

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? SCOPING MEETING 6/24/09

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

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources (1)
- ☒ Proximity to residences (1)
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors) (2)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety (1)
- ☒ Other: PROPERTY VALUE

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

I-078-002

I-078-001

- PROPERTY VALUE WILL CLEARLY BE AFFECTED
- HOW SAFE ARE THESE RUNNING OVER YOUR HOUSE?
- IMPACT TO PEOPLE BEFORE IMPACT TO ANY OTHER
ITEM.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-078-001

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

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

I-078-002

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

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

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

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

I-078-003

- PORTION OF PROPERTY CONSIDERED WILD LIFE RESERVE

I-078-008

- HWY 53 IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL DRIVE NORTH OF THE 4 LANE HWY. WOULD BE A SHAME TO MARK THE AREA W/ UNSIGHTLY WIRE CROSSING EVERYONES PROPERTIES.

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

I-078-004

- 1ST PEOPLE & THEIR LIVES
- THERE IS DATA THAT SUGGESTS LIVING VERY CLOSE TO THESE LINES COULD AFFECT YOUR HEALTH. THIS WOULD BE OVER MY HOUSE...

I-078-003

Your comment has been noted. Conservation easements and other existing types of property arrangements are evaluated by the applicant during the routing and siting phase of the project.

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

I-078-004

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

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

I-078-005

YES - HOWEVER QUESTION NEEDED...
ACTUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION OVER LAST
YEAR HAS REDUCED.

I-078-006

WHY NOT LOCAL ENERGY?

I-078-007

PLEASE... IF TRULY NEEDED DON'T
CONTINUE TO ADD THESE STRUCTURES...
ADD/UPGRADE TO THE EXISTING.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: CHARLIE JOHNSON

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 7725 A JOHNSON RD

City: HOLMEN State: WI Zip Code: 54636

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608 304-1016

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

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

I-078-005

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

I-078-006

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

I-078-007

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

I-078-008

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

COMMENT FORM

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

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville

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

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

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

I-079-001 COST!!!! least impact - along interstate which is
I-079-002 already ugly - leave trees alone - least impact
on landowners - property values

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-079-001

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

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I-079-002

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



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

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

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

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

Virgin forests should be left alone. use interstate easements -most logical- interstates have already been cleared

I-079-003
Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-079-003

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

Yes

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ross Johnson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: N 16568 Hilltop Ln

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-865-0439

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

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

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

I-080-001

Devaluation of property and if we get compensated
for the value of our home price going
down.

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I-080-001

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

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

I have a great view in front of my house of North Creek. If this line goes through it will be right in front of my window. It will devalue to my house by 40%. This is also a passive solar home. The property is located on Church Hill Rd. North East of Arcadia.

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

Land use. We should go the shorter route. I think going down Hwy 90 ^{from Rochester} would be the cheapest + would not affect people, land and wildlife as much.

I-080-002

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

I-080-003

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

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

I-080-004

Was not explained. The people at the meet ~~was~~ were there just to hear. They did not have any answers. They were here just to make us think they care.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane W. Miller
 Representing (Optional): _____
 Mailing Address: N30333 Church Hill Rd
 City: Arcadia State: WI Zip Code: 54612
 Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-323-2004

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

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

I-080-004

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

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

Representative: Wanamings June 17th, 2009



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Jeff Beckman

Address: 35344 High Prairie Trail

Telephone: 507-298-0191

Email: jeffcove@yahoo.com

Date: 6-17-09

Meeting location: Wanamings

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

I appreciate the fact that 52 is
an option where there are existing lines &
easement already - I understand MDOT present
challenges but hope that's a workable
option. I also appreciate that the routes
you chose for 2nd option takes fences lines
and ~~and~~ minimizes land breakups
& less housing roads.

I-081-001

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Plainville

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

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

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

I-083-001

The importance of using existing easements/routes
52 Hwy ? Interstate 90.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-083-001

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

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

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

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

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

I-083-002

We already have a pipeline easement
We have Bald eagles, migrating birds, wildlife
in our woods

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

I-083-003

For our area - Mazeppa Township - it is
affecting much woodland that homes eagles,
deer, migrating birds, trout stream.

I-083-004

We also have a ski hill in the area that
the current plans runs the high lines right
through. Many people use this area to
fish, hunt, hike, ski. We also have a lot of agricultural
land; this proposed line taking up valuable
land.

I-083-002

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

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

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

I-083-003

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

I-083-004

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

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

I-083-005

I think it is being explained in a way that promotes Xcel's agenda. This is a horrible route plan; it crosses properties, hurts families' property values when existing routes are already established. We need to make sure Xcel is doing this responsibly w/ taking into account all of the people it is affecting along w/ not choosing the least expensive route; promoting it as the best route.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jill Draayer

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 59207 423rd Ave.

City: Mazeppa State: MN Zip Code: 55956

Daytime Phone (Optional): 651-564-0839

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

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

I-083-005

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

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

Representative: _____



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Input Form

Name: Nancy Ellison

Address: 15775 Hwy 60 Blvd

Zumbrota, MN 55992

Telephone: 507-732-5281

Email: _____

Date: _____

Meeting location: Wanamingo

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

I am happy to see that
the currently proposed route at Wanamingo
is a mile south of 60 & not
near the houses on Highway 60

I-084-001

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

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

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

I-084-001

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: ROBERT & TERRY ERREDGE
Address: 15983 460 ST, ZUMBROTA, MN
Telephone: 507 932 7529
Email: terredge@hcinet.net
Date: 6/17/09
Meeting location: WANAMINGO

Check one:

- ☒ Landowner ☐ Elected Official
☐ Agency ☐ City/County Staff
☐ Other: _____

Comments:

WHY NOT RUNNING DOWN HWY 52
RUNNING THRU OUR DAIRY FARM
WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON DAIRY
COWS, PROPERTY VALUE

I-085-001

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

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

I-085-002

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

I-085-001

I-085-002

Representative: _____



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Input Form

Name: Kathryn J. Evans

Address: 250 2nd AV SE Plainview

Telephone: 507 534-2643 MN

Email: _____

Date: 6/16/09

Meeting location: Plainview, MN

Check one:

☐ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

My concern is can a
small (1 acre) cemetery
be encroached upon
by power poles?

I feel that this is an
area that should be
avoided

Thank you!

I-086-001

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

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

I-086-001

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Dave Frogum

Address: 10190 Cty 30 Blvd

Telephone: 507 824-2811

Email: dbf@us.ibm.com

Date: 6/17/09

Meeting location: Winningo

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Makes more sense to follow existing Excel
Right of Way of Hwy 60 from Zumbada to
Kenyon.

I-087-001

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

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I-087-001

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Which meeting did you attend?

Centerville

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

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

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

COST

least amount of disruption to land

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

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

Untouched woodlands - it has taken
years for the woods to be developed
as they are and I would hate to
see that go to waste when it has
already happened along the interstate and it
would be very easy to install there
without disturbing more of mother nature.

I-088-001

I-088-001

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

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

yes

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Tianna Johnson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 216568 Hilltop Ln

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-865-0438

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Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Elsa Kelm

Address: 12465 Hwy 60 Bldg Wanamingo, MN 55981

Telephone: 507-824-2977

Email: _____

Date: _____

Meeting location: _____

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

I am glad to see the
current route a mile south
of 60 at Wanamingo. I live
on 60 and would be concerned
for my children waiting for the
school bus, mowing lawn, playing,
etc. Under the power line if
it was on 60.

I-089-001

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

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I-089-001

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Marla Kendig
Address: 12897 150th St E
Telephone: 507-683-1597
Email: kendig.rj@gmail.com
Date: 6/17/09
Meeting location: Woramigo

Check one:

- ☒ Landowner ☐ Elected Official
☐ Agency ☐ City/County Staff
☐ Other: _____

Comments:

2 Houses not on map
South of 150th on Goodhue Ave
2 Tower not on map
South of 160th on Goodhue Ave
1 House not on map
Southeast of 385th St

I-090-001

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

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I-090-001

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- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: _____

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

I-091-001

More conservation measures need to be part of our future consumption. This line seems to "feed the consumption monster".

I-091-002

Do we continue to believe people will use more and more electricity? It needs to be explained that the need for this line may be based on people's consumer habit - more electrical devices. This is what we get for all the "things" we buy that consume electricity. - We'll probably need more of these beyond this one if we all continue to act like there is no end.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-091-001

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

I-091-002

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

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

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

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

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

You build these corridors, then you spray them, while people are out of work.

I-091-004

I just feel helpless about these gauges and the disturbances to our natural balances which does include disruption to habitat

I-091-003

and stray voltage and its effect all around. I think I have no idea, even in our homes, about how this may affect our health. Sorry, but I feel like a doomsayer here.

I-091-003

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

I-091-004

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

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

Seemed ok for my initial perusal.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *David Langer*

Representing (Optional): *Self + family + friends*

Mailing Address: *3211 S. 34th*

City: *La Crosse* State: *WI* Zip Code: *54601*

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? all 3 meetings at Centerville, WI

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

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

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

I have not been convinced of the
actual need at this point, which I addressed
later in this form
Impacts on land, aesthetics, wildlife,
and personal health all seem huge.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

NA

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

There are so many sensitive areas, it's hard to determine what will be impacted the most. It will be a huge aesthetic problem, will impact the land, will undoubtedly be a negative issue with wildlife, and nobody seems to be able to give a definitive answer as to the health issues that may be brought on by such huge transmission.

I-092-001

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

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

I-092-001

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

I-092-002

I feel strongly that this project needs to be put on hold. I feel our country is finally headed in the right direction as far as conservation and environmental concerns. This new administration seems to be committed so why not hold off and see if they live up to their promises? If they do and if we the people buy into it (as it appears to be happening), there may be quite likely not even be a need for expansion.

