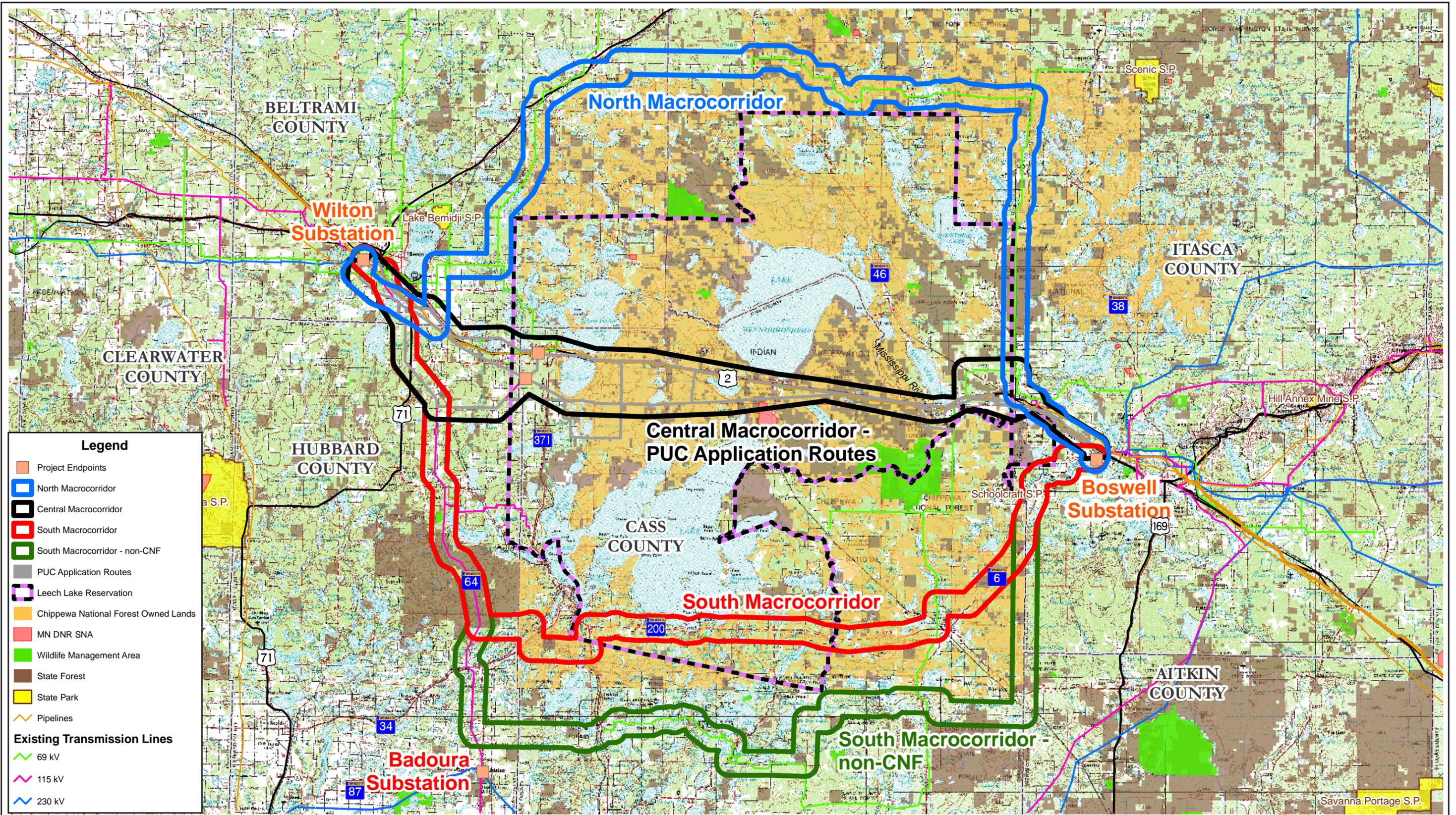
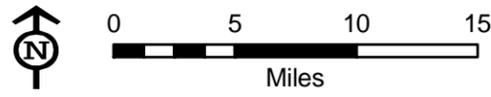


Figure 2 - Macrocorridor and Route Map
230 kV Bemidji to Grand Rapids Transmission Line Project
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Otter Tail Power Company and Minnesota Power

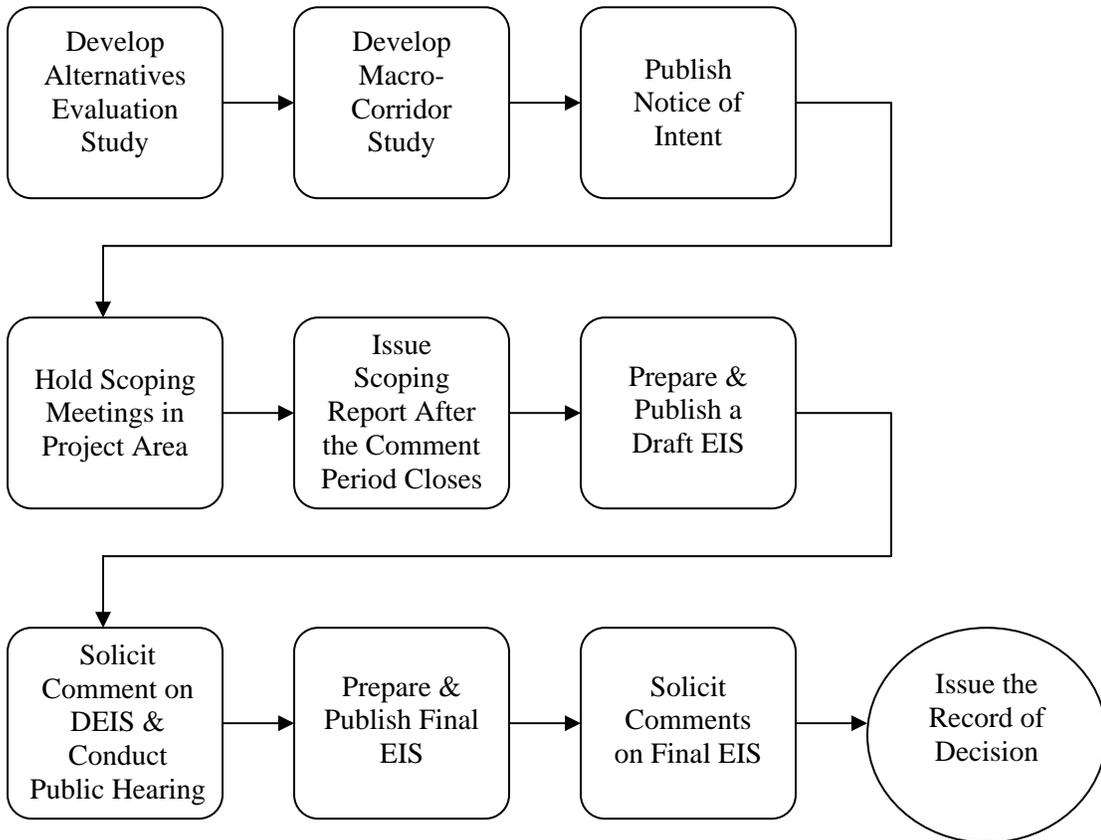


2.3 Regulatory/Environmental Review Process

Federal agencies are required to comply with NEPA. RUS’ regulations developed to facilitate compliance with NEPA requirements, classifies the Project as requiring an Environmental Assessment with Scoping (7 C.F.R. § 1794.24(b)(1)). However, based on consultation with federal and state agencies, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §§ 1794.60 to 1794.64.

RUS is the lead federal agency in the preparation of the EIS for the Project (see **Figure 3 – Federal Environmental Review Process**). To avoid duplication of efforts, RUS will prepare the EIS jointly with the State of Minnesota, which also requires an EIS for the Project. See Section 2.4 below. The USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest (“CNF”) , the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE”), the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and potentially Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS with RUS as the lead agency. RUS is also consulting with tribes that have an interest in the Project area, including the LLBO because a portion of the Project is proposed to be within the boundary of their reservation, thereby initiating CNF’s Trust Responsibilities.

Figure 3 - Federal Environmental Review Process



2.3.1 Cooperating Agency Decisions/Action

The EIS on this Project will be used by various federal, tribal and state agencies in making determinations about permits and licenses required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of this Project. RUS will consider the EIS in making its determination whether to extend funding to Minnkota Power Cooperative for its ownership portion of the Project. The MPUC will consider the EIS in making its determination regarding what route and conditions should be permitted for the Project. Other federal, tribal and state agency permits or licenses for the Project that will involve consideration of the EIS in whole or in part are listed in Section 6.0.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

The Utility has approached RUS for financial assistance for the proposed action. The initial step in RUS' determination to finance the Project is the assessment of potential environmental impacts in accordance with NEPA and RUS's regulations 7 CFR § 1794, as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. Once the environmental review process is complete [(in an EIS level project, completion is upon publication of a Record of Decision (ROD), and likely a Programmatic Agreement for S.106)] the Project may be considered for financing assistance. The overall consideration includes detailed engineering review, load forecast studies and loan/financial review.

RUS's decision is to consider providing financial assistance for the construction and operation of the Project.

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

USACE is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. The USACE's evaluation of a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, the project may require a Section 10 permit and a Section 404 permit evaluating the Project's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR Part 325), determining whether the Project is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and in the case of a Section 404 permit, determining whether the Project complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR Part 230).

USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest (CNF)

The Applicants have applied to the CNF for a special use permit to construct and operate the Project on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The Forest Supervisor of the CNF must determine whether or not to issue a special use permit for the Project. This decision will be made through a ROD. The Forest Supervisor is responsible for management and evaluation of NFS lands uses and may grant a special use permit in accordance with the Federal Land Policy And Management Act, as Amended. In addition the decision must be consistent with the objectives of the CNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as revised in 2004.

The Forest Supervisor is required to base his decision of whether or not to issue a special use permit on the EIS. The Forest Supervisor's jurisdiction to make such a decision is limited to those parcels of land that are managed by the CNF.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

The Applicants have requested that the Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council (RTC) permit the Project to cross the proclamation boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation. The Tribe retains treaty rights on all lands within the Leech Lake Reservation boundaries. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is responsible for issuing the appropriate approval and authorizations for activities to cross lands upon which it retains treaty rights and easements or authorizations for activities on lands under its jurisdiction. The Leech Lake Division of Resource Management (DRM) is responsible for overseeing the development of land leases and easements for Tribal and Band lands approved by the RTC and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The DRM works with the BIA and owners of tribal titled lands that the project will cross to obtain heir consent and easements or other agreements. The DRM Director is also responsible for management and evaluation of the occupation and use of Tribal and Band lands and may grant an easement on those lands in accordance with BIA procedures. The Director of the DRM has authority to participate in the environmental review of projects and prepare joint or separate EA or EIS documents for these projects that occur on lands within the Leech Lake Reservation (LLR) boundaries. The DRM Director has decided to be a full cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. This EIS and the other environmental documents issued in connection with the Project will assist DRM Director in making a decision on the merits of this project and whether or not to sign a decision notice for the project, and prepare any necessary easements and other permits needed to cross the reservation.