I-092-003

Doesn't it make sense - even financial sense on your part - to take an optimistic wait and see philosophy?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Scott Lee

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 24880 2nd St

City: Trempealeau State: WI Zip Code: 54601

Daytime Phone (Optional): (608) 534-5155

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

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

I-092-002

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

I-092-003

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? 6-24-09 Scoping Meeting
Galesville, Wis

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

☐ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☐ Historic and cultural sites

☐ Radio or television interference

☐ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☒ Other: Devalue of property

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

- 80' easement will take out valuable trees/diag
on property between Hwy 53 and the house

- We bought the property for the beauty of
the trees and wildlife that walk
thru daily! It's like a private
reserve away from city congestion, this
would be all destroyed by taking out the
trees and foliage to the hwy!

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-093-001

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

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

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

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

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

I-093-005

- Hwy 53 - 1st Home on left of A. Johnson Rd.
Easement access will remove trees and foliage that are natural area for wildlife that has been pushed out by apt. bldg.

I-093-002

- Hwy 53 is a scenic area out of La Crosse and people go next door to a large campground to get away and the boy scouts have a large camp across the highway

I-093-003

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

- Health + Safety ^{adverse}
- There is data to support health issues due to high voltage exposure long term (It would be too close to our home, our bedroom is on that side of the house.)

I-093-002

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

I-093-003

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

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

I-093-004

Description and purpose were explained.
Need was not - power consumption was
reported down last year?
So I do not feel "need" was explained
nor demonstrated in this area?

Idling
in the road.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: JoAnn Lesikar

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: W7725 A. Johnson Rd.

City: Holmen State: WI 54636 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608 769 2576

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

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

I-093-004

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

I-093-005

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

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Donna Lystrom
Address: 46728 135th Ave.
Telephone: 952 431 9913
Email: guitcr9@frontiernet.net
Date: 6-17-09
Meeting location: Wanamingo

Check one:

- ☒ Landowner ☐ Elected Official
☐ Agency ☐ City/County Staff
☐ Other: _____

Comments:

We bought our property for
the view. It will ruin it.
Our property value will go
down. It should be put under
ground.
put it down 52 or
down 35 and across
90 to Rochester

I-094-001

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

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

I-094-002

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

I-094-003

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

I-094-001

I-094-002

I-094-003

Representative: Bliss Liller



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Melissa

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Meeting location: _____

Check one:

☐ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

Coordination between depots
work w/ Peardale (Central office
for state)

* Low width vs structure height
ratio table
o assess impacts birds vs
ground disturbance

Comments received from the public during the public scoping process will be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments received from the public during the public scoping process will be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-095-002

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

I-095-001

I-095-002

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Roger Scheffler

Address: 40699 Cty 7 Blvd. Zm

Telephone: 507-732-7809

Email: _____

Date: 6-17-09

Meeting location: Wanamingo

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

I own land by Hwy 52. I
would like to have the existing
power line incorporated into new
line and on edge of right of
way like existing line as to
not consume crop land more
than now

I-096-001

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

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

I-096-001

Representative: _____



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Jim Schreader

Address: MAZEPPI

Telephone: 507-843-5566

Email: JSLK @ Sleepy Eye TEL. NET

Date: 6-16-09

Meeting location: PLAINVIEW

Check one:

☒ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

I-097-001

LINE SHOULD FOLLOW MAJOR

HIGHWAYS AND NOT DIVIDE

CENTURY FARMS AND GO CLOSE

TO PEOPLE HOUSES

35
1-90

I-097-001

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

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? June 24th Centerville Curling Club

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

☐ Project Purpose and Need

☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☐ Historic and cultural sites

☐ Radio or television interference

☒ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☐ Other: _____

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

The projected lines go right on top of our house

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-098-001

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

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

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

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

Concerns with how close it will be to our house.

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

Our house

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representing (Optional): _____

City: Holmen State: Wisconsin Zip Code: 54630

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

Representative: Jenn C. Wabasha



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name: Leonard Wabasha

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Meeting location: _____

Check one:

☐ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other: _____

Comments:

- Active Ceremonial sites in The
area
- Suggested site visit (small group)
- M+ Menomonee important
- Repatriation of graves along
River - cave + mound burial sites.
Vision Quest sites (numerous)

I-099-001

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

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

I-099-001

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CapX 2020-comments for environmental impact statement
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:33:12 AM
Attachments: [Angellcapx202Letter.doc](#)

From: angell@stolaf.edu [mailto:angell@stolaf.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 1:38 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020-comments for environmental impact statement

June 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

As a conservation biologist at St. Olaf College and as a landowner along Goodhue Avenue, I am concerned about the biological resources being put at risk by the Hampton-Rochester length of the CapX2020 project and especially concerned about the route west of Hwy 56 which closely follows the Rice and Goodhue County lines.

I-101-001 This area includes a set of state and federally listed species. A number of populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover exist very close to the route west of Hwy 56. I am personally aware of three populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover along the bluff prairies within about a half mile or less of the planned line route. There are also a number of state listed species. The MN state endangered Henslow's sparrow has been seen several times in the area. State threatened species in the area include loggerhead shrikes and kitten tails. State special concern species include the prairie vole.

I-101-002 All these species occur regularly in the bluff prairies over which the lines will pass. Access roads and construction of towers will disturb the habitat of all of these species. I am particularly concerned with loggerhead shrikes. The lines placed on the route west of Hwy 56 will pass DIRECTLY through at least 3 known shrike territories. These birds have been declining nationally and in the state of Minnesota. Research students at St. Olaf have been monitoring this population as has the MN DNR. The placement of power lines along the route west of Hwy 56 should be

I-101-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation, particularly federal and state regulated species, will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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

I-101-002

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

strongly discouraged due to the risks faced by these species and declining prairie habitats.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Angell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

and

Landowner
XXXX Goodhue Avenue
Township 111, Range 19
Section 1

--

Diane K. Angell
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057
507-786-3101

I-101-003

June 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

As a conservation biologist at St. Olaf College and as a landowner along Goodhue Avenue, I am concerned about the biological resources being put at risk by the Hampton-Rochester length of the CapX2020 project and especially concerned about the route west of Hwy 56 which closely follows the Rice and Goodhue County lines.

This area includes a set of state and federally listed species. A number of populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover exist very close to the route west of Hwy 56. I am personally aware of three populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover along the bluff prairies within about a half mile or less of the planned line route. There are also a number of state listed species. The MN state endangered Henslow's sparrow has been seen several times in the area. State threatened species in the area include loggerhead shrikes and kitten tails. State special concern species include the prairie vole.

All these species occur regularly in the bluff prairies over which the lines will pass. Access roads and construction of towers will disturb the habitat of all of these species. I am particularly concerned with loggerhead shrikes. The lines placed on the route west of Hwy 56 will pass DIRECTLY through at least 3 known shrike territories. These birds have been declining nationally and in the state of Minnesota. Research students at St. Olaf have been monitoring this population as has the MN DNR. The placement of power lines along the route west of Hwy 56 should be strongly discouraged due to the risks faced by these species and declining prairie habitats.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Angell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

and

Landowner
XXXX Goodhue Avenue
Township 111, Range 19
Section 1

I-101-003

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

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CapX2020 project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:32:48 AM
Attachments: [Microsoft Word - Document2.pdf](#)

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

From: horsefly@integra.net [<mailto:horsefly@integra.net>]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:28 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 project

I-102-001

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

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

June 29, 2009

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength

Re: CAPX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,

It was with very great concern that I learned of the proposal regarding 57th Street in Webster, MN (also known as the "Alternate Route" or "Route B") as an avenue for the CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton project.

Not only is the area in question a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and children, it is also valuable cropland, and is abundant in wildlife and waterfowl. There are many established wetlands, wooded habitats, connected creeks and waterways within the corridor, as well as many habitat restoration and waterway resource programs in place and underway by local landowners. The area's diverse ecosystems and natural resources are an important investment for all current and future residents of Webster Township and beyond, and to cut through this area with transmission lines is horrific and most definitely unwelcome.

The voting public spoke out strongly in regard to securing and protecting open spaces for future generations, and adopted the Scott and Rice County comprehensive plan with these tenants. Routing through rural and open spaces is contrary to that goal, and although it may offer less resistance due to a lower population, all citizens will feel the repercussions and loss, whether rural or suburban.

In addition to the loss of natural habitat and quality of life, I am also very vehemently opposed to line, as it will have a devastating effect on landowner property values. No "average easement" payment can make up for the personal and financial loss to homeowners, farmers and residents. All of this, coupled with the very close proximity of the Sky Harbor Airpark, and the frequent presence of low flying small aircraft and helicopters, makes the site especially unsuitable and unsafe.

I sincerely hope that you will eliminate the option of 57th Street in Webster, also known as "Alternate" or "Route B", and focus the lines in more suitable areas - preferably underground, near existing high capacity power lines and/or along major corridors – like interstate highways.

I also sincerely hope that you will pay very close attention to the strong voices that argue that the lines are not even needed, and that the impact on health and the environment are much more substantial and valuable than previously granted.

With Respect,

Michael and Anastasia Balfany

3720 50th Street West

Webster, MN 55088

952-652-2786

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CAPX2020
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:34:38 AM

From: katupy@bevcomm.net [mailto:katupy@bevcomm.net]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 5:13 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

I-103-001 | PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED NEW
POWER LINE AND THE DANGERS FOR THOSE MANY FAMILIES UNDER OR NEAR
THIS HIGH VOLTAGE. IT IS RATHER ASININE TO DO THIS TO HUMAN BEINGS.
THE TUPYS

I-103-001

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

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

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CapX2020 - Hampton, MN
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:26:43 AM

From: kristinserenascott@yahoo.com [mailto:kristinserenascott@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 11:48 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 - Hampton, MN

Hi Stephanie,

My name is Kristin Scott - my husband and I are landowners south of Hampton, MN - our property is adjacent to Hwy. 52 within one of the proposed corridors for the Hampton-Rochester line.

Per your voicemail, I spoke with Dennis Ranken - he was very helpful and suggested I contact you via email to see if I can reach you at some point.

I have questions about the likelihood of the 52 corridor being chosen for the route - until now, I had understood that the route to the west (along Hwy 56, I believe) was the likely candidate. If our route is the frontrunner, I need to get educated! Can you tell me about land impacts, timelines, line placement within the corridor, etc? As you can imagine, we're not thrilled with the idea of huge lines down our highway, but I suppose no one likes this in their backyard - it's fine in someone else's, but never your own.

I-104-001

I-104-002

I-104-003

The people in our area, including us, are particularly concerned about impacts to the farming and topsoil along the highway, as well as property value changes that occur when a giant line is placed nearby.

Thanks in advance for your time. I appreciate any information you can provide.

Kristin Scott
612-554-5019 cell

I-104-001

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

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

I-104-002

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

I-104-003

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

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Capx 2020 EIS
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:33:54 AM

From: thesacketthouse@yahoo.com [mailto:thesacketthouse@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 4:24 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx 2020 EIS

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

stephanie.strength@usda.gov
(202) 720-0468

PLEASE ADD THIS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING
SCOPING FOR EIS!

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you so much for your time I really appreciate know that someone is looking out for us because this has been a long battle that has felt like it has fallen on deaf ears. Thanks again in advance for reading this.

- I-105-001** | This scoping is for the Brookings to Hampton line as well right? Why would one line get a National EIS but not the others? They can not begin construction until the EIS is complete correct? I am still somewhat unclear as to how the scoping process and the EIS work. I am thankful that the EIS is being taken more seriously on a National level. I understand that the state is there to listen to citizens concerns, and from there it goes into the EIS.
- I-105-002** | Here is where I need clarification. If and when there are specific concerns, such as the bee keepers, who's responsibility is it to make sure the appropriate amount of research is done on that particular topic? If you found a report that said that it has some link to the collapse of the colony, do you

I-105-001

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

Scoping is a process that provides information to those preparing an EIS. The EIS examines the comments received from scoping with the requirements for an analysis of the proposed action with possible resource impacts. Detailed information regarding the EIS process can be found at INSERT WEB page.

An EIS must be finalized with a Record of Decision published before any project-related activities can occur. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:

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

I-105-002

Your comment has been noted. RUS is the responsible federal agent for the completion of the EIS for this project. The ability to make an informed decision regarding the potential impact on any given resources is dependent on the level of research for any particular resource topic based on existing information and the potential project impacts. Activities such as public scoping allow others to share information that can contribute to the analysis of the proposed project.

I-105-003 | research further to find out more? What if you find three reports that say they can't "prove it" but they are definitely a some risks or concerns. Is that considered not scientific enough to look at relocating the route for her?

I-105-004 | My other question is related to specific people and the route. The state would like people to write in with their concerns that should be included in the EIS. So for me example, I have extremely dry skin and currently get shocked almost every time I get in my vehicle. I am afraid it will happen more often or be more intense if these lines went near my home. Does the state look at my specific address if they deem this a plausible cause, and put in for considerations for it to go somewhere else?

I-105-005 | My concerns with this are if people don't understand or know about writing to you that they wouldn't be able to share their concerns. If the route is moved then you have a whole new group of people who may have concerns that are not mentioned. Will they have the same amount of time to add things to the EIS? Will there be additional Scoping meetings if it moved?

I-105-006 | At the meetings I met someone who has a neighbor who provides equestrian camps for people with disabilities. I have great concerns because the purposed route will go directly over where they ride. I believe horses would be sensitive to the EMF's and I am sure they would get spooked with the slightest shock. The other concern is that many people with disabilities have extremely sensitive sensory systems and can be bother by things that the average person may not be aware of. Do you need her specific name and address to make sure the line does not go near her business? What if she doesn't know or feels scared to contact you? Would her situation be missed until it is too late? or would all of sudden the power lines end up in someone else's yard with less than 2 weeks notice like the MN CAN oil pipeline?

I-105-009 | It was stated that people could ask questions as well as concerns at the public meetings. Yet when technical questions that were relevant to the scoping for the EIS were asked, the State nor GRE had answers. Responses were such that Scott Ek and Craig Poorker are not "lawyers or electrically engineers". And when questions were asked regarding the Cert. of Need side of the project. The questions were not answered because the certificate of need is in it's final stages. If the public needs more information about this project

I-105-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-105-003.

I-105-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings.

I-105-005

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

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

I-105-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and

I-105-009 | why won't more meetings be held? If the state is truly concerned and looking out for the citizens why are rote answers given such as "that is what the state requires" cut and dry.

I-105-010 | A suggestion for future is to have an expert from each area lawyers, electrical engineers, and so on to answer the questions that come up. People can not express their concerns if they do not fully understand the project. I am concerned about the liability of these lines if someone to get injured from them. I contacted my insurance agent and his response was that it depends on the terms that were agree upon. I am sure GRE/Excel all ready have their standard policy in place. I would like it brought out into the open now, so there is time to research it and learn about it to protect ourselves and property.

I have met several people who are on the same line as myself and I would like to name a few of the issues that I feel you should know about:

there is a fireworks business on a portion of the proposed route where no alternate route is offered.

there is a women who keeps bees for a living and they have been in her family for generations.

there is the women who offers horseback riding to people with disabilities.

there is a family that has a major natural gas line going through their property.

there is a farmer who land has been in his family for almost 100years and they put a oil pipeline right through the middle of it last year.

there is a farmer who raises organic dairy cows.

there are people who bought there properties without a power line on it that don't want one now!

there are concerns about stray voltage, EMF's, etc. even having the smallest chance for health issues, everyone should be able to decide what risks they want to take in life

property values will decline on properties with the lines and they will be limited to buyers if they decided to sell after the lines are erected.

mortgage companies are considering not giving loans to properties with major power lines on them.

property values will decline for the adjacent properties and they will not be receiving any kind of monetary compensation for this lose.

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

I-105-007

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

I-105-008

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

The scoping comment period is now closed, however this is not the last opportunity to comment on the project. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:

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

I-105-009

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

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication. We anticipate that public meetings will be held during the public review and comment period for the Draft EIS.

I-105-010

Your comment has been noted. Liability regarding aspects of the project is unknown at this time.

the lines will be directly over school bus stops.
well drilling companies can not drive equipment near these lines
Minnesota has a buy the farm act stating that if a line 220 kv or higher is put
on your property you can sell your entire property to the project (GRE/
Excel)
the current eminent domain laws exempt public service corporations. GRE
is not considered to be a public
service corp. but Excel is.
there are concerns about rare species of animals and birds that will have
power lines going right through their habitat.
cement foots will be 40-50 feet deep. could the cement leach into the water
supply of wells or rivers.
one community has clay lined water treatment pools. how far away would
the drilling have to be to ensure the earth would not shift and crack them?
these lines were "advertised" to be for wind, not mentioning that a brand new
coal plant was being built just across the SD boarder (BIG STONE II)
now Capx says we never said that this was for wind, what else will come
up and they can go back on there word (false advertising)?
the height of the lines will only be 35 feet off the ground during peak usage..
I am sure there are more things that I can't think of right now. Please feel
free to contact me if you need any clarification or more information. Thank
you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Nancy and Jon Sackett
25870 Freeborn Ave
New Prague, MN 56071
952-758-9734
thesacketthouse@yahoo.com

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Powerlines proposal
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:35:23 AM

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

From: Chris Nagel [<mailto:nage0049@googlegmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 8:11 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Powerlines proposal

Hello Ms. Strength,

I am concerned by the 345 kV power lines, which are planned to be installed or expanded along the stretch of Mississippi between Alma and LaCrosse, WI. The concerns I have are aesthetic and concern safety. It is important to me that the project not contribute to the loss of the wilderness area along these backwaters. Is there a way to bury the lines, or otherwise minimize their impact? Is there a way to not locate them in the very visible Mississippi channel?

In terms of safety, I encourage the use of highest industry standards of safety. I will be content paying for this additional service.

Regards,
Chris Nagel
Email: nage0049@gmail.com
430 Dacota,
Winona, MN

I-106-001

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

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

I-106-002

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

I-106-003

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

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Challenge to need for CAPX2020 project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:27:08 AM

From: cmealman1@yahoo.com [mailto:cmealman1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 5:46 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Challenge to need for CAPX2020 project

I am a resident of Dakota County, MN, whose home is on the preferred route for the Hampton Line. I have attended and spoken at as many of the meetings as possible. I am urging your group to please consider what we perceive and very real environmental negative impacts to our communities with this power line.

- I-107-001** | First, they are using inaccurate and out-dated information! Please use instead the Xcel Energy's and Dairyland Power's current forecasts.
- Secondly, the taxpayers of MN made it clear that we want to be as environmentally responsible as possible in regards to our power needs in the future. We absolutely believe that good conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues. The CAPX plan will be so disruptive and unsightly for our Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other natural resources.
- I-107-002** |
I-107-003 |
- I-107-004** | There is proven health risk to these lines. They are putting this line on 240th Street which is the main road for the largest concentration of houses in all of DAKota County! What a tremendous impact on our families with children, our special needs children, and the health to all of us. Our property values are going to be severely affected and they have wiggled their way legislatively out of having to give fair compensation.
- I-107-005** |
- I-107-006** | The environmental harm is considerable - we do not need more coal plants and we do NOT need this line to meet our energy needs. Please consider the risks to our bird population along the Mississippi Flyway if CAPX is allowed to continue with their plans.
I-107-007 |

I-107-001

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

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

I-107-002

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

I-107-003

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

I-107-004

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

I-107-005

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

I-107-006

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact

Thank you for revisiting the issue of this power line.

Constance Mealman
8830 - 240th St. W.
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-469-3830

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

I-107-007

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

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss;](#)
cc: [Collins, Carly;](#)
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 powerline project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:34:00 AM

From: t-alemke@hotmail.com [mailto:t-alemke@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 4:25 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us; pdonovan@co.le-sueur.mn.us; rep.david.bly@house.mn; rep.laura.brod@house.mn; sen.kevin.dahle@senate.mn; mrsprchal@aol.com; tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us
Subject: CAPX2020 powerline project

To those who represent the people,

I send my concerns as I live in an area that will be affected by the CAPX2020 345kv transmission line from Brookings, SD to Hampton, MN. In my neighborhood there is no for sure route since a neighboring business works with explosives/fireworks and has been fighting to make sure the line doesn't interfere/become a major danger with their business. The original drafts show the 345kv line going right over the business! Now within 1/2 mile east or west of them is a newly shaded/possibility area that includes my home - we have no definite answers who will be impacted! This project is something that makes NO sense - a Utility/Power Company is going to take away a citizen's home or property for their own wants?!?!? Please look realistically into the idea that people will lose their homes because powerlines (that ARE NOT NEEDED) are going to run across our beautiful agricultural area of the south central part of MN!!!!