This EIS will be used by LLBO to provide information sufficient to make a decision on the request to obtain permission to cross the reservation, and any easements on Tribal or Band lands, and to receive a Reservation Resolution.

2.4 State Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”) must approve a route permit for the construction of a new high-voltage transmission line in the state of Minnesota (Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3). Before a route permit can be issued, the Office of Energy Security (“OES”) of the Minnesota Department of Commerce must prepare an EIS on the proposed transmission line (Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd 5). As noted in Section 2.3, OES will prepare the state-mandated EIS for the Project jointly with the Federal Agencies, with RUS acting as the lead federal agency.

3.0 PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

3.1 Scoping Meeting Notices

3.1.1 Federal Notices

RUS published a Notice of Intent to Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on July 18, 2008 on behalf of the cooperating agencies. The Notice included a notification of the agency’s preparation of an EIS, as well as a summary of the Project; the public scoping meeting information; the 30 day public comment period; and contact information for RUS, OES, and the Utilities. The Notice is in Appendix A.

On behalf of the cooperating agencies, RUS also mailed notices containing the same information to a variety of individuals and entities located near or with an interest in the Project area. These included public libraries, federal, state, and local officials, tribal authorities, private companies, trade associations, and interested parties. These letters are included in Appendix A.

3.1.2 OES Notices

OES published a Notice of Public Information Meetings on July 28, 2008 in the EQB Monitor. The notice stated that the meetings were being jointly held with RUS's public scoping meetings for the purpose of identifying issues and alternatives to study through the EIS process. The Notice included a notification of the agency's preparation of an EIS, as well as a summary of the Project; the public scoping meeting information; the 30 day public comment period; and contact information for RUS, OES, and the Utilities. This notice is included in Appendix B.

OES also mailed notices containing the same information to the MPUC's general service list and all recorded landowners in the Project area. These letter notices are in Appendix B.

3.1.3 Newspaper Notices

In addition to the scoping meeting notices published and mailed by RUS and OES, a Notice of Public Information Meetings was published in eleven (11) newspapers in the Project area. These notices are in Appendix C.

3.2 Scoping Meetings

3.2.1 Public Scoping Meetings

The locations and dates for the public scoping meetings are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Public Scoping Meetings

Location	Date and Time
Blackduck, Minnesota	August 11, 2008 at 6 pm
Cass Lake, Minnesota	August 12, 2008 at 6 pm
Deer River, Minnesota	August 13, 2008 at 6 pm
Bemidji, Minnesota	August 14, 2008 at 2 & 6 pm
Walker, Minnesota	August 15, 2008 at 10 am

The public scoping meetings were conducted in an open house format, followed by a presentation by the OES and RUS staff, on the environmental review process for the Project, with oral questions and comments from the audience. Attendees were provided information on the Project through handouts as well as large posters of aerial photos of the Project area with the

route alternatives identified. Members of the Utilities’ Project Team, as well as representatives from RUS, OES, and cooperating agencies, were available to answer attendees’ questions and listen to their concerns about the Project. Approximately 120 people attended the public information meetings. In addition to the oral comments received at the public information meetings, more than 120 written comments were received by the close of the public comment period on September 30, 2008. These comments will be incorporated into the scope of the EIS and will be addressed in the EIS to the extent practicable. The handouts, posters, sign-in sheets, and attendance numbers are provided in Appendix D. The comments are summarized in Appendix E and the written comments are provided in full in Appendix F. The comments are not summarized within the body of this report since the topics raised are numerous and wide ranging; summarizing the comments further could lead to a loss or misinterpretation of the topics raised.

A court reporter recorded the presentation by OES and follow-up comments from the audience. The OES and RUS presentations, as well as the transcripts of the presentations and audience comments are included in Appendix D.

3.2.2 Interagency Scoping Meetings

Various federal and state interagency meetings were conducted to share Project information and determine the scope of the EIS. Table 2 below summarizes these meetings.

Table 2 – Interagency Scoping Meetings

Date	Location	Participants
Feb. 24, 2009	Conference Call	USACE, CNF, LLBO, MnSHPO, RUS
Jan. 28, 2009	Walker, MN	USACE, CNF, ERM, LLBO, OES, RUS, USEPA, DNR
Sept. 11, 2008	Cass Lake, MN	USACE, CNF, ERM, LLBO, OES, RUS, USEPA
Aug. 15, 2008	Walker, MN	USACE, CNF, ERM, FWS, LLBO, OES, RUS
Aug. 12, 2008	Bemidji, MN	USACE, CNF, LLBO, OES, RUS
Aug. 11, 2008	Bemidji, MN	LLBO, FWS, RUS, USACE
Aug. 6, 2008	Conference Call	USACE, CNF, FWS, LLBO, RUS, USFS
Jul. 23, 2008	Conference Call	BIA., LLBO, OES, RUS, USFS, Utilities
Mar. 18, 2008	Cass Lake, MN	FWS, DNR, LLBO, OES, RUS, USCAE, USFS
Mar. 6, 2008	Washington, DC	CNF, RUS, Utilities
Mar. 6, 2008	Washington, DC	RUS, OES, Utilities
Feb. 28, 2008	HDR	FWS, MISO, DNR, OES, MPUC, RUS, USACE, USFS, Utilities
Jan. 24, 2008	Bemidji, MN	RUS, USACE, Utilities
Nov. 20, 2007	Cass Lake, MN	RUS, USACE, Utilities
Nov. 20, 2007	Cass Lake, MN	FWS, LLDRM, DNR, OES, RUS, USACE, USFS, Utilities

Date	Location	Participants
	Cass Lake, MN	CNF, FWS, LLBO, LLDRM, DNR, DNR Ecological Resources, DNR FAW, RUS, USACE
Oct. 23, 2007	Northern Lights Casino, MN	CNF, LLBO, LLDRM, OES, MPUC, Utilities
Sept. 10, 2007	Cass Lake, MN	LLBO, USACE, Utilities
Sept. 10, 2007	Cass Lake, MN	LLBO, USACE, Utilities
Jul. 25, 2007	Cass Lake, MN	CNF, LLBO, DNR, USACE, Utilities
May. 17, 2007	St. Paul, MN	LLBO, OES, RUS
Nov. 29, 2006	State Offices- Mpls	CNF, OES, MPUC, RUS, Utilities
Nov. 28, 2006	Minneapolis, MN	CNF, FWS, LLBO, RUS, USACE, USFS

3.2.3 Scoping Comments

The Notices for the public scoping period specified August 29, 2008 as the deadline for submitting written comments into the scoping period for the EIS on the Project. RUS and OES subsequently extended the deadline for written scoping comments by one month, to September 30, 2008. The Notices of extension were distributed in the same manner as the NOI, as described in Section 3.1. The Notices of the extension of the scoping comment period are included in Appendix G. The written comment form, and all written comments received on the Project are included in Appendix F.

4.0 SCOPE OF THE EIS

As noted in Section 1.0 above, RUS is the lead federal agency in preparing the EIS on the Project. CNF, USACE and LLBO have all agreed to be cooperating federal agencies in this process. RUS is finalizing discussions with the BIA to determine their level of involvement in the EIS process. RUS will prepare the federal EIS jointly with OES which, as discussed in Sections 2.3 & 2.4, is required under Minnesota law to also prepare an EIS on the Project.

Environmental Resources Management (“ERM”), an environmental consulting firm, has been retained by the agencies to assist in the preparation of the EIS. ERM will prepare the EIS based on Project area environmental data already in US government, State of Minnesota and tribal databases, and from field surveys of the Project area conducted during 2008 and 2009.

See Figure 3 for the summary of the EIS process.

This “scoping decision” identifies the issues and alternatives that the Federal and Tribal entities cooperating in the preparation of the EIS have determined are appropriate for further assessment in the EIS.

4.1 Items Addressed within the Scope of the EIS

The entirety of the proposed transmission line, any changes to existing substations and any new substations will be assessed in the EIS for the Project. The following topics must be assessed for the Project:

Project Description

Purpose and Need for the Project

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Environmental Information: Information must be reported separately for the Leech Lake Reservation for resources such as wetlands and streams. The Environmental Information section must include a description of the affected environment and the potential environmental impacts (impacts shall be addressed in terms of short term, long term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts) addressing the following topics:

Aesthetics

Air Quality

Geology & Prime/Important Soils

Water Quality & Resources

Floodplains

Wetlands

Biological Resources (including Threatened & Endangered Species, Fish & Wildlife Resources, and Vegetation)

Cultural Resources

Land Use (including Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, and Residential)

Land Ownership/Eminent Domain

Socioeconomics & Community Services

Tribal Treaty Rights (Subsistence-based Economy [including habitat loss, fragmentation and effects of pesticide and herbicide use in gathering areas], Cumulative Impacts)

Climate Change

Environmental Justice

Recreation & Tourism

Utility Systems

Transportation & Traffic

Human Health & Safety (including Superfund Site)

Noise, Radio, & Television Interference

Mitigation and Monitoring

Correspondence and Project Coordination

Newspaper Advertisements and Legal Notices

4.2 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration in the EIS

Based on information provided in the preliminary documents (see Section 2.2), environmental and cultural resource reports (Appendices H, I and J) and public and agency comments; several alternatives to the proposed Project have been eliminated from

further review. The alternatives were eliminated through consensus of the cooperating agencies as a result of the interagency meetings held in January and February of 2009.

4.2.1 Route 4:

Route 4 (see Figure 2) was identified as an alternative to the routes in the Central Macro-Corridor which bisect the LLR and cross the CNF in an area of high recreation use and scenic value. Route 4 is eliminated from further consideration in the EIS process as it does not avoid the LLR, or the CNF. Additionally, Route 4 has potential for high scenic impacts, and due to the extent of new ROW is likely to have higher wetland impacts than Route 3 (the extensive existing corridors in Route 3 may have already been converted forested wetlands, and wetlands may be able to be spanned without impact).

Pro	Con
Based on preliminary information Route 4 contains the fewest acres of wetlands for all routes considered.	Route 4 crosses the LLR.
	Route fragments LLR and subsistence habitat.
	Potential for visual/scenic impacts along Route 4 (mitigation limited due to extensive clearing required along road).
	Wetland impacts may be greater than anticipated due to the second highest length of new corridor needed.

4.2.2 Route 5:

Route 5 (see Figure 2) was identified as an alternative to avoid crossing the LLR and CNF. Route 5 is eliminated from further consideration in the EIS process as it potentially impacts the greatest number of wetlands, including forested wetlands, is the longest in length and requires the greatest amount of acres to be cleared.

Pro	Con
Route 5 does not cross LLR	Route 5 has the potential to cross 1200 acres of forest wetlands.
Route does not cross CNF	Highest amount of new corridor needed.
	Longest corridor, therefore the least energy efficient with the least reduction in CO ₂ .
	While Route 5 avoids CNF lands, it would require the clearing of other forests (in particular forested wetlands).
	Based on preliminary information, Route 5 crosses the greatest number of unspannable wetlands.
	Based on preliminary information, Route 5 may impact the greatest amount of wetlands due to the extent of new corridor.

4.3 Alternatives to be Evaluated in the EIS

Based on information provided in the preliminary documents (see Section 2.2), environmental and cultural resource reports (Appendices H, I, and J) and public and agency comments; several alternatives to the proposed Project have been eliminated from further review as described in Section 4.2. The alternatives to be evaluated further in the EIS process were identified through consensus of the cooperating agencies as a result of the interagency meetings held in January and February of 2009.

4.3.1 Route 1:

Route 1 (see Figure 2) is carried forward as provided by Minn. Statute 216E.03, subd. 5, which requires the evaluation of alternatives proposed by the Utilities. Route 1 was identified by the Utilities within the Central Macro-Corridor which is the shortest corridor. Using the information used to evaluate and eliminate Routes 4 &5, Route 1 would also be eliminated. However, Route 1 will be carried forward for consideration in the EIS.

Pro	Con
Route 1 has less impact on structures and residents.	Potentially significant impacts to traditional LLBO cultural, biological and socioeconomic resources.
Shortest route, therefore more energy efficient and resulting in the production of less CO ₂ .	Fragmentation of LLR.
	Crosses and impacts wetlands highly valued by LLBO.
	Impacts sensitive species and potential impact to Threatened and Endangered Species.
	Impacts traditional gathering areas and Traditional Cultural Properties located in those areas.
	Impacts to “10 Section” area, potentially significant impacts that would require a Forest Plan Amendment.
	Impacts to experimental forest area; potentially significant impact and would require a permit from the Northern Research Station of U.S. Forest Service.
	Introduces a new corridor; while the route parallels an existing natural gas pipeline, the clearing for the pipeline is limited to a ten-foot

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	area directly over the pipeline and therefore has much less of a maintained, cleared footprint than would a transmission line.
	Creates another easement for existing landowners already encumbered by multiple easements.
	Visual impacts to residents and recreational/bike trail, Migizi Trail.
	Exotic/invasive species spreading is a concern due to opening a new corridor in proximity to the peat/bog wetland.
	Impacts an area with little existing disturbance/development.
	Impacts to areas of high scenic value.
	Socioeconomic impact needs to be analyzed in detail with specific focus on the tribal sustenance economy and fragmentation of the LLBO reservation
	Potential environmental justice issue.

Alternative 1a:

Pro	Con
No Comment.	No Comment.

Alternative 1b:

Pro	Con
Avoids “10 Section” area, thereby negating the need for a Forest Plan Amendment.	Potential for impact on areas of high scenic value (residents/recreation/traditional gathering areas).
Avoids the experimental forest area.	Alternative 1B creates a new corridor (fragmentation of habitat, invasives).
	Alternative lengthens Route 1.
	Crosses an area of cultural importance to LLBO.

Alternative 1c:

Pro	Con
	Crosses an area of cultural importance to LLBO.

4.3.2 Route 2:

This alternative is carried forward as required by (Minn. Statute 216E.03, subd. 5) which requires the evaluation of alternatives proposed by the Utilities. Route 2 was identified by the Utilities within the Central Macro-Corridor which is the shortest corridor.

Pro	Con
Of the Central Macro-Corridor routes, Route 2 keeps several corridors within the same area of the reservation.	Route 2 impacts an area of high scenic value on the CNF.
Utilizes the greatest amount of existing corridor.	Creates another easement for existing landowners already encumbered by multiple easements.
Route 2 is shorter than Routes 3, 4 and 5.	Route 2 is located in close proximity to the highest number of residents.
Based on preliminary data, the Route 2 corridor contains the least amount of wetlands.	Fragmentation of LLR (socioeconomic and culture impacts).
Compared to Route 1, fewer high value wetlands are impacted.	Impacts to area of cultural importance and traditional cultural practices.
Impacts fewer areas of high tribal importance than Route 1.	Engineering constraint – the route utilizes a narrow, high use strip of land where it may be difficult to locate the transmission line within.

4.3.3 Route 3:

Route 3 is carried forward for further consideration in the EIS since it minimizes impacts to LLR, utilizes the greatest amount of existing utility ROW and is located on a greater percentage of farmland as opposed to forestland than the other routes thereby providing a good comparison with the other routes

Pro	Con
Route 3 collocates with an existing transmission corridor, therefore may minimize impacts to habitat and sensitive species	Based on preliminary information Route 3 impacts a high percentage of wetlands; however, collocating or paralleling an existing utility ROW may mean the forested wetlands have already been converted/impacted.
Route has higher compatibility with existing land use (utility ROW and farmland) than other alternatives.	Route 3 may impact the greatest amount of state land.
Route requires the least creation of new utility corridor.	Route 3 is one of the longest routes.
Avoids or skirts the boundary of the LLR; does not bisect like routes 1 & 2.	Route 3 may cross quality wetlands that may not be “spannable.”
Uses existing corridor through wetlands.	

5.0 EIS SCHEDULE

The schedule to date for developing the EIS and the anticipated schedule for its completion is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – EIS Schedule

Federal/State EIS Milestones	Date
Submit Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study to RUS	July 19, 2007
Submit Route Permit Application to MPUC/OES	June 4, 2008
Notice Public Scoping Meetings for EIS	July 18-28, 2008
Hold Public Scoping Meetings for EIS	August 11-15, 2008
Publication of OES Scoping Decision	April 2, 2009
Publication of RUS Scoping Summary Report	December 2009
Publish Joint Federal/State Draft EIS	January, 2010
Hold Public Informational Hearings on DEIS	February 2010
Comment Period on DEIS Closes	February 2010
Publish State FEIS	March 2010
Publish Federal FEIS	March 2010
Comment Period on FEIS Closes	March/April 2010
Federal/Tribal/State Agencies Issue Decisions on Permits for Project	Various

6.0 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Agencies preparing the EIS in compliance with NEPA, a number of federal, tribal, and state agencies have environmental protection, compliance, or consultation requirements that will be addressed in the EIS for the Project. The EIS will detail project impacts and compliance with regulatory requirements for the permits or licenses applicable for contraction, operation, and maintenance of the Project.

Tables 4 and 5 contain a list of permits required for the Project.

Table 4 – Other Federal/Tribal Review

Federal Permits/Consultations	
Special Use Permit	US Forest Service- Chippewa National Forest
Section 106 Consultation	Rural Utilities Service/FS/FWS/Corps
Section 10 Permit	US Army Corps of Engineers

Section 404 Permit	US Army Corps of Engineers
CWA Section 402 Permit	Environmental Protection Agency
Endangered Species Act	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Permit to Cross Federal Aid Highway	US Federal Highway Administration
Farmland Protection Policy Act/Farmland Conversion Impact Rating	US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Serv.

- Special Use Permit- The Project corridor crosses land within the Chippewa National Forest, requiring a Special Use Permit pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 251.58. Compliance is required with the Chippewa National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan
- Section 106 Consultation- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470f, and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.1-80016, require federal agency consultation with Indian Tribes that may be affected by the Project. RUS is coordinating this consultation with the LLBO and other tribes.
- Section 10 Permit- USACE regulates impacts to navigable waters of the United States pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. § 403. The Mississippi River is classified by USACE as a navigable water, and the Utilities will apply for a permit for the Project to crossing.
- Section 404 Permit- USACE regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1344. The Utilities will apply for these permits as necessary once a route for the Project is determined.
- Endangered Species Act- The Utilities have initiated informal consultation with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1534 to assess the potential impact of the Project, threatened and endangered species, and critical habitat. As part of the consultation, the Utilities will prepare a Biological Assessment to document the potential effects of the Project, in accordance with 50 C.F.R. § 402.12(f).
- Permit to Cross Federal Aid Highway- Transmission line crossings of a federal highway require a use and occupancy agreement under 23 C.F.R. § 645.213. The Utilities will work with Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”), to whom the Federal Highway Administration has delegated the administration of these agreements, to obtain any required approvals.

- Farmland Protection Policy Act/Farmland Conversion Impact Rating- The US Department of Agriculture oversees farmland conversions under 7 U.S.C. §§ 4201-4208. The Utilities will complete form AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating and provide it to the Natural Resource Conservation Service for review.

Table 5 – Other State Regulatory Review

Minnesota Permits/Consultations	
Cultural and Historic Resources Review	State Historic Preservation Office
Endangered Species Consultation	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources- Ecological Services
License to Cross Public Lands and Waters	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources- Lands and Minerals
Public Waters Work Permit	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources- Waters
Utility Permit	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Wetland Conservation Act Permit	Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Environmental Protection Agency
Noxious Weed Management Plan	Minnesota Department of Agriculture

- Cultural and Historic Resources Review- Minn. Stat. § 138.081 designates the director of the Minnesota Historical Society as the State Historic Preservation Officer (MnSHPO). Consultation with MnSHPO staff regarding Project impacts with respect to historic and archaeological resources has been initiated.
- Endangered Species Consultation- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program collects, manages, and interprets information about nongame species. Minn. Stat. § 84.0895; Minn. R. 6134.0100-0400 and 6212.1800-2200. Consultation with Program staff has been initiated on the Project regarding rare and unique species.
- License to Cross Public Lands and Water- The DNR’s Division of Lands and Minerals regulates utility crossings over, under, or across any State land or public water identified on the Public Waters and Wetlands Maps. A license to cross Public Waters is required under Minnesota Statutes § 84.415 and Minnesota Rules ch. 6135. Possible routes for the Project

cross the Mississippi River, which would require a Public Water crossing license, state lands, which would require a license to cross Public Lands.