The fact that power companies aren't required to pay full market value for a person's property is even scarier!!!!

I spent over 3 hours of my time listening to the concerns of neighbors and friends at a CAPX informational meeting at New Prague High School in April. My frustration comes in at the poor homework done by the CAPX2020 people. They didn't even have my street name correct on their maps; I finally pointed out & voiced this at that April meeting (hopefully to the right people). Might I add, after 2 months, it HAS NOT BEEN CORRECTED!!!! The scoping meetings should never have been called informational nights; VERY FEW answers were given!

I-108-001

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

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

CAPX2020 claims to follow road-right-of-ways, and yet what is proposed through my area goes through the fields. Small township roads are not always correct in measurement so people will be inconvenienced/ endangered with where CAPX has poorly estimated to place powerline poles. We need to fight for the safety of ourselves!!! At our home we raise our own food, meats & produce; no way will we feel safe raising our children or food with these lines around!

There are MUCH safer routes to consider than what they have proposed!!! Yes, individuals are doing what they need to take care of their own situations, but then CAPX2020 leaders may just move the line minimal yards instead of looking at the fact SCOTT, RICE, & LE SUEUR counties DO NOT want this project criss-crossing through our rural area!!!

Thank you very much for your time; as it may mean my family of 7's home since everything we own may be taken away by the CAPX2020 project.

Not giving up, home schooling mother of 5 that doesn't allow more than one tv in our home AND doesn't want to see SERIOUS dangers in my rural county~

Amy Lemke
21847 286th Street
Belle Plaine, MN 56011
t-alemke@hotmail.com
952-873-6850

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From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Resolution against CapX2020 Project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:32:06 AM
Attachments: [capx2020resolution2009.doc](#)
[NOPOLE345KV.doc](#)

From: Mrsprchal@aol.com [mailto:Mrsprchal@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:01 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Resolution against CapX2020 Project

This is a resolution our township submitted against this project...the photo speaks volumes also.
Jodi Prchal

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



Do You Really want me in your front yard ?'

I-110-001

WHEREAS, Capx2020 Utilities filed a Route Permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on December 29, 2008 for the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project based on the State's routing criteria and input received from interested stakeholders, including local government officials and landowners in the project area; and

WHEREAS, the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for additional capacity is driven by urban development; and

WHEREAS, the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners recognizes the environmental sensitivity of the river, and the impact of the preferred route as it enters Le Sueur County from the west; and

WHEREAS, the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners has heard from constituents regarding the location of the transmission line; and

WHEREAS, the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners supports the location for the line as the alternative route up to the Helena Substation then the preferred route east to Hampton.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners hereby requests this option be considered as it is a more direct route with less impact to the residents of Le Sueur County.

I-110-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 and Rice County, MN
Attachments: Microsoft Word - capx mike letter.doc.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

From: mikeb@integra.net [mailto:mikeb@integra.net]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 6:01 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 and Rice County, MN

I-111-001

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

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

July 9, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am writing to inform you of a potential threat to aviation safety in our home state of Minnesota.

You are aware of the CapX2020 proposal to place 345-kV high power transmission lines from South Dakota to Hampton, MN.

Just last week I was informed that the proposed alternate route through Rice County, MN has been changed from 57th Street in Webster Township to 50th Street.

I want to make it clear that I am not for the option of 57th Street as an alternate route, as it disrupts a serene, rural area, cuts through valuable crop and grazing land, and needlessly destroys vibrant natural habitat. All of which were valued and deemed a priority in the Countywide Comprehensive Plan adopted by Rice, Scott and Dakota Counties in 2002.

The 50th Street option bears the same criteria, but additionally places the over 70 aircraft at Minnesota's busiest airport community in grave danger. The proposed nearly 200' transmission lines on 50th Street would be placed *directly in the airport traffic pattern, only 1/2 mile from the end of the runway*. To further compound the problem, these lines exist in complete, and total conflict with the designated emergency landing field. In the event of an engine failure on takeoff, (the most likely place for an engine to fail), there is only one way to turn, due to the aggressively rolling terrain in the other direction. Note that this is exactly where the proposed power lines would be installed.

Sky Harbor Airport is a chartered and authorized emergency-use airfield, used by MEDEVAC flights and law enforcement organizations, and the lines would gravely endanger the use of public equipment and lives.

Please help us stop this critical aviation safety threat. There are many documented and deadly aviation power line incidents recorded in the NASA ASRS aviation safety program. Stop this dangerous proposal before we add another incident from a local Minnesota airfield.

Sincerely,

Mike Balfany, Lt Col (ret) USAF
3720 50th Street
Webster, MN 55088
horsefly@integra.net
952-652-2786

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project
Attachments: Microsoft Word - stephanie strength capx2020doc.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

From: horsefly@integra.net [mailto:horsefly@integra.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 3:05 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am strongly opposed to the CapX2020 project, and have attached a letter documenting some of my concerns, and specifically the use of 50th Street as an alternative route for the project.

I want to be sure to note that I feel that both 50th Street and 57th Street in Webster, MN (Rice County) are unsuitable for identical reasons, with 50th Street slightly more so, due to the even closer proximity to the Sky Harbor Airpark.

Again, thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call or email with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Balfany
3720 50th Street West
Webster, MN 55088
952-652-2786

I-112-001

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

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

July 7, 2009

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength

Re: CAPX2020 Project and Webster Township/Rice County MN

Dear Ms. Strength,

It was with very great concern and that we learned of the proposal regarding the use of **50th Street in Webster, MN** in Rice County as a new proposed alternate route for the CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton project. Ironically, my husband and I both spoke out vehemently against the project, including the 57th Street alternative, only to find that an additional route option is now literally our front yard. An alternative that is truly flawed, as the reasoning for this route is "to avoid homes along 57th Street", which gives no value or importance to the many homes and families on 50th Street! Certainly the concerns and comments that I raised in my previous letters apply to this location, as well.

The voting public spoke out strongly in regard to securing and protecting open spaces for future generations, and adopted the Scott and Rice County comprehensive plan with these tenants just a few years ago. Routing through rural and open spaces is contrary to that goal, and although it may offer less resistance due to a much lower population, all citizens will feel the repercussions and loss, whether rural or suburban. We pride ourselves on living in an area that is rich in natural beauty and a true haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts. Our neighbors, as well as ourselves, have worked hard with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to establish secure wildlife habitat and wetlands – at significant personal expense and effort, with the understanding that the diverse ecosystems and natural resources are an important investment for all current and future residents of Webster Township and beyond, and to cut through this area with transmission lines is horrific and most definitely unwelcome. Our neighbors include retirees living on century farms, equestrian businesses and hobbyist, working farmers, teachers, doctors, and many children. The thought of allowing the intrusion and subsequent, documented risks associated with high voltage power line in this setting is unacceptable on many, many levels.

In addition to the loss of natural habitat and quality of life, I am also very vehemently opposed to line, as it will have a devastating effect on landowner property values. No "average easement" payment can make up for the personal and financial loss to homeowners, farmers and residents. Many of whom have lived on their homesteads for generations. We personally have invested over \$500,000 in renovations to our historic home, and there is no doubt that if the power lines are allowed on 50th Street (or 57th Street), we will most certainly face catastrophic devaluation.

All of this, coupled with the very close proximity of the Sky Harbor Airpark (located only ½ mile south of 50th Street West!), and the frequent presence of low flying small aircraft, homebuilt aircraft, hot air balloons and

helicopters, makes the site especially unsuitable and completely unsafe. (To personally note, just this past week a hot air balloon was blown off-course and almost landed in the treetops along 50th Street and Canby.)

I sincerely hope that you will eliminate the option of 50th Street in Webster and focus the lines in more suitable areas - preferably underground, near existing high capacity power lines and/or along major corridors – like interstate highways.

I also sincerely hope that you will pay very close attention to the strong voices that argue that the lines are not even needed, and that the impact on health and the environment are much more substantial and valuable than previously granted.

With Respect,

Michael and Anastasia Balfany
3720 50th Street West
Webster, MN 55088
952-652-2786

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:43 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Public input for th e345 kV transmission Line

From: Doug and Kathy [mailto:bloemke@hbc.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 10:53 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: Doug and Kathy
Subject: Public input for th e345 kV transmission Line

Stephanie Strength,

I assumed that there would be a form to fill out on line, but if this e-mail is O.K. then great.

I-113-002

I attend the information meeting at Centerville to become familiar with the route of the transmission line, as I was aware that a proposed corridor was down our valley. My concern is for the aesthetics of the valley, the aesthetics of the neighborhood and the noise from the power line. Pleasant Valley is exactly that, a very picturesque valley with a trout stream, springs, bluffs, and mature trees. It is a very quiet and peaceful place to live.

I-113-001

My wife and I bought our home 25 years ago because of the beauty of the valley and we knew that when we needed to leave here, the property would have good value. The power line would negatively affect our valley; the power line would be unsightly, noisy and affect our property values. Even the power lines now within the neighborhood are buried to preserve the aesthetics.

I-113-003

Thank-you for providing this forum to express our concerns.

I-113-001

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

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

I-113-002

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

I-113-003

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

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Community Outreach/Public Comments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW CapX 2020a.htm

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:37 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020

I-114-001

From: Jenny Braun [mailto:jennymbraun@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:40 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020

Our property is located on the east side of Highway 3 in Castle Rock Township. Our property was recently annexed into the City of Farmington. We spent several years working on getting this annexation done. If the economy had not taken a downturn this property would already be in residential housing. We would prefer the line be abandoned or if not totally rerouted as it would cause us and the City of Farmington a serious economic impact.

Also, the property west of Highway 3 is a wetland. This would cause a great deal more environmental impact then moving the line to the south.

The property to the east of our property has been recently annexed into the City of Farmington also. The owner of the property is ISD 192 who plans to build a middle school on the property. Obviously, I do not think this line should be running by a school.

The line going through our property and the on the west side of Highway 3 has several 'jogs' in at (where the line goes at non 90 degree angles). Our proposed routes DO NOT have the angles. Our proposed route runs straight east/west with NO jogs.

As stated in our emails, we are more than strongly opposed to this line running along the edge of our property. We have submitted alternate routes to Scott Eck already. We prefer not to hire an attorney to fight this, but if necessary we will.

Thank You.

Craig Braun
651-463-2302

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Comm...mments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW CapX 2020a.htm [7/22/2009 8:36:17 AM]

I-114-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:05 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Powerline

From: jodydoyle@integra.net [mailto:jodydoyle@integra.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2009 9:21 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Powerline

I am writing in concern about the powerline possibly being built on 50th. This would put the powerline in the flight pattern of the Sky Harbor Airpark.

There are 50 homes on the Sky Harbor Airpark and it is the busiest airpark in the state of MN. Putting a powerline in its flight path would be a major safety concern. It would put a huge liability on the county, powerline company, ect... if something were to happen. Please rethink this option for safety and liability reasons.

Thank you,

Jody Doyle
Pilot
3299 45th St W
Webster, MN 55088
952-652-2042

I-115-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:39 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Comments on capx2020 Twin City to Rochester possible routes

From: LMEndres@pcl.com [mailto:LMEndres@pcl.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2009 10:52 AM
To: thomas.g.hillstrom@xcelenergy.com; Erin.A.Klegstad@xcelenergy.com; dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: LMEndres@pcl.com; lme_27@netzero.net; mendresswtm27@embarqmail.com; scottendres@gmail.com
Subject: Comments on capx2020 Twin City to Rochester possible routes

Please forward to the appropriate party.

I attended the open house meeting at Wanamingo, MN for the CapX2020 proposed possible routes from Hampton to Rochester.

I viewed the two proposed possible routes in general and in detail in the Hampton area.

I-117-002 | I discussed with Thomas Hillstrom (from Xcel Energy) at the meeting the huge agricultural and financial impact that one of the routes would have on my parents (Melvin and Mary Lou Endres) land.

My parents live at 22075 Northfield Blvd. northeast of Hampton. My parent have owned/farmed this land for over 50 years. They now are elderly and depend on the income that comes from the result of many years of hard work getting this land set up as a retirement income.

I-117-003 | The route that effects there land is the stretch identified as A122 on the maps given out at the meeting. This proposed route would divide two quarter sections of land (NE ¼ of section 4 and NW ¼ of section 3 in Hampton Township) that have overlapping pivot style irrigation systems on them. This system irrigate approximately 300 acres of prime agricultural land. Thomas Hillstrom was unaware of the irrigation system and advised that this be pointed out via comments to the environmental impact statement. He went on to say that irrigation systems were one of the things capx2020 tried to avoid during the process of determining a route.

I-117-001 | The route that runs on the east side of Highway 52 in the established right of way would impact property owners the least, is the most direct and least expensive . This is the area identified as A5 on the maps given out at the meeting.

Please add us to the mailing list and copy the following e-mail addresses on any future information on this topic. E-mail both my work and home address as well as my parents.

Lori M. Endres
22745 Northfield Blvd.
Hampton, MN 55031
Home: lme_27@netzero.net
Work: lmendres@pcl.com
Cell: 612-328-1134
Home: 651-437-6825

I-117-001

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

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

I-117-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-117-001.

I-117-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-117-001.

Melvin and Mary Lou Endres
22075 Northfield Blvd.
Hampton, MN 55031
mendresswtm27@embargo.com

Sincerely,
Lori M. Endres

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:37 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Comments on EIS--article exhibiting that CapX2020 is not needed --Christian Science Monitor
Attachments: Amer. Future.Wind.Web.Chr.Sc.Monitor 2.18.09.doc

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

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:46 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on EIS--article exhibiting that CapX2020 is not needed --Christian Science Monitor

I-119-001 | Attached article discusses how the East coast does not want to receive the MIDWEST's wind or other energy via long distance transmission lines.

I-119-002 | CapX2020 developers admit that their project will connect to a Wisconsin line in La Crosse that travels to points East. Obviously the power is not for local, regional need. It is for profit seeking utilities that want to stay connected to an old paradigm of energy delivery that is coal-based.

I-119-003 | During the Certificate of Need, the utilities would not agree to ANY amount of wind energy on the La Crosse line. It's all about dirty coal which will continue to harm our environment.
fu
If the RUS provides funding for the project, they will be using tax payers funds to continue the cycle of CO2 emissions from coal-fired energy. The RUS must fund small, local renewable energy projects which can fully supply our needs with the correct strategic planning and development. Some small local lines may be needed but super high voltage 345Kv lines are NOT needed.

See attached file for the article from the Christian Science Monitor - Americas Future Wind Web.

I-119-001

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

I-119-002

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

I-119-003

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

<http://features.csmonitor.com/innovation/2009/02/18/americas-future-wind-web/>

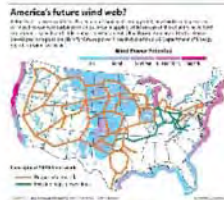
America's future wind web?

Wind power could feed 20 percent of the US energy diet. But first, the country needs a new energy network.

By [Mark Clayton](#) | Staff Writer for The Christian Science Monitor/ February 18, 2009 edition

Staff writer Mark Clayton discusses the debate going on in the Midwestern US over power transmission lines for wind turbines.

Staff writer Mark Clayton



[Enlarge This Graphic](#)

MADISON, S.D.

Out across this wind-swept, wheat-growing state, Jeffrey Nelson sees a new crop rising – electricity from the world's largest wind-turbine farms sending electrons thousands of miles east to Chicago or Boston.

But it's a vision the South Dakota Wind Energy Association president says will never happen without something far larger, more controversial, and even more expensive: gigantic new high-voltage transmission lines.

Depending on whom you talk to, emerging plans to build 765,000 volt transmission lines to bring power from the "Saudi Arabia of wind" in the Dakotas to population centers in the Midwest and East Coast are either vital to the nation or a boondoggle waiting to happen.

"This state has vast resources it can't use without building new power lines," says Mr. Nelson, gesturing at lines on a grid map at the East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, where he is manager. "These high-voltage lines are like farm-to-market roads, but instead of wheat, it's electricity being transported. We need to think in those terms."

Many are clearly doing just that.

With political winds blowing toward renewable energy, power-line proposals are popping up to carry wind power around the country. President Obama has said he wants to see renewable wind from the plains help

power cities like Chicago. The US Department of Energy last year reported that the nation could harvest 20 percent of its electricity from wind by 2020, much of it by tapping wind energy in places like South Dakota, which boasts the fourth best wind resource in the nation.

But to hook up to that steady 20- to 30-mile-per-hour breeze, the nation will need perhaps 15,000 miles of new transmission lines costing \$80 billion, according to a new Joint Coordinated System Plan released Feb. 14, by the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO), which coordinates regional power distribution.

“This is information we believe that our leaders need to consider as they begin work under a new administration and start defining our energy future,” John Bear, president of MISO said in a statement.

But grass-roots activists cite not only traditional “not-in-my-back-yard” (NIMBY) concerns about 150-to-200-foot-high towers, but question whether costs can be justified, compared with other renewable choices. As well, they note, such lines could carry far more “black electrons” from coal-fired power plants than green ones from wind.

A case in point involves Titan, which could one day be the largest wind farm in the world located in the middle of South Dakota. The Titan plan for 2,000 wind turbines generating 5,000 megawatts of power caused barely a ripple of media attention when announced last spring. Yet the plan to connect Titan to population centers – a \$12 billion, 3,000-mile power line dubbed “Green Power Express” announced Feb. 9 – produced a gale of public attention among environmentalists.

While confirming that electrons from many types of power generation, including coal, would be carried by the proposed line, the key reason to build it is access to wind power, say company officials for Novi, Mich.-based ITC Holdings, which proposed the new line.

“The purpose of our plan is to build the infrastructure to where the wind blows most abundantly,” says Lisa Aragon, director of strategic initiatives at ITC. “As an independent transmission company, we can’t favor one type of energy over another. We do favor harnessing the wind for both environmental sustainability and energy security reasons.”

Environmental response

But critics have dubbed the new transmission line plan the “Green-wash Express” saying it could easily transmit as much or more energy produced by coal-fired power plants in South Dakota as wind energy.

“There’s no regulatory jurisdiction over this ‘green-power’ power line, not even a fig leaf that would require it to carry wind power,” says Paula Maccabee, counsel for Citizens Energy Task Force in Minneapolis, a group opposing the line. “It’s name is just a public relations slogan.”

Such plans, however, arrive amid a huge political push to harness wind power as one installment toward lessening US carbon emissions from energy production. President Obama has called for the United States to double renewable energy production in three years and get 25% of the nation’s electricity from renewable resources by 2025. The new Obama stimulus plan includes \$4 billion for a “Smart Grid” and new transmission lines.

Add to that the impetus generated as soon as next month when Congress is expected to begin weighing a new national “renewable electricity standard” that would require all electric utilities to ensure a portion of their power is from renewable sources. A draft bill before the US Senate calls for at least 20 percent of power from renewable sources by 2021 with gains in energy efficiency permitted to make up a quarter of the total.

Even without federal legislation, however, state mandates in nearly half of all states will require a significant percentage of power to be from renewable sources. In Minnesota, for instance, the state's renewable portfolio standard calls for 25 percent renewable power by 2025.

To that end, there is CapX, a joint effort by 11 utilities that own transmission lines in Minnesota and surrounding regions to bring Dakota wind power to their city centers. Yet the new CapX line could one-day carry power transmitted from Big Stone II, a coal-fired power plant in South Dakota, documents show. And that has Jeremy Chipps, who lives near Lacrescent, Minn., where the line would run, up in arms to fight it.

Efficiency, cost, environmental concerns, and national security are Mr. Chipps's talking points. Beside transmission line losses, the cost and potential of such lines as a terrorist target point to the need for more localized renewable power generation such as solar panels and local wind turbines, he says. And then there's the coal-power carried on the lines.