- Public Waters Work Permit- The purpose of this program is to regulate development activities below the ordinary high water mark of wetlands, streams, and lakes in Minnesota. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103G.245, subd. 1, a Public Waters Work Permit is required for any action taken that alters or develops any obstruction to public waters or changes the course of a public waterway or body.
- Utility Permit- A permit from MnDOT is required under Minn. R. 8810.3300 for construction, pUSACEment, or maintenance of utility lines adjUSACEnt or across highway right-of-way.
- Wetland Conservation Act Permit- The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources administers the state Wetland Conservation Act pursuant to Minnesota Rules ch. 8420. The Project may require a permit under these rules if permanent impacts to wetlands are anticipated as a result of construction (which is applied for jointly with a Section 404 permit from the USACE).
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Permit- A NPDES permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“MPCA”) is required for storm water discharges associated with construction activities disturbing an area of an acre or more (Minn. R. 7090.0030). A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which includes best management practices to minimize discharge of pollutants from the site will be acquired.
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification- The EPA regulates water quality under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1344.
- Noxious Weed Management Plan- Under Minn. Stat. § 18G.04, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has the responsibility for eradication, control, and abatement of nuisance plant species. The local County Agricultural Inspector administers the program.

Appendix B

Scoping Comment Summary

<u>Comment ID</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Source of Comment</u>
001	What is the need for this project? More detail is needed on why the area needs increased reliability.	1.1	Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08; Marge Spees, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Thomas Lindquist and Linnea Dietrich on behalf of Lakes Association, Written Comment [A-G], 9/28/08; Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
002	What is the need for this project across the Leech Lake Reservation? Will there be a specific benefit to the Leech Lake Band? Concern that there is no financial or electrical benefit to the Band.	1.1, 2.2,	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08
003	Will reliability improvements address rippling? Will ripples be reduced with the new transmission line?	1.1	Harold Fenske, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
004	Do other neighboring states have different, more stringent legal regulations regarding the minimum distance between a transmission line and residential home?	3.20.1.1	Nathan Richter, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
005	Where will the transmission line be located? What is the exact route?	2.2	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Bemidji Open House 8/14/08; Paul Jerry, Deer River 8/13/08; Terry Helmer, Deer River 8/13/08; Charlie Schweigert, Written Comment [M-S], 9/26/08
006	What is the proposed pole height and type? Will it be visible above tree lines?	2.4.1, 3.1	Frank Zierhut, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Brandy Toft, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; John Knudson, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Scott Williams, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
007	What is the project construction time frame?	2.4.10	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08; Laura Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/17/08; Karen Bedaeu, Verbal Comment [Appl], 8/27/08
008	Where is power generated in the area?	1.1	Al Nohner, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
009	Why is a 1,000 foot corridor needed?	2.4	Mike Lish, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
010	Why is a 125 foot easement needed?	2.4	Scott Williams, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
011	What is the amount of an easement that will be used for the transmission line structure?	2.4	George Berbee, Deer River 8/13/08
012	Will the transmission line be located on private or government-owned property?	2.2	Paul Jerry, Deer River 8/13/08
013	Will right of way/easements be purchased from property owners?	2.4.3	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08
014	Are there concurrent plans for additional power generation that will feed into the transmission lines?	1.1	Al Nohner, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
015	How will the area under transmission lines be maintained? Will weeds be mowed?	2.4.8	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Deer River Open House 8/13/08

016	Utilities should consider the appropriate width of needed easement (should include maintenance needs and trees that may interfere with line). Concern about utilities cutting trees outside of stipulated easement.	2.4.1, 2.4.8	Robert White, Cass Lake 8/12/08
017	What will be the compensation for private property owners if the transmission line is located on their property?	CN, general discussion in 2.4.3,	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Harold Gehrke, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Denise Brown, Deer River 8/13/08; Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08; Ron Eishans, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Becky Hanson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
018	Will property owners be compensated for the value of any cleared lumber?	3.15	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08
019	Is this project definitely going to happen?	1.2	Mark Hicks, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Keith Pommering, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
020	Are there any alternatives to the transmission line?	2.1, 2.2, 2.3	Keith Pommering, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Lynne Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
021	Can the transmission line be buried underground?	2.3.4	Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Donald and Kristen Wagner, Robert and Valerie Wagner, and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08
022	Can wind turbines reduce the need for the transmission line?	2.3.1	Marge Spees, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
023	Several commenters voiced general opposition to and preference for specific routes.	CN - addressed generally in 1.4.1	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08
024	Provide more detail on why the preferred route in the central corridor is preferred.	2.2	Rogan Quinn, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
025	An existing easement is located along the alternative central corridor route (US-2). Would this easement be widened for the new line? The project should follow the existing easement with no variance. Concern over doubling easement width if new line is located adjacent to existing line.	2.2, 3.18	Robert White, Cass Lake 8/12/08
026	Request that transmission line follow exact pipeline route.	CN -- general discussion in 2.2 and 3.18	Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Terry Helmer, Deer River 8/13/08; Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Stanley, Marine, Calvin and Nancy Stai, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; Nancy and Noel Benson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/25/08

027	Will land owners be involved in the route selection and location process?	1.2, 1.4.1	Paul Jerry, Deer River 8/13/08; Becky Hanson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
028	Are alternatives being considered to keep lines away from residences and children?	2.2, 3.11,.3.20	Bill Evers, Deer River 8/13/08
029	A new housing development located along the proposed route in the central corridor is not shown on the Applicants' aerial photographs or accounted for in route development.	CN	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Mark Studer, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
030	If the transmission line follows the pipeline route, please place the transmission line to the south of the pipeline to avoid homes located north of the pipeline.	CN, 3.11	Peter Guggenheimer, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08 and map submitted as comment
031	Can the transmission line be located in a less populated area than already proposed? A route south of the proposed route would go over a less populated area.	2.3.3	Mike Lish, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Jarrett and Sharon Lish, Written Comment [3], 8/28/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08; Tandy Bowman, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08
032	The agencies should consider federal macrocorridor options.	2.2, 2.3	Carol Winans, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
033	There would be more benefit to locating the transmission line on state land. Easements over state land are good for hunters and fire prevention. Poles make a good nesting place for raptors.	2.2.2, 3.8, 3.11, 3.13	Keith Pommering, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Jarrett and Sharon Lish, Written Comment [3], 8/28/08; Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08
034	Are there any alternatives to creating an easement on private property for the location of the transmission line?	2.1	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08
035	Aesthetics are very important to Cass Lake area. Aesthetics are the entire appeal of living in the area.	3.1	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08
036	Opposition to proposed alternative for central corridor (along US-2) for aesthetic reasons.	CN, discussed generally in 3.1	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08 and Written Comment [1] (undated); Nancy and Noel Benson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/25/08; Glen Anderson, Written Comment [Appl], 8/15/08
037	Aesthetics concerns for area north of Highway 371 near Cass Lake.	3.1, 4.1	Frank Zierhut, Cass Lake 8/12/08
038	Concern for aesthetics in Grace Lake area.	3.1	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Debra Falcon, Written Comment [A-G], 9/22/08
039	Concern for aesthetics along bike trail, located to the north and south of Pike Bay.	3.1	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08 and Written Comment [1] (undated)
040	Concern for aesthetics at camp grounds south of Pike Bay.	3.1, 3.13	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08
041	Aesthetics concerns for area east of Bena, MN, which is currently undeveloped and uniquely untouched.	3.1	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08

042	Wildlife corridors may be disturbed by transmission line. One commenter noted the presence of cougars in the area.	3.7, 3.8	Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
043	Concern that location of transmission line on private property will adversely affect property values. Questions over anticipated percent changes in current property values.	3.11	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Robert White, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Bonnie Williams, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Norley Hanson, Deer River 8/13/08; Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08; Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08; Becky Hanson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Brandy Toft, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Darrell and Denise Magoon, Written Comment [1] (undated); Leo Wieland, Written Comment [2] (undated); Rodney and Kathy Dehart, Written Comment [3], 8/15/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [4], 8/23/08; Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; Stanley, Marine, Calvin, and Nancy Stai, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08; Jim Gorham, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08; Frank and Belinda McPhee, Written Comment [M-S], 9/25/08; Margaret Maxwell, Written Comment [M-S], undated; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Barbara Robertson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/25/08; Robert Stelton, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Dale and Terri Thisius, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/26/08; Randy and Susan Weestrand, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/27/08; Wagner and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08; Jan Wright-Knutson, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/18/08; Glen Anderson, Written Comment [Anderson], 8/15/08; Paul and Cindy Wannarka, Written Comment [W], 8/29/08
044	Regardless of calculated property value and health impacts, stigma of health concerns associated with transmission lines will decrease property value.	3.11	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
045	Concern that property easements along routes in central corridor are already over-developed.	3.10, 3.18	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08
046	Concern over pinch point between Pike Bay and Cass Lake. Area is already developed with two pipelines, a railroad line, US-2, an ATV trail, and a bike trail over 58 yards of land.	3.1, 3.13, 3.18, 3.19	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08 and Written Comment [1] (undated)

047	Non-farmers have value in trees; elimination of trees on private property decreases personal value to owner.	3.1	Harold Gehrke, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Jim Gorham, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08
048	There is value in trees to all residents of the area; many people moved to Bemidji area for undeveloped natural beauty.	3.1, 3.10	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Roland Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/15/08; Jim Gorham, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Barb Houg, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08; Steve Lindahl, Written Comment [H-L], 9/18/08
049	General concerns over health effects from transmission lines.	3.20	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Bill Evers, Deer River 8/13/08; Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Marge Spees, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; Joe and Susan Strong, Written Comment [4], 8/25/08; Gerald Bormann, Written Comment [4], 8/22/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [4], 8/23/08; Stanley, Marine, Calvin, and Nancy Stai, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Nancy and Noel Benson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/25/08; Debra Falcon, Written Comment [A-G], 9/22/08; Jim Gorham, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Kathleen Henry, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Debra and Kim Isaacson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/26/08; Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08; Kathy and Bob McKeown, Written Comment [M-S], 9/15/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/5/08; Margaret Maxwell, Written Comment [M-S], undated; R. Bruce Powers, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Jan Wright-Knutson, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/18/08; Judith and Joel Elavsky, Written Comment [Elavsky], 9/30/08
050	What effect will the transmission line have on individuals with implanted pacemakers and defibrillators?	3.20	Barbara Hinkemeyer, Cass Lake 8/12/08
051	Will there be studies on the health impacts to indigenous people, specifically Leech Lake Band, who live on subsistence diets?	3.12, 3.20	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08
052	Concerns over potential health impacts to unborn and newborn children living near transmission lines.	3.20	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08