"It really is time to deploy an energy production and smart-grid systems that are much safer, more intelligent, and much more efficient," Chipps says. "If we do this, we won't need massive, costly networks of new transmission lines."

Who will pay for the lines?

Transmission costs traditionally end up paid for by rate-payers in the states that the lines cross. The Green Power Express, for instance, would cross seven states, each with its own siting requirements and ways of allocating who pays. So, how will South Dakotans feel if they end up paying higher electric rates for lines serving other states?

"To what extent do [rate-payers] have an appetite for increasing utility bills?" asks Dusty Johnson, chairman of the South Dakota Public Utility Commission. "There are some very significant geopolitical concerns when people start talking about multibillion [dollar] transmission projects."

He agrees with Chipps that there is a "technological risk" and danger in investing in costly lines that might not be needed in the future.

"If it ends up being more cost effective for everyone to have small wind turbines in their backyard and solar panels on their roofs, do we need these lines?" he asks. "I think we do. But such investments are not without risk."

Other experts have concerns, too. Before the MISO report came out, Gordon van Welie of ISO New England and Stephen Whitley, president of New York Independent System Operator – grid operators for much of the East Coast – issued a pointed dissent from the MISO plan.

"Until additional scenarios that include the development of local resources are analyzed, we do not believe any single transmission plan can be presented as a solution to the integration of additional renewable energy resources in the United States," the men wrote in a Feb. 4 letter.

Given the renewable development, energy efficiency, and likelihood of new ties to Canada, the need to construct long transmission lines to the Midwest "would likely be reduced and in turn overall transmission costs may be lower," the system operators wrote.

Where to put the lines?

Even in the middle of wide open spaces, power line towers and wind turbines can reduce the area available to farm. Closer to urban areas, 150-200 foot towers spoiling the view and noise from crackling power lines can provoke local resistance that can delay construction for years.

"We're advocating a streamlined process," ITC's Ms. Aragon says. "In many states there is no defined time for how long siting can go on.... If siting can't be completed in the current [state] model, we may need to move to a federal siting process."

Under federal law, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has designated several "national corridors" for power lines on the East and West coasts. It could designate others. If states can't complete siting on power lines within the corridors, FERC can override states.

But there is also growing sentiment that FERC should not have the broad transmission siting authority granted under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Not surprisingly, parks-advocacy groups and others are furious at utility plans to build transmission lines near national parks and heritage sites like the Appalachian Trail and civil war battlefields. As many as 14 restive US senators reportedly agree and are poised to fight FERC authority. Those votes could be critical in any future battle over transmission lines.

Yet proponents of transmission lines say there's not much question they will be built – only where, and who will pay.

"It will be critical for the federal and state government to provide some form of expedited regulatory approval, additional financial incentives and tax relief for new interstate transmission projects," writes John Lamb, president of Clipper Windpower Development, developer of the Titan plan in an e-mail.

Out in South Dakota, the PUC's Mr. Johnson is inclined to agree.

"We need a lot more transmission," he says. "It's hard in Washington to divvy up money according to merit and not politics. But if they do it on merit, South Dakota is going to do very well. We've got the wind."

[Clarification: The proposed CapX transmission line mentioned above will not connect directly to the Big Stone II coal-fired power plant, as originally stated, but is expected to eventually carry power transmitted to it over a separate line from the plant]

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:42 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Local media and concerns re CapX2020
Attachments: capx2020.media.7.1.09.Winona.Post.docx;
capx2020.media.7.1.09.Houston.county.news.cover.story.feds.involved.doc;
Petition.BACKGROUNDER.CETF.FINAL.doc

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

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, July 03, 2009 8:26 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Local media and concerns re CapX2020

Attached are two recent media articles that point out information regarding why CapX2020 is not needed. The articles also express the outrage and concern that local residents have over the dangers of the project and the high costs that would be paid by rate payers and tax payers.

The BACKGROUND sheet is from Citizens Energy Task Force and explains the rationale for the petition for reconsideration of the Certificate of Need in Minnesota.

Thanks for including in your review.

I-120-001

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



http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG_Pub/detail.php?choice=31597&home_page=1&archives=

Area folks not happy about CapX2020 project (07/01/2009)

By Sarah Elmquist

A 700-mile powerline project that could cross the river in Winona and require eminent domain in order to be constructed won't really feed power into Winona, spokespeople for the project confirmed Monday.

Winona's been chosen, along with Alma and La Crosse, Wis., as one of three potential river crossing points for the project, dubbed CapX2020 -- a consortium of electric companies including Xcel Energy. Because there is already a river crossing for existing powerlines near the East End Boat Harbor, and because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opposed granting additional right-of-way to cross the river, the new towers must cross the river at an existing crossing.

Several citizen groups have opposed the project and appealed a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decision to grant a certificate of need for the \$2 billion project. Monday, business owners and residents who feared that the new lines may affect their properties asked questions about what the project might mean for them, some adding that the utilities group had never even contacted them.

If the Winona route is chosen, the new 345kV lines would cross Highway 43 north of I-90, then cross County Road 17 and run northeast of the Bridges golf club, then straight north. At the bluffs before Homer Road, the route would skirt a bluff to its west, cross Homer Road and Highway 61 and follow the river northwest along the edge of the city. It would narrowly pass several industrial businesses as it ran parallel to the Levee before crossing at the East End Boat Harbor, including Peerless Chain and Modern Transport.

Because buildings and tall trees cannot be located within a 150-foot right-of-way for the towers, some property owners feared that their homes or businesses might be affected, even need to be moved. On maps displayed by project representatives, it seemed unclear whether the route along the river would provide wide enough for the 150-foot easements, or, whether existing buildings would have to be moved or torn down for the project.

CapX2020 representatives said that the project hasn't begun finding very specific routes for the lines yet, and that they'd be working with property owners to find the best options that would affect properties the least. Valuations for lands taken for the utility easement, they said, would be determined by using an appraisal process in which compensation is based on the impact the easement has to a particular property.

Some who attended the meeting asked whether the existing 80-foot easement for the current powerline crossing the river in Winona would be enough for the new lines to go up. Grant Stevenson, project manager for Xcel Energy, said that there was a trade-off that could be made in areas where the right-of-way wasn't wide enough -- more frequent towers.

The towers will typically be 105-175 feet tall -- rivaling the Statue of Liberty, with about 750-1,100 feet between towers.

Some who attended the meeting worried about potential health effects of the transmission lines, while others doubted the need for the project altogether. "What's the advantage to me, personally?" asked one woman,

adding, “I don’t want to pay for it.”

The population in Winona County, they said, isn’t even really growing much.

CapX2020 representatives showed a map labeled “Benefit Area,” highlighting Winona, Rochester and La Crosse with a large brown blob. But they admitted the new lines aren’t really for Winona electric consumers. “There will be no direct electric connection to Winona,” said Stevenson.

Southeastern Minnesota is within a nine-county planning region, he told the crowd, in which there had been some population decline. But, he said, use has increased.

That argument contradicts opponents to the project, who have brought forth information from the Securities and Exchange Commission which shows that peak demand for energy has decreased by nearly 12 percent since 2006.

Questions about what percentage of wind energy the new lines might carry were not answered, although CapX2020 officials have claimed the project will be needed for the Minnesota renewable energy goal of 25 percent renewable by 2025.

But Stevenson admitted Monday that the project wasn’t all about wind. He said that it “doesn’t directly impact wind [energy development],” but that it “lays part of the foundation” needed to develop wind energy.

Where it goes

Opponents to the project have long claimed that the lines will really be used to carry coal-generated power to metropolises like Chicago and beyond.

Stevenson said that CapX2020 “wasn’t involved” with additional projects that would carry the lines eastward, but said that they will go east. He referenced a project being studied called The Green Power Express, which would add about 3,000 miles of “extra high voltage” 765kV lines stretching from North and South Dakota, through Minnesota to Iowa and Wisconsin, then on to Illinois and eastward.

Stevenson also said that if all goes as planned, the project will begin construction in 2011 and would “supply the region” until 2025, when a new transmission line would be needed.

Learn more

CapX2020 is currently being studied through a Federal Environmental Impact Statement needed to proceed with the project. The opportunity to provide comments about environmental and routing concerns is open until July 25 and can be directed to: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

Several citizens groups have also challenged the PUC’s certificate of need for the project, asking that the record be reopened to reflect data not studied previously that shows declining peak energy demands. Keep reading the Winona Post for the full story.

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CETF PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

On June 11, 2009 CETF filed a Petition for Reconsideration of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decision granting certificates of need for the CapX2020 Projects focused on the issues where the Commission's decision is most vulnerable on appeal. **CETF** argued:

- There was insufficient evidence in the record for the Commission to determine that the eastern endpoint of the Brookings Project should be at Hampton, Minnesota.
- The Commission's approval of the upsized double-circuit alternative to the CapX2020 Projects was unsupported by evidence of need and the Commission exceeded its authority in certifying this upsize in the absence of need.
- The Commission's certification of the La Crosse Project violated the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, certificate of need law and rules pertaining to power line prohibition areas.
- The Commission erred by failing to shift the burden to project proponents to show the lack of feasible and prudent alternatives that would not impair the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and other protected natural resources.
- The Commission erred in certifying the La Crosse Project since there are feasible and prudent local generation and transmission upgrade alternatives to meet the needs for the La Crosse Project that do not impair the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and other protected natural resources.
- The Commission erred in failing to reopen the record to consider newly-discovered evidence of demand declines and reasonable forecasts below threshold levels relied upon for Applicants' claims of need.
- The Commission erred in certifying the La Crosse Project without considering conflicts with federal regulations and policies regarding fragmentation of national wildlife refuge habitat.

CETF asked the Commission to reconsider its decision and make the following determinations:

- The Commission's certification of the Brookings Project should be subject to a condition allowing flexibility in routing proceedings to determine the Twin Cities end point either at Lake Marion or Hampton based on evidence of costs and benefits of the alternatives.
- The Commission's certification of the Brookings or Fargo 345 kV lines should be modified so that it does not include the double-circuited upsized alternative.
- The Commission should void its certification of the La Crosse Project.

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION – OTHER CAPX2020 PARTIES

On June 11, other parties also sought reconsideration of the Commission's decision. **No CapX** asked that the entire record of need be reopened due to the significance of demand decline and due to the relationship between the CapX2020 Projects and other regional transmission projects that were not considered by the Commission.

Both the CapX2020 utilities and the Office of Energy Security requested that the record be reopened due to their opposition to the Wind Conditions on the Brookings line. The utilities proposed that the conditions be eliminated. The OES proposed that the requirement for wind generation on the Brookings line be weakened, so that no specific amount of wind would be prescribed and suggested a paper "compliance filing" to document whether the new capacity will be used for wind or non-renewable generation. Documents can be found on e-dockets, CN-06-115 at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showeDocketsSe arch&showEdocket=true>

The **CapX2020** utilities' main objection to the Wind Conditions on the Brookings line appears to be that the could accelerate the utilities Renewable Energy Standard milestones by several years (CapX Petition, p. 4) and that "Limiting outlet capacity to renewable generation means outlet could not be used for non-renewable generation." (CapX Petition, p., 6).

The utilities expressed the concern that coordinating the Brookings Project so that wind generation is needed by customers could result in a "delay in the Brookings Project to better align with customer needs." (CapX Petition, p. 9) The **CapX2020** utilities admitted that "neither Applicants nor other utilities need additional wind generation from this area in the 2012-2013 timeframe," (CapX Petition, p. 14).

Although the **CapX2020** utilities did not ask that the time frame for constructing the Brookings Project be extended or need reconsidered, this seems the logical result of their argument that the \$650 million line (which was proposed and marketed to provide 700 MW of renewable energy) is not needed for wind by 2013 by any of the utilities proposing it.

The **OES** proposal to weaken the Wind Conditions and provide a compliance filing on renewable and non-renewable resources is equally paradoxical. The OES attempts to justify weakening the Wind Conditions based on concerns about unrelated dockets. The OES suggests that the timing of "upsizing" the Brookings line by adding a second circuit may affect capacity (OES Petition, pp. 8-9), but the future need for "upsizing" was explicitly outside of the scope of the CapX proceedings.

The **OES** then suggests that "new facts" suggest that the Brookings Project capacity, like that of any other transmission is "a result of the performance of the transmission system, not an individual line" and that the Commission should take an "overall systems approach to transmission planning rather than a piecemeal transmission line-by-line project-by-project approach." (OES Petition., p. 9-10) Although framed as an argument to weaken the Wind Conditions, this argument by OES seems similar to the **NoCapX** argument that the record of need should be reopened to consider evidence pertaining to the entire proposed transmission system of which the CapX2020 Projects are a part.

The **OES** also suggest that the Wind Conditions would result in costs to ratepayers (unspecified) and that, if Xcel is required to comply with the Wind Conditions they will not proceed with the RIG0 projects. No offer of proof was made of evidence to support these claims.

<http://www.houstonconews.com/articles/2009/07/01/news/00lead.txt>

COVER STORY:

Published - Wednesday, July 01, 2009

Feds make an entrance into CapX2020

By Ryan Stotts of the Houston County News

The U.S. Agricultural Department's Rural Utilities Service officially has begun looking into the proposed CapX2020 high-voltage line project.

The federal agency hosted a meeting June 23 at La Crescent's American Legion to collect public comment and explain the review process.

The service will do a single environmental impact statement for the project, said Stephanie Strength of the RUS, which will be the lead federal agency on the project.

Dairyland Power Cooperative had approached the RUS about financing its portion of the project, an estimated 11 percent, she said.

It will take at least two years to complete the federal review and make a funding decision, she said.

Dairyland first asked the agency about funding at least three years ago, said Chuck Thompson of Dairyland Power. It would take Dairyland 30 to 35 years to repay the approximately \$50 million needed.

The environmental impact statement, including comments from the meeting, likely will be completed by summer 2010, followed by a public hearing, Strength said.

Tim Carlsgaard, of CapX2020, said they have identified dual routes for the 345-kilovolt power lines along existing routes into La Crosse, Winona or Alma, Wis., but a preferred route has not been chosen.

Also yet to be determined is where the lines would cross the Mississippi River, he said.

Lines could run along or just north of Interstate 90, then cross south into La Crescent, he said.

If the lines go into Winona, he said, the route could run through agricultural land north of I-90. The Alma route would run through farmland north of Plainview.

A routing permit application will likely be filed some time in the fall, Carlsgaard said, and that will start a 12- to 15-month process when more public meetings will be held.

Early in the process, he said, after the Office of Energy Security has a chance to review the application, people will be able to propose and suggest alternative routes.

“Whether it’s just a small segment,” Carlsgaard said, “a small area, or 20 miles, or whatever it is.”

On the Wisconsin side, he said, a single routing and need permit will likely be filed before the end of the year.

Jeremy Chipps, of the Citizens Energy Task Force, said the massive project isn’t needed — and the group has petitioned the state to look into whether it should be built.

Chipps said even the most “sophisticated electric minds” in the industry, on a state and federal level, are doubting the efficacy of such a project.

He believes localized renewable energy should be investigated and analyzed, he said.

But, Chipps said, the truth is “the country lacks the very analytical tools to do the research to find out what our needs will even be.”

With federal coffers now being opened to fund the project, the decreasing demand for power, as well as safer alternatives than CapX2020, should be scrutinized, he said.

Gene Semin of La Crescent Township said he supports the project, even though he already has two large power lines in front of his house.

“We’re going to need the electrical power in this country to develop our manufacturing base so that our economy can recover,” Semin said.

<http://www.houstonconews.com/articles/2009/07/01/news/01capxchallenge.txt>

Published - Wednesday, July 01, 2009

[POST COMMENT](#) | [READ COMMENTS](#) (No comments posted.)

La Crescent group formalizes CapX2020 challenge

By Mark Sommerhauser for the Houston County News

A southeast Minnesota group wants state regulators to rethink a decision to let energy companies build high-voltage lines through the La Crescent area.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in April granted a certificate of need for the CapX2020 proposal, a \$1.7 billion plan to build a network of 345-kilovolt power lines throughout the state, including a line from the Twin Cities to La Crosse, Wis.

But the La Crescent-based Citizens Energy Task Force petitioned the commission last week to reconsider, asking it to place new conditions on lines in western Minnesota and to fully retract its support for the La Crosse line. Energy companies say the new lines will bolster reliability and aid wind-energy development in Minnesota, but environmental groups say the lines aren’t needed and shouldn’t cross the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge.

Regulators permitted CapX2020 based on projected increases in energy demand.

But energy usage actually declined nationwide in the first quarter of 2009, said Paula Maccabee, attorney for the Citizens Energy Task Force. Maccabee also noted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants the line to steer clear of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, and has said it won't grant new right-of-way for new power lines through the refuge.

"If we can solve our energy problems without harming a wildlife refuge, we should use that alternative," Maccabee said.

CapX2020 spokesman Tim Carlsgaard said the new lines wouldn't need additional right-of-way through the refuge, and could follow existing rights-of-way. While electricity consumption has dipped in recent months, Carlsgaard said Xcel Energy June 23 was nearing a June single-day record for power consumption, as a Midwest heat wave caused consumers to crank up their air conditioners.

"We still believe we have a strong case" for the new lines, Carlsgaard said. "It would be irresponsible on our part to not look at the long range, and today is just a perfect example."

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission plans to discuss the reconsideration petition at its regular meeting July 14 in St. Paul.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Powerline Project

From: konalilah@yahoo.com [mailto:konalilah@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 7:26 PM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us
Cc: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 Powerline Project

Friday, July 10, 2009

We were just informed about the proposed route of the power line. This is not acceptable! It would be within 300 hundred feet of our home and would destroy our property value. We have planted over one thousand trees to maintain the natural habitat. Our property is full of wildlife, and our views are one of the best features. When we purchased our acreage over fifteen years ago nothing as devastating as this was even conceivable!

Our neighbor, Larry Coffing, is an organic dairy farmer and it is proven that this would be detrimental to his farming operation. There has to be a better route for this power line to be placed.

Concerned homeowners,
Bruce and Mary Kay Forland
4919 50th Street West
Webster, MN 55088
952- 652-2772

I-121-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 2:59 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 routing input

From: Steve Gau [mailto:sgau@sleepyeyetel.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 05, 2009 8:47 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 routing input

Dear Ms Strength,

We asked that you take the following into account as you consider routes for the CAPX2020 project:

- Many small acreage landowners have invested heavily in their property - both financially and emotionally. Many have built in remote areas because they wanted to be in a rural natural setting (no traffic, no power lines, etc). Running 345 KV lines and tower thru these properties is devastating. To make it worse, there is little compensation relative to the impact. We recently built (2000) our home where it is because we wanted to be close to nature. When we purchased our land, T158 was classified as a minimum maintenance road. While it is now maintained (plowed), it is still quite rustic. The canopy of trees all but covers the road. The proposed B-70 route would destroy the rustic setting of our home. As our acreage is relatively small, the negative impact of the proposed power lines would be large. I understand that route B-70 is no longer being considered. However, there are many land owners much like myself in areas where routes are still considered. Please give careful consideration to the impact of such small acreages.
- I-122-004** |
- I-122-001** | Avoid clear cutting paths thru forested areas. It would be better to place lines in areas that are already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- Our property is on a tree-lined town road that has been washed out several times over the last few years. Clearing trees to run a power would likely impact the effect of erosion. Again, I think it makes sense to place lines in areas already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- I-122-002** | Our area has historic wagon trails and homesteads including those associated with the Laura Ingalls Wilder family.
- Protected eagles use this forested area to nest.
- I-122-003** | There has not been an adequate correlation made between those impacted by the line and those that benefit from the line. Residents in our area are impacted to serve the power needs of those in WI.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve and Amy Gau

59178 411th Ave

Mazeppa, MN 55956

507-843-5312 (home)

I-122-001

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

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

I-122-002

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

I-122-003

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

I-122-004

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

507-287-2876 (work)

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020 lacrosse route
Attachments: DSCN0750.JPG

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

From: jgilmer2@mac.com [mailto:jgilmer2@mac.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2009 9:30 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020 lacrosse route

Dear Ms. Strength:

My name is James Gilmer and I am writing you today to let you know of my very strong opposition to this project.