053	Commenter presented statistic that persons living within 200 yards of existing transmission line have an increase in health issues, including cancer.	3.20	Bill Evers, Deer River 8/13/08
054	The proposed route is in close proximity to a high school; will there be health impacts for children riding bikes and walking under the lines?	3.20	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08
055	Concern over EMF (electro and magnetic) and that there are no conclusive studies on danger to humans and surrounding areas (including impacts to soil, well water, and trees).	3.20	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 08/27/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [4], 8/23/08; Tandy Bowman, Written Comment [5], 8/28/08; Terry and Diane Halverson, Written Comment [6], 8/27/08
056	Existing tree line serves as noise barrier between homes and US-2. Concern for changes in noise level.	3.21	Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08
057	General aesthetics concerns.	3.1	Frank Zierhut, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Marge Spees, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08; Brandy Toft, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [4], 8/23/08; Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Judith and Joel Elavsky, Written Comment [Elavsky], 9/30/08
058	Line should be placed as far south of US-2 as possible to minimize visibility from roadway.	3.1	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08 and Written Comment [1] (undated)
059	Clear-cutting timber on private property would eliminate buffer from railroad and change property owner's view.	3.1	Harold Gehrke, Cass Lake 8/12/08
060	Concern over quality of topsoil associated with easements.	3.3	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08
061	What is the environmental impact associated with maintaining the line?	2.4,8, Section 3 generally	Robert White, Cass Lake 8/12/08
062	What comments have been received from environmentalists? What are their views on alternative locations and the environmental impact, for example, on wetlands?	Appendix, 3.6	George Berbee, Deer River 8/13/08
063	Concern over impacts on wetlands.	3.6	Barbara Anderson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Parker Woodson, Verbal Comment [App], 9/16/08; Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08

064	Concerns over the depletion of large older oak trees that may be cut for the transmission line easement, specifically between Hart Lake and the Wilkinson area.	3.1	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08
065	Concern that transmission line will cut across orchard, which consists of trees planted by the property owner.	3.14	Bonnie Williams, Cass Lake 8/12/08
066	Concern over invasive species and weeds, especially spotted knapweed, that will grow in easement. Concern over the environmental impact of that growth. Growth of weeds will require more maintenance effort from property owners.	3.7	Barbara Anderson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08
067	What will be the impact on wildlife and therefore hunting for people who live on subsistence diets?	3.7, 3.12	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08
068	Growth of invasive weeds will have impact on wildlife. Wildlife and deer cannot graze on weeds.	3.7	Barbara Anderson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
069	Land located under transmission lines becomes limited-use property. Due to pole placement, the land is difficult to farm.	3.11, 3.14	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
070	Multiple adjacent right of ways divide property and make land useless.	3.11, 3.18	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Darrell Magoon, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Denise Magoon, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Darrell and Denise Magoon, Written Comment [1] (undated); Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08; Joe and Susan Strong, Written Comment [4], 8/25/08; Norley Hansen, Deer River 8/13/08; Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/5/08
071	The requirement for transmission lines to be a certain distance from pipelines restricts the possibility of adjacent easements; therefore, private property is divided with easements and potential development is limited.	3.11, 3.18	Leo Wieland, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Nathan Richter, Written Comment [1] (undated)
072	New easements created by the transmission line will create easy access to new areas for the general public; concern that public will traverse private lands.	3.11, 3.13	Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08
073	Legally, how will the placement of an easement affect splitting and selling multiple lots? How does an easement transfer?	2.4.3	Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08
074	Are pinch points with railroad tracks located on both central routes?	3.19	
075	Some land owners have plans to develop or sell lots for development; this has not been accounted for in route planning.	CN,	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Darrell and Margo Magnussen, Written Comment [1] (undated); Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Debra and Kim Isaacson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/26/08; Bob Gregg, Written Comment [Appl], 9/29/08; Calvin and Darcy Stai, Written Comment [Stai], undated

076	Can property owners negotiate to have only one pole located on their property?	2.4.3	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08
077	Can the Utilities create a square footage or percentage limit on the maximum number of easements for one property or property owner to prevent over-development?	2.4.3, 3.11	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08
078	Will certain property owners be required to relocate their homes?	3.11	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08 Naomi Seruley & Roberd Market, Written Comment (undated)
079	Can/will the Utilities purchase private property and assist in relocation of property owners?	2.4.3, 3.11	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08; Frank McPhee, Written Comment [Appl], 9/29/08
080	Private property owners have unfair personal burden/sacrifice for the public good.	CN	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Bonnie Williams, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Ron Eishans, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08
081	Fairness concerns for property owners that already have pipeline easements. One commenter noted, "this section has more than necessary paid its dues to advancement to society."	CN, 3.18	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Ron Eishans, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Darrell and Denise Magoon, Written Comment [1] (undated); Bonnie and Steven Williams, Written Comment [1], 8/13/08; Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08; Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08; Rite Velat, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/22/08
082	What will be the effects on gathering of food and medicines in the area? Concern over loss of gathering opportunities.	3.9, 3.12	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08; LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
083	What are the impacts on reserved treaty rights?	3.9, 3.12	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08
084	Will there be specific studies on the impacts to the Ojibwe community?	3.9, 3.12	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08
085	What will be the impact on wild rice resources?	3.12	Feather Rock, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Lynne Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
086	Transmission line route may affect Paul Bunyan radio station KBUN-AM. FCC requires a certain distance between radio towers and transmission lines because transmission lines will interfere with the signal (see FCC 73.1692, provided in written comment). Wood and steel transmission line poles will need to be detuned electrically at 1450 KHz if located within 1/2 mile of KBUN antenna. Estimated cost of detuning is \$5,000 per pole structure.	3.18	Lou Beron, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Letter from Mark Persons (of M.W. Persons and Associates, Inc.) to Lou Beron (owner of KBUN AM) dated 7/22/08, submitted as Written Comment [1] by Lou Beron on 8/14/08
087	Are any current existing lines going to be abandoned once the new transmission line is complete?	2.2	Denise Benson, Deer River 8/13/08

088	Will approval of this transmission line create the opportunity (or difficulty) of placing or expanding power plants along the transmission line route?	2.4	Al Nohner, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
089	Can transmission lines replace existing lines?	2.2, 2.4.1	Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08; Jarrett and Sharon Lish, Written Comment [3], 8/28/08; Charlie Schweigert, Written Comment [M-S], 9/26/08
090	Will utilities be able to increase uses of transmission lines in the future? What are the procedures for future use of proposed transmission lines?	1.2.9	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Robert Stelton, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08
091	Safety concerns over distance between the pipeline and transmission line. What will happen if there is a gas leak or leak in the oil pipeline? Could a falling tower rupture a gas line?	3.18	Deer River Open House 8/13/08; Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08; Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08; Carl Drahas on behalf of Robert and Cheryl Hiltz, Written Comment [H-L], 9/23/08
092	What is the minimum distance that the transmission line can be located from a pipeline?	3.18	Mark Studer, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
093	Can and will lines be located directly over homes?	3.11	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Scott Williams, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Gerald Bormann, Written Comment [4], 8/22/08
094	Will transmission lines be located the exact 62.5-foot minimum distance from homes?	3.11	Scott Williams, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
095	Will the distance between a transmission line and residential home be considered in route planning?	3.11	Ron Eishans, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Mike Lish, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Nathan Richter, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
096	Concern that EMF may increase along the line in the future.	3.20	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
097	Safety concerns for planes landing at the Nary National Airport.	3.19	Carol Waughtal, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
098	What is the distance requirement between a transmission line and railroad line, and why?	3.19	Brandy Toft, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08
099	What will be the sound level emitted from the wires? General concern for noise.	3.21	Audrey Kincaid, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
100	Transmission line impact on property value is more important than environmentalists' concerns.	CN	George Berbee, Deer River 8/13/08
101	How will impacts resulting from the Moss Lake crossing be mitigated?	3.4	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08
102	What is the next step in the process of project development?	1.2, 2.4	Terry Helmer, Deer River 8/13/08
103	How much influence will environmentalists have on the project?	1.2, Appendix B	George Berbee, Deer River 8/13/08

104	Who has the final decision making authority on location of easements?	1.2.9, 1.3, 2.4.3	George Berbee, Deer River 8/13/08
105	Would another EIS be required for future use of transmission lines? Concern that a Finding of No Significant Impact status on this project would be granted to future projects using the transmission line or easement.	1.2.9, 2.2	Barbara Anderson, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
106	What is the process if a land owner does not agree with the easement payment and calculated devaluation of property?	2.3.4	Paul Jerry, Deer River 8/13/08; Norley Hanson, Deer River 8/13/08
107	What is the process if a land owner does not agree to locate the transmission line on their property?	2.3.4	Terry Helmer, Deer River 8/13/08; Bemidji 5pm Open House 8/14/08
108	What is recourse to property owner if environmental impacts are determined?	2.3.4	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
109	Why is Beltrami Electric not involved in this project?	1.0	Marge Spees, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08
110	Maps contained in public notices are difficult to read. Are people purposely being misled and fed ambiguous information so meeting turn out will be low?	CN	Mark Hicks, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08; Mark Hicks, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Barbara Lugeanbeal, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Richard Harfindahl, Written Comment [Appl], 9/16/08
111	Concern over Utilities taking financial advantage of property owners.	2.4.3, 3.11	Dan Lund, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08
112	Property taxes should be reduced since scenic value of property will be decreased with presence of transmission line.	CN	Frank Zierhut, Cass Lake 8/12/08
113	Fairness concerns over property owners being held responsible for property taxes on easements.	CN	Cass Lake Open House 8/12/08; Leo Wieland, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Norley Hanson, Deer River 8/13/08; Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Paula Tunseth, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Dan Lund, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Kevin Onstad, Written Comment [3], 8/25/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08
114	Easement payment should be tied to changing economic conditions and be distributed annually rather than as a one-time payment.	CN, discussed generally in 2.4.3	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Leo Wieland, Written Comment [2] (undated); Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08; Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08; Norley Hansen, Written Comment [4] (undated)
115	Concern for the financial impacts to surrounding properties. The location of the transmission line will have impacts on neighboring property values, but those property owners will have no compensation.	3.11	Ron Eishans, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Brandy Toft, Bemidji 5pm 8/14/08; Dallas and Joyce Way, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08

116	Compensation values negotiated for each property owner should be made public.	CN	Norley Hanson, Deer River 8/13/08
117	Financial concerns over easement maintenance. Land owners must maintain area out of pocket or be subject to maintenance plan of Utilities.	CN, 3.11	Jim Haack, Bemidji 1pm 8/14/08; Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08
118	Preference to locate the transmission line to the north of the pipeline if the transmission line easement follows the existing pipeline route.	CN	Bemidji Open Houses 8/14/08
119	Will there be safety issues related to lines and strong winds experienced in the project area?	3.20	Bemidji 1pm Open House 8/14/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [4], 8/23/08; Tandy Bowman, Written Comment [5], 8/28/08
120	Placement of transmission lines will adversely affect the ability for farm owners to apply fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides by aerial flying. The Brink Farm (family-owned commercial wild rice farm) will be specifically impacted; this represent a "disaster to [the commenter's] livelihood."	3.14	Richard and Lori Brink, Brink Farms, Written Comment [1], 8/14/08
121	Applicants should encourage public to reduce electrical usage.	CN, 2.1.1	Jack Gustafson, Written Comment [1] (undated)
122	Preference for the most southern route within the central corridor (near Guthrie, MN), which is a less populated area.	CN	Carol Waughtal, Written Comment [1] (undated); Bonnie and Steven Williams, Written Comment [1], 8/13/08
123	Concern that transmission line will replace land that could be use to harvest marketable hardwood, representing a financial impact on the land owner.	3.15	Darrell and Denise Magoon, Written Comment [1] (undated)
124	Concern over removing "beautiful hardwoods."	3.1	Darrell and Margo Magnussen, Written Comment [1] (undated); Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
125	Current property is an "inside 40" parcel without traffic and therefore "quiet and serene." Commenter would like to keep property quiet and serene; transmission line would "ruin [commenter's] dreams."	3.11, 3.13	Darrell and Margo Magnussen, Written Comment [1] (undated)
126	Preference for the proposed route and avoidance of US-2 route in order to locate route along existing easements and avoid placement of new lines along additional properties.	CN, 3.11, 3.18	George Berbee, on behalf of himself, James Berbee, and Peter Berbee Estate, Written Comment [1] (undated); Harold Gehrke, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Dean Greenside, Written Comment [A-G], 9/29/08; Barb Houg, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08
127	Commenter planned to plat and sell land to finance retirement; increase in ROWs will have financial effect.	3.11	Leo Wieland, Written Comment [2] (undated)
128	Hubbard County requires a minimum of 5 acres for new home construction. Lines cutting into existing property will make existing lots smaller and reduce potential for home building.	3.9, 4.11	Leo Wieland, Written Comment [2] (undated)
129	Request to located line farther south to avoid new homes on 16th Street SW (maps enclosed in written comment).	CN	Mrs. Anderson, Written Comment [2] (submitted at Bemidji 1pm Open House, 8/14/08)
130	Commenter provided description of his specific property and requested that transmission lines be located as far east on his property as possible (as septic system, well, and useable land is located on the western portion of his property).	CN	Rogan Quinn, Written Comment [2] (undated)

131	Concern over large, old growth red pines located on 279th Ave, south of US-2 and railroad tracks.	3.7	Rodney and Kathy Dehart, Written Comment [3], 8/15/08
132	Request to save diminishing land base for wildlife habitat.	3.7	Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08
133	Concern for natural habitat at the Necktie River Basin, which is designated as a trout stream.	3.4, 3.7	Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08
134	Preference for US-2 route to utilize existing easements.	CN, 3.18	Ron Eischens, Written Comment [3], 8/18/08; MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08; Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08; LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08; Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Gary Falldin, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08; Ken and LaVonne Hatch, Written Comment [H-L], 9/23/08; Keneth Hausauer, Written Comment [H-L], 9/22/08; Wendy Larson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Barbara Lugeanbeal, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Fredrick and Patricia Pick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Tim and Jan Marr, Written Comment [M-S], 9/23/08; Robert Stelton, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Laurie Swanson on behalf of Hiram Township, Written Comment [Email], 10/20/2008; Robert Yochum, Administrator, on behalf of Cass County, Written Comment [Cass County], 10/17/08
135	Request to use T.H. #2 by-pass corridor, which will provide easier access for line maintenance and repairs.	CN, 3.19	Jarrett and Sharon Lish, Written Comment [3], 8/28/08
136	Bemidji is a low-income population; creation of easements on land is great burden to land owners.	3.12	Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08
137	Easements result in a loss of private land use.	3.11	Richard and Barbara Anderson, Written Comment [3], 8/26/08; Norley Hansen, Written Comment [4] (undated)
138	"Damaged conifer needles growing close to power lines serve much the same function as a lightening rod in discharging electricity built-up in the air and power lines can create stray voltage effects that cause constant low-level electric shock."	3.20	James and Judy Haack, Written Comment [3], 8/27/08

139	<p>Summary of comments regarding the proposed location of the preferred route through the experimental forest (EF): The EF is used for long-term active research on forest management. It allows for research at larger spatial scales due to the largely intact, unfragmented condition of the forest. Concerns to the EF are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacts to current research. EF is currently used for a 40-year old study on control of aspen suckers with prescribed fire. 2. Impacts to future research. Transmission line would limit usefulness of forest. A new corridor would bisect the EF into two management units. 3. Deterioration of the ecological value of the EF. The EF supports older, mature forest. Conversion of hardwood forest to open brush or grass vegetation would likely represent a loss of atmospheric carbon storage on the National Forest. 	3.8, 3.10, 3.15	<p>Brian Palik, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Pike Bay Experimental Forest, Written Comment [4], 8/21/08; Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08</p>
140	<p>Applicants should reduce pole height in certain areas.</p>	CN, 2.4.1, 3.1	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
141	<p>Large patches of woodlands are located along corridors that still hold interior forest bird species and provide habitat to species that need large forest tracts. Transmission line should not fragment woodlots.</p>	3.7, 3.8	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
142	<p>Mitigation measures will be needed to reduce bird strikes.</p>	3.7	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
143	<p>Corridor should avoid Hole-in-the-Bog Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). Indirect impacts to SNA (including changes in surface or shallow ground water hydrology) must be avoided.</p>	CN	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
144	<p>Herbicides used to maintain easements may negatively affect some animal species (especially amphibians) or land.</p>	3.7	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08; Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Michael and Peggy Chalich, Written Comment [Chalich], 9/22/08</p>
145	<p>Concern over possibility of electrocution of large birds (especially raptors such as eagles, peregrine falcons, great gray owls, and northern goshawk). What measures will be taken to prevent this?</p>	3.7, 3.8	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
146	<p>Each corridor crosses important waterfowl flyways.</p>	3.7	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
147	<p>The northern corridor crosses the Bowstring and Popple rivers at the outlets of Rice and Natural Lakes. Bird strikes (waterfowl) will need to be addressed there.</p>	3.7, 4.8	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
148	<p>Central corridor crosses the Mississippi River and has the potential to negatively affect White Oak Lake.</p>	3.4	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>
149	<p>The south corridor crosses the Mississippi river and an overland flyway between the Boswell settling ponds and White Oak Lake. Waterfowl used to Boswell ponds as a refuge.</p>	3.7,	<p>MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08</p>

150	Several threatened or species of concern are located near the southern corridor, including yellow rail, sharp-tailed sparrow, Wilson's phalarope, and red-tailed shouldered hawk.	3.8	MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08
151	Lake Winnibigosh is a staging area for loons before fall migration in late October.	3.7	MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08
152	In areas where the transmission line crosses wetlands, herons, terns, bittern, and trumpeter swan would be prone to hit power lines.	3.7, 3.8	MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08
153	What is the policy on osprey nest removal from transmission poles? DNR should be contacted whenever an osprey nest is removed.	3.8	MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08
154	Request that ROWs be open to surveys for local research on the effects of transmission lines.	CN	MNDNR, Randall Doneen, Env. Review Planning Director, 8/27/08
155	Concern over potential health impacts on the mentally-challenged.	3.20	Tandy Bowman, Written Comment [5], 8/28/08
156	Concern for game reserve (located near Carr Lake, Lake Marquette, Lake Plantagenet, Lake Irving, Schoolcraft River, and Mississippi River).	3.13	Terry and Diane Halverson, Written Comment [6], 8/27/08
157	Loss of timber and replacement with prairie alters property currently managed for wildlife.	3.7	Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08
158	Transmission line on property would be detrimental to a variety of forest wildlife including the goshawk, ruffed grouse, and a variety of songbirds.	3.8	Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08
159	Concern over effects to private property that is enrolled in the State of Minnesota Sustainable Forest Incentive Program (SFI).	3.15	Joe Michaletz, Written Comment [6], 8/28/08
160	Concern over utilities trying to establish corridors across public lands, reservations, or lands where underprivileged populations live.	3.12	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
161	Concerns of the CNF were included by the applicants in the route permit application, while LLBO concerns were not included. This is an example of utility consortiums attempting to force projects onto land inhabited by minority populations.	CN	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
162	The EIS should consider non-LLBO route alternatives.	2.2	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
163	Old growth forests of Ten Section Area and nearby northern hardwood forests of Guthrie Till Plain/Cuba Hill Area include some of the most culturally important areas on the LLR for tribal members to practice their traditional activities.	3.9	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
164	LLBO is opposed to the route through the Ten Sections Area, which consists of old growth red and white pines. This is high conservation value forest (HCVF) in the Guthrie Till Plain.	CN, 3.7	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
165	The Guthrie Till Plain supports northern hardwood forest. For this type of forest to function naturally, large unfragmented blocks of mature old forest with diverse composition and structure are required. This area provides habitat for a number of species.	3.7	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
166	Potential visual impacts to the US-2 route are far less than those to the Great Lakes route, especially to tribal members who heavily use the Great Lakes area for traditional activities.	3.1, 3.12	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08

167	Forested wetlands provide habitat for culturally and traditionally-used products important to Ojibwe people. There is a greater anticipated negative effect to wetlands on the Great Lakes route.	3.9, 3.12	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
168	The temporary cleared workspace used for installation of the new Enbridge pipeline should be used for the transmission line easement.	CN, 2.4.5	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
169	Commercial and industrial businesses (which are mostly located along US-2) should carry the greater burden (location of transmission line) since they are the larger consumers of electrical power in the area.	CN	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
170	New utility development (on non-existing easements) will result in explosion of invasive non-native plant species, which are expensive and difficult to maintain.	4.7	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08; Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
171	Recommend dropping the Great Lakes route from consideration because of its irreversible impacts on tribal members and the sensitive natural resources in the Ten Sections Area and Guthrie Till Plain forests.	2.2	LLBO DRM, Written Comment [7], 8/28/08
172	Request that utilities use configurations for best reducing EMFs and change existing configurations to those that will reduce EMFs.	3.20	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
173	Request that utilities place warning and fences around all transformers and strong sources of EMFs, and place warnings 660 yards away from power lines.	3.20	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
174	Request that all power lines are located over 660 yards from homes and other buildings or land where people and animals spend time.	CN	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
175	Request that the utilities fund studies on the effects of EMFs on crops on animals.	CN	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
176	Request that the utilities warn the public to use Gauss meters to measure EMF and inform the public of other potential sources of EMF.	CN, 3.20	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
177	Request that the utilities promote lowering the US standard for acceptable EMF to levels equal to those imposed by other countries.	CN	William and Connie Evers, Jr., Written Comment [7], 8/27/08; William Evers Sr. and Wanda Evers, Written Comment [7], 9/2/08
178	Existing home has not been identified (by placement of a yellow dot) on project maps as of the scoping meeting. Address for home is 1929 Jefferson Ave SW, Bemidji.	CN	Dallas and Joyce Way, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08 and Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08
179	Concern over potential impacts on water (lakes and rivers).	3.4	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08