I-123-003 | The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.

I live in tiny Sather Valley. The proposed route will cut the valley in two and will pass directly thru my farm. I hope you will take a moment and look at the photo I have attached. This photo overlooks my farm. If the towers are placed where proposed they will sit less than 500 feet from where my wife is sitting.

My son planned to build here when he gets out of the Air Force and already has the permits. His home would sit directly beneath the line. I had hoped to see Grandchildren living there some day and walking the road to the school bus. Clearly if this project comes to pass that wont occur. How will I be compensated for this type of loss.? How do you put a dollar value on that?

I have searched all my life for this spot and invested my life savings to purchase it. How will I get that investment back? Who will buy it?

I-123-001 | Where do I go? My house sits 300 feet from where the line is to cross. I have buried three
I-123-002 | parents who all died due to one form of cancer or another. What are my health risks if I stay?

I hope with all my heart you try to put yourself in my place and then remember this scenario is identical to hundreds if not thousands of other families just like mine.

Please don't let this nightmare come to pass.

Sincerely yours,

James Gilmer
245 Sather Valley road
Houston Mn 55943

1

I-123-001

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

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

I-123-002

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

I-123-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line, potential impacts to health and safety with regard to EMF, potential socioeconomic impacts to property values, potential impacts to agricultural resources, and potential impacts to wildlife, particularly federal and state regulated species will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:12 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: opposition to capx2020

From: jgilmer@hotmail.com [mailto:jgilmer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 11:13 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: opposition to capx2020

Dear Ms. Strength-

My name is Jayne Gilmer and I live at 245 Sather Valley Rd. in Houston, MN. My husband Jim and I purchased 120 acres of our farm in 2006 and last June bought the remaining 180 acres. Being that we have been registered landowners for 3 years and just last Wednesday found out about the shocking proposal of capx2020 is one thing, but the reasons for my opposition are too numerous to list here. The fact that one of the proposed routes would run directly through my property without having the opportunity to have vehemently opposed this decision is directly linked to an argument made by Citizens Task Force attorney Paula Maccabee. She found that the PUC Excel Energy's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission from 2006 to 2008 show energy demands dropped from the minimum requirement for new lines. "That's a number, 24,701 megawatts, that the administrative judge specifically relied on in finding there was a regional need for the projects." Those demands should require the commission re-open the record. The people in this area do not need, REQUIRE or want to pay for this project. I respectfully ask you to consider all the issues that affect me and my family.

sincerely,
Jayne Gilmer
245 Sather Valley Rd.
Houston, MN 55943
763-229-5387

Lauren found her dream laptop. [Find the PC that's right for you.](#)

I-124-001

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

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

I-124-001

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:04 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:

From: kazmier@execpc.com [mailto:kazmier@execpc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 12:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject:

Dear CapX2020,

I am responding to the proposed transmission line routes that are being explored for the new line. I am strongly opposed to the route that goes along Belvidere Ridge Road. I am a property owner at the corner of CTH O and Belvidere Ridge Rd, and became aware of the routes after the public info mtgs in June. I have asked to be placed on the mailing list for future mailings as no one contacted me prior to this!

I am opposed to this route because it obviously impacts me directly, but also because it just does not make any sense! The logical thing to do is to upgrade the existing poles and go along the current route. The easements are already obtained, the route is cleared and there will be minimal if any impact upon property owners or property values that has not already occurred. To site the line along Belvidere Ridge would cost more, result in a route that would require an excessive amount of tree clearing and disruption to the area and local environment. The expense of routing an entirely new line is astronomical compared to the cost of upgrading an existing line. As a rate payer this will have negative and unnecessary consequences and costs to me.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am officially requesting that I be kept apprised of any and all issues, routes, proposals etc related to this line.

Sincerely

Ron Kazmierczak
3028 CTII C
Green Bay, WI 54313

I-126-001

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

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

I-126-002

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

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Community Outreach/Public Comments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020

Categories: Purple Category, Pending

From: Lewis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Lewis@davey.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 11:23 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: capx2020

Stephanie

Thank you for your prompt reply. My other question or concern is; how will the property owner be compensated for the burden of the ROW on their property?

Thanks

Jim

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
To: Lewis, Jim
Cc: Lilley, Bliss ; cat@dairynet.com
Sent: Tue Jun 09 08:35:02 2009
Subject: RE: capx2020

Mr. Lewis,
Thank you for contacting me with your questions on the proposed project. The specific location of the ROW has not been determined and will be the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be developed over the course of the next year. The recently released information and the upcoming meetings will detail the process taken to identify the macro-corridors that will be further refined through the EIS process. Public comments will be used in refining the corridors. All documents released through the EIS process will be available on our website.

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Dairyland%20Power%20Cooperative,%20Inc>

Please feel free to contact me with further comments or questions.

Sincerely,

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Co...ents/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm (1 of 2) [7/22/2009 8:35:57 AM]

I-127-001

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

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

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Community Outreach/Public Comments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

(202) 720-0468

From: Jim.Lewis@davey.com [mailto:Jim.Lewis@davey.com]

Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 6:09 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

Cc: Jim.Lewis@davey.com

Subject: capx2020

Stephanie

I can see where demand for energy would necessitate the construction of new transmission corridors. I may be directly impacted by the construction and am concerned as to specifically where the ROWs will be placed. The info sent to me isn't specific enough to answer my question. I do have property near the west boundary of the proposed 345 Kv route option. Is there specific information regarding the specific properties in which the trans lines and towers will be placed?

I live outside the state of Minnesota.

If you do not have the above info, could you please direct me to the right person?

Kind regards

Jim Lewis

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00_CAPX/Documents/Co...ents/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm (2 of 2) [7/22/2009 8:35:57 AM]

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

From: caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: EIS Scoping Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

Please ensure that the larger picture is addressed and a pragmatic approach is taken when reviewing the scope of the CAPX2020 project. I am a homeowner living near the proposed Brookings CAPX2020 line. The following are my families concerns:

- * If there is an alternative plan that is less costly to rate payers, such as using local power and conservation, please look at this option seriously. Sometimes a simpler and less costly approach just makes sense.
- * With the recession, people around me seem much more consciences about the money they spend on energy consumption. People are cutting back and being careful about their energy use. Please use recent forecasts that take into account the changing attitudes towards energy consumption!
- * Please include the Brookings line with the scope, this is one large project. It's all connected.
- * Please consider not only the visual impact but also the property value impact and the potential increased risk for cancer when reviewing the cost/benefits of this project.
- * Please consider alternatives, such as local power generation and a no build option for the entire project.
- * Please review the extent to which CAPX2020 will facilitate more coal generation and the environmental increasing coal generation.

I am a parent of two very young children living on a farm that has been in our family for over 100 years. I don't want to have to choose between exposing myself to electromagnetic fields and leaving the farm we all love so much. But even if my particular family isn't considered, I'm just not sure this project makes sense. Is this really the best option? The least expensive? The most efficient? What if there's a better idea that would accomplish the power needs without disrupting so many lives? Couldn't we product wind power here? It's awfully windy at our house on the farm. Please consider the big picture, the entire project. Is this really the best way?

Best Wishes,

Caroline, Mike, Inga (age 3) and Vlad (age 2) Lexa

Webster, MN

This e-mail, including attachments, may include confidential and/or proprietary information, and may be used only by the person or entity to which it is addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended

I-128-001

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

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

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Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:11 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: cap 2020

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

From: Patricia.Lloyd2@qwest.com [mailto:Patricia.Lloyd2@qwest.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 12:08 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: cap 2020

Dear Shephanie,
i am a homeowner and a landowner in rice county on dent ave ,my 55 acers of land runs along the proposed new highline route.It is of major concern of mine NOT to want the line because planning on building on the northside which will be very close to the lines. I bought the land many years ago wanting the oppertunity so have my children build and stay in the area.PLEASE take into consideration NOT letting the line pass by my land and the several others in the air park of webster.
Thank You
Patty Lloyd
5235 Dent Ave
Webster MN

I-129-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:38 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx 2020 project

From: kathym@independentlifestyles.org [mailto:kathym@independentlifestyles.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 5:20 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx 2020 project

Dear Stephanie

I cannot attend the meeting that is going to be held in Clearwater, MN on July 2, 2009 regarding the Capx 2020 project. We live on State Hwy 24 NW and are in one of the proposed routes for the project. The other route is following Interstate 194 but I have read that they are concerned about the power lines or towers possible falling on the interstate. The alternative route which would go right through my front yard and put the towers in close proximity to all of the homes on Hwy 24 doesn't seem to concern them what if it fell on our homes would that be any less dangerous. It still hasn't been proven that those power lines and towers do not cause cancer to people who are in a close proximity to them. Two years ago MNDOT bought some of our frontal property to widen Hwy 24 so if this project comes in and buys what they want for the project they would own right up to our front porch we would not even own our front yard we would lose all of our trees and we have a stone waterfall in our front yard also which we would no longer own. I believe that things like this should follow the interstate and stay out of residential neighborhoods. I think it would be a lot more cost effective for them also. Please help me have a voice in this and voice my concerns to the appropriate people. Thank you for your time.

Kathy & Ron MaKarrall
17080 State Hwy 24 NW
Clearwater, MN 55320

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I-130-001

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

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

I-130-002

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

I-130-001

I-130-002

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020

From: c-a.pankow@mchsi.com [mailto:c-a.pankow@mchsi.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:07 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am writing to you about the CapX2020 project. Specifically the Cedar Mountain Substation area - Hampton route options. I live in Lonsdale, MN. We are bordering the possible southern route of this project.

I would like to express some of my concerns. My first concern is that of necessity. The amount of power you are planning to put through this area seems excessive. Most people are trying to conserve energy and our houses and appliances are becoming more efficient. The housing boom has slowed down. Do we need to rethink the plan?

Secondly, it scares me that you are telling farmers