180	Concern over potential impacts to forest.	3.7, 3.10, 3.15	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08
181	Will property owners be compensated for transmission lines crossing over private property?	2.4.3, 3.11	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
182	Concern that easement ROW will encompass an individual's entire property.	2.4.3, 3.11	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Richard Herfindahl, Written Comment [H-L], 9/17/08
183	Will the entire 1,000 feet of a ROW be cleared?	2.4, 3.10	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
184	If the entire ROW is not cleared for the construction of the transmission line, will the utilities be able to clear the remainder of the ROW at a later date?	2.4.3	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
185	There is a superfund site in Cass Lake. Will this create more environmental problems?	5.0	Nancy Fuller, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
186	Request not to locate transmission line in Red Oaks Estate Development.	CN	Mark Studer, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08
187	Safety concerns regarding heavy equipment working around gas lines during construction of transmission lines.	3.20	Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08
188	Co-location of gas pipelines and transmission lines are a "gift to terrorism."	CN	Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08
189	Request that utilities purchase all private property for construction of the transmission line, rather than create easements.	CN	Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08; Harold Gehrke, Cass Lake 8/12/08; Frank and Belinda McPhee, Written Comment [M-S], 9/25/08
190	Co-location of the transmission line at or adjacent to pipeline easements would prevent future expansion of the pipeline.	3.18	Keith Pommering and Neighbors (Mat Reller, Terry and Lucile Nelson, Donna Pollard, Richard and Elaine Moe, Dan Bewitler, Lester Hiltz, Jon Chock, Shirley and Melvin Moe, and Russell Hiltz), Written Comment [7], 8/25/08
191	Request for additional scoping meeting.	CN	Mark Hicks, Written Comment [7], 8/29/08; Debra and Kim Isaacson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/26/08; Sally Sedgwick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Margaret Maxwell, Written Comment [M-S], undated; Laura Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/17/08

192	Public has not been well-informed of transmission line project.	CN	Terry and Diane Halverson, Written Comment [6], 8/27/08; Steve Lindahl, Written Comment [H-L], 9/18/08; Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Barbara Lugeanbeal, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Al Nohner, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/5/08; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Claude and Jeanette Mika, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Rita Velat, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/22/08; Robert Cole, Written Comment [Appl], 9/22/08;
193	Preference to located the transmission line as far south of railroad tracks as possible if placed along US-2.	CN	Jack Gustafson, Cass Lake 8/12/08
194	Preference for the central corridor due to cost effectiveness (installation and maintenance costs reduced along a shorter route).	CN	Greg Abbott, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Barbara Alberg, Written Comment [A-G], 9/26/08; Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Roland Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/15/08; Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Thomas Lindquist and Linnea Dietrich on behalf of Lakes Association, Written Comment [A-G], 9/28/08; Linda Bathen, Written Comment [A-G], 9/29/08; Terry Bergstrom, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Terry Bush, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Jane and Denny Carlson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/29/08; Kenneth Kostial and Don Kruse on behalf of CGWLPOA, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Helen Dawson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/28/08; John Dowell, Written Comment [A-G], 9/25/08; Ken and LaVonne Hatch, Written Comment [H-L], 9/23/08; Keneth Hausauer, Written Comment [H-L], 9/22/08; Kathleen Henry, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Carol Hoyem, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Joel Humburg, Written Comment [H-L], 9/24/08; Scott and Brenda Kern, Written Comment [H-L], 9/28/08; Walt Kirchner, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Robert Stelton, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Larry Schedin, Written Comment [M-S], 9/27/08; Terrance Tripp, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/17/08; Trevor Yartz, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/16/08; Rodney Will, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/15/08; Bill Turgeon, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08; Darrel Norel, Written Comment [Appl], 10/10/08

194 (cont.)			Wendy Larson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Brent and Andrea Lewis, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Tom Rivard, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Diane Plath, Written Comment [M-S], 9/24/08; Margaret Maxwell, Written Comment [M-S], undated; Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Fredrick and Patricia Pick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; R. Bruce Powers, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Tim and Jan Marr, Written Comment [M-S], 9/23/08; Claude and Jeanette Mike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Laura Zimmermann, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08; Lynne Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Michael and Peggy Chalich, Written Comment [Chalich], 9/22/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Terrance Tripp, Written Comment [Appl], 9/17/08
195	Preference for central corridor because routes would be more accessible for repair and maintenance purposes.	CN	Greg Abbott, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Barbara Alberg, Written Comment [A-G], 9/26/08
196	The northern corridor contains water and bogs; line repair and maintenance will be difficult.	2.4.3, 3.6	Greg Abbott, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08
197	Area surrounding Highway 64 north of Akeley (in the southern corridor) is Minnesota state preservation land and protected by law. Concern for protected habitat located along Highway 64.	CN, 2.3	Brad Amundson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08
198	Preference to located the transmission line outside the southern corridor, as the southern corridor was shown to have a 40% increase in overall environmental impact.	CN, 2.3	Brad Amundson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08
199	Concern that electric rates will increase if a longer route is chosen.	CN	Brad Amundson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08; Kenneth Kostial and Don Kruse on behalf of CGWLPOA, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Jerry Stejskal, Written Comment [M-S], 9/15/08; Bill Turgeon, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08; Laura Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08

200	Opposition to the southern corridor for aesthetic reasons.	CN	Brad Amundson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08; John Mang, Written Comment [M-S], 9/28/08; Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08; Barbara Robertson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/25/08; Dale and Terri Thisius, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/26/08; Lynne Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
201	Concern that herbicides applied to easements will runoff into Turtle River or Turtle River Lake (northern corridor).	3.4	Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
202	Concern over the impacts to forest, lake, wetland, and river ecosystems located along the northern route (especially habitat for bald eagles, swans, white pelicans, gray wolves, loons, lady slippers, and white pines).	3.4, 3.7	Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08
203	Oppositions to cutting down trees to accommodate transmission line.	CN	Joni Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
204	State website is not accessible/working; is this intentional? One commenter requested a scoping extension due to inaccessibility of information on the website.	CN	Roland Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/15/08; Tandy Bowman, Written Comment [A-G], 9/17/08; Debra and Kim Isaacson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/26/08; Richard Klovstad, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Cathy Perry, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Tom Gilmore, Verbal Comment [Appl], 9/16/08
205	Fairness concern that those living in less populated areas are asked to sacrifice for the good of the reservation and highway department.	CN	Roland Armstrong, Written Comment [A-G], 9/15/08
206	Preference for central corridor because it is the most energy efficient.	CN	Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08; Carol Hoyem, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Sandra Lankow, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08; Wendy Larson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Brent and Andrea Lewis, Written Comment [H-L], 9/15/08; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Larry Schedin, Written Comment [M-S], 9/27/08
207	Opposition to southern and non-CNF corridors.	CN	Steve and Sandy Andrews, Written Comment [A-G], 9/18/08; Scott and Brenda Kern, Written Comment [H-L], 9/28/08; Steve Weestrand, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Cindy and Michael Weestrand, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/28/08; Randy and Susan Weestrand, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/27/08; Glen Riley, Written Comment [Appl], 9/19/08; Laurie Swanson on behalf of Hiram Township, Written Comment [Email], 10/20/2008

208	Concern over impacts to gray wolves, which are located along the northern corridor. The species may be relisted as a ESA.	3.8	Jeff Asfoor, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08
209	Preference to locate the route on public land and existing easements, minimizing the real and unintended costs to third parties.	CN	Thomas Lindquist and Linnea Dietrich on behalf of Lakes Association, Written Comment [A-G], 9/28/08; Kenneth Kostial and Don Kruse on behalf of CGWLPOA, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Fredrick and Patricia Pick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Donald and Kristen Wagner, Robert and Valerie Wagner, and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08
210	CNF wildlife travel outside of the CNF designated boundary into land located along the non-CNF corridor. Designation of the non-CNF corridor as such is arbitrary and gives preferential treatment to the CNF.	CN	Thomas Lindquist and Linnea Dietrich, Written Comment [A-G], 9/28/08; Tom Rivard, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Terrance Tripp, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/17/08
211	Concern over potential impacts on Long Lake (northern corridor).	3.4	Linda Bathen, Written Comment [A-G], 9/29/08; Wendy Larson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Myrle and Mavis Olson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/26/08; Lynne Zimmerman, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
212	Health concerns for children attending the Tot Stop daycare located at the corner of Highway 2 and Wind Flower Drive in the central corridor.	3.20	Nancy and Noel Benson, Written Comment [A-G], 9/25/08
213	Concern over impacts to the Long Lake recreational area (northern corridor), which is used by hikers, campers, hunters, and wildlife observers.	3.13	Terry Bush, Written Comment [A-G], 9/30/08
214	Opposition to non-CNF corridor because the corridor is not within the service areas of the applicants.	CN	Kenneth Kostial and Don Kruse on behalf of CGWLPOA, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08
215	Opposition to non-CNF corridor due to number of difficult water crossings.	CN	Kenneth Kostial and Don Kruse on behalf of CGWLPOA, Written Comment [A-G], 9/24/08; Heather Roensch and Thom Bergstrom, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Bill Turgeon, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08
216	Private residents of Woman Lake area (non-CNF corridor) have spent personal funds on erosion control to maintain water quality of Woman Lake and maintain lake's walleye population.	CN	Jim and Jayne Early, Written Comment [A-G], 9/29/08
217	Concern over potential health impacts on residents and resort patrons that walk/bike on County Rd 11/ Woman Lake Road.	CN, 3.20	Jim and Jayne Early, Written Comments [A-G], 9/29/08
218	Concern that lower property values will result in lower property taxes and therefore a decrease in the tax base available to local governments and schools.	3.11	Jim and Jayne Early, Written Comments [A-G], 9/29/08
219	Opposition to a route located to the south side of Grace Lake, which currently has underground utilities and has historically eliminated unneeded roads and easements.	CN	Debra Falcon, Written Comment [A-G], 9/22/08

220	Concerns for the following habitats and species that use Grace Lake: - Wetland/shoreline habitats - Bullrush and cattail habitats used by nesting loons, crested mergansers, muskrats, great blue herons - Walleye and gamefish using the lake as a pathway - Swamp/wetland located in the southern portion of the lake frequented by deer, bear, raccoons, amphibians, and birds - Bald eagles that use trees for roosting and fishing	3.6, 3.7, 3.8	Debra Falcon, Written Comment [A-G], 9/22/08
221	Concern that route will cross the Mississippi River at least once and result in "unnecessary spoilation of wilderness area."	3.1, 3.4, 3.13	Carl Drahas on behalf of Robert and Cheryl Hiltz, Written Comment [H-L], 9/23/08
222	Concern that transmission line will affect tourism and resorts (specific concerns expressed for Hiram Township).	3.13	Laurie Swanson, Clerk of Hiram Township, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08; Wendy Larson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/29/08
223	Opposition to northern corridor due to sensitivity of lakes in this area.	CN, 3.4	Carol Hoyem, Written Comment [H-L], 9/25/08
224	Request for agency to update list of property owners on website to reflect recent ownership changes for potentially effected properties.	CN	Carol Hron Cartie and William Hron, Written Comment [H-L], 9/22/08; Frank Farace, Written Comment [Appl], 9/29/08
225	Concern for Mississippi headwaters near Schoolcraft State Park.	CN, 2.3	Carol Hron Cartie and William Hron, Written Comment [H-L], 9/22/08; Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
226	Concern that transmission lines will affect cell phone and satellite TV reception.	3.18	Debra and Kim Isaacson, Written Comment [H-L], 9/26/08
227	Concern over potential impacts to Leech Lake.	3.4	Scott and Brenda Kern, Written Comment [H-L], 9/28/08
228	If non-CNF corridor is selected, preference to utilize existing 69 kV easement.	CN	Al Kranz, Written Comment [H-L], 9/19/08
229	Concern for eagles who nest adjacent to the north of the southern corridor.	CN	Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08
230	An existing exterior shooting range is located in Section 21 along the southern corridor; this may present a safety concern for those working on transmission line.	CN	Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08
231	Commenter has chosen to live sustainable lifestyle without utilities on their property. Placement of a transmission line on such property violates property owner's values.	CN	Kathy LaPointe, Written Comment [H-L], 9/27/08
232	Carr Lake school house, which is a historic landmark, is located near the proposed route in the central corridor.	3.9	Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08; Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
233	Concern for Lake Marquette lakeshore and area, which includes old growth white pines, Norway forest, and a designated game reserve.	3.7, 3.13	Julie Loxtercamp, Written Comment [H-L], 9/30/08
234	Concern for increased lightning strikes near homes.	3.20	Kathy and Bob McKeown, Written Comment [M-S], 9/15/08
235	What is a macrocorridor and what is it used for?	1.4.2	Al Nohner, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08
236	There is not adequate data to support building the transmission line unless power generation is increased in the area.	2.2.1	Dean Sedgwick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08

237	Monuments/graves are located within the proposed path on the northern corridor.	3.9	Diane Plath, Written Comment [M-S], 9/24/08
238	Concern for Whispering Pines resort near Carr lake, which is a game refuge with snapping turtles, bear, eagles, osprey, deer, and lynx.	3.7, 3.13	Judy Nelson, Written Comment [M-S], 9/5/08
239	Opposition to northern corridor for aesthetic reasons.	CN, 3.1	Margaret Maxwell, Written Comment [M-S], undated; Gregg Pike, Written Comment [M-S], 9/16/08; Robert Stelton, Written Comment [M-S], 9/29/08; Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08; Donald and Kristen Wagner, Robert and Valerie Wagner, and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08
240	Concern over impacts to the tourism economy (between Walker and Remer on Hwy 200), which is based on northwood character of the area.	CN	Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
241	Concern over the number of water crossings in the southern corridor.	CN	Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
242	Concern for heritage resource sites (including rice beds and traditional use areas), specifically in southern corridor.	3.9, 3.12	Mary and Paul Nordeen, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
243	"The increased impedance (resistance plus inductive reactance) of the alternatives (as compared to the Central Macrocorridor) will adversely impact voltages in the Bemidji area when the new line is used as a backup supply during an N-1 contingency thereby requiring added reactive power support in the form of shunt capacitors."	CN	Larry Schedin, Written Comment [M-S], 9/27/08
244	"Added impedance of the alternatives will increase power flow through the Manitoba Hydro System via the 500 KV Dorsey-Forbes tie at Dorsey Substation and aggravate a capacity bottleneck there."	CN	Larry Schedin, Written Comment [M-S], 9/27/08
245	Concern that transmission line will interfere with airport (Up Yonder - 98MN) located at Highway 71 and Hubbard County 16.	3.19	Gary Shadrick, Written Comment [M-S], 9/19/08
246	General opposition to coal-fired power plants. Concern that transmission line will mean increased train traffic for the area, coal dust blowing into homes and lakes, and air pollution from stacks affecting fish and human health. Concerns for efficient control technology for stacks.	CN, 2.2	Jerry Stejskal, Written Comment [M-S], 9/15/08
247	Opposition to route placement on Old Crossing Trail (northern corridor).	CN, 3.13	Sue Sveine, Written Comment [M-S], 9/30/08
248	Concern that there will be greater injury to waterfowl along the northern corridor (as compared to the central corridor). Waterfowl of concern include swans, cranes, herons, ducks, and shorebirds). Waterfowl movements are greater to the north of U-2 than to the south of US-2.	3.7	Ralph Morris on behalf of the Turtle River Watershed Authority, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/29/08
249	Property owner received letter from Minnkota Power (attached with comment) in 1983, which stated that the existing 69 kV line will remain a one pole 69 kV line (northern corridor).	CN	Donald and Kristen Wagner, Robert and Valerie Wagner, and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08
250	Concern over impacts to the Three Culverts Bridge area on the Turtle River, which is a gathering area for residents and visitors to fish, swim, and canoe.	3.13	Donald and Kristen Wagner, Robert and Valerie Wagner, and Mark Enblom, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/23/08

251	Concern over the number of water crossings in the northern corridor.	3.4	Laura Zimmermann, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08
252	Concern that the northern corridor will have the greatest impact on agricultural lands.	3.14	Laura Zimmermann, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08
253	Concern that the northern corridor will have the greatest impact on the Chippewa National Forest.	3.10, 3.15	Laura Zimmermann, Written Comment [T-Z], 9/30/08
254	Why was the southern corridor identified as an alternative?	2.1, 2.3	Bob Hovelson, Written Comment [App], 9/22/08; Jeremy Westrand, Written Comment [App], 9/22/08
255	Agency will refrain from commenting until EIS is completed.	CN	Mark Plank, Director, on behalf of NRCS, Written Comment [NRCS], 8/4/08
256	Agency provided a schedule of fees for services provided by Tribes Historic Preservation Office.	CN	Ggiiwegiizhigookway Martin, THPO, on behalf of Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Written Comment [Martin], 8/11/08
257	Construction near St. Regis Paper Company Superfund Site may result in water (Pike Bay) contamination.	5.0, 3.4	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08; Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
258	Cumulative effects evaluation should include Cuba Hill, Lydick, Lower East Winnie, Portage Lake, and Enbridge Energy pipeline (CNF has detailed project information).	5.0	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
259	Traffic may increase in the area during construction. Specific concerns for residential access and traffic during peak recreation and hunting periods.	3.19	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
260	General concern that transmission line project may affect socioeconomics in the area.	3.11	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
261	EIS should address potential impacts on tribal rights, cultural values, and cultural properties.	3.9, 3.12	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
262	Aesthetics should be evaluated in relation to Scenic Integrity Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines in the Forest Plan.	3.1	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
263	Concern that transmission line may restrict use of recreation areas (specifically Mi-Ge-Zi Bike Trail and Soo Line Trail).	3.13	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
264	Additional easements may alter forest community types.	3.7	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
265	Construction of the line may affect soils, especially those that are wind or water erodible, compaction prone, or droughty.	3.3	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
266	Concern that broken or fallen lines will present a public safety risk.	3.20	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
267	Construction of the transmission line may cause impacts to archaeological sites and Native American properties.	3.9	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
268	General concerns and observation that the proposed transmission line will cross the Leech Lake Reservation, and may affect hunting, gathering, and cultural resources.	3.9, 3.12	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08

269	Construction of the transmission line may result in changes to the topography, which could affect ground water, surface water, and wetland hydrology.	3.3	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
270	Concern that approval of ROWs for this project makes it likely that a widening of the ROW will be approved in the future.	1.2.9	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
271	Concern that unauthorized vehicles and construction vehicles may spread noxious weeds.	3.7	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
272	Widening existing ROWs may increase off-road vehicle use, which could result in increased arsons and waste dumping, and affect fire control.	3.20	Robert Harper, Forest Supervisor, on behalf of CNF, Written Comment [CNF], 9/30/08
273	Has energy demand changed during the CapX 2020 planning effort?	2.1.1	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
274	If alternatives as dismissed, reasons for dismissal should be provided in DEIS.	2.3	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
275	DEIS should include a draft compensation mitigation plan (for water resources impacts).	CN	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
276	The following potential noise mitigation measures should be evaluated: restricting construction to daylight hours, use of noise barriers, placement of trees and shrubs, sound-proofing structures, and use of transformers that emit the lowest level of noise practicable.	3.21	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
277	DEIS should include a draft Erosion Control Plan.	CN, 3.3, 3.4	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
278	DEIS should include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.	CN, 3.3, 3.4	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
279	USEPA recommends Section 401 certificate and Section 402 permit contact information be included in DEIS.	Cn, 3.4, 3.6	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
280	DEIS should evaluate vehicular spills (resulting from construction) that could affect habitat or water quality. Evaluation should include frequency and likelihood of events. The DEIS should identify BMPs to prevent spills.	3.4	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
281	DEIS should discuss important functions that upland forests play in protecting water quality in their immediate watershed, providing wildlife habitat, and their role in carbon sequestration and global warming.	3.7, Appendix G	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
282	The DEIS should discuss the types of fuels to be used during construction and the resulting air emissions from increased traffic. Emissions to be discussed include VOCs, NOx, NAAQS pollutants (ozone), and HAPs.	3.2	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
283	DEIS should identify and discuss the consequences and the differences in the amounts of greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated from cutting or topping of trees for the project.	3.2	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
284	DEIS should include health studies on the impacts of EMF.	3.20	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08

285	The DEIS should discuss the number of outside workers that will be brought into the area during construction. Issues to evaluate include housing for workers, burdening existing solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities, and an increase in traffic (and releases of dust or toxic chemicals from vehicles).	3.11	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08
286	The USEPA recommends that the following areas be evaluated for potential cumulative impacts: surface water (quality, quantity, and aquatic habitat), wetlands, vegetation/forests, air quality and climate.	5.0	Kenneth Westlake, Supervisor, on behalf of USEPA, Written Comment [EPA], 9/30/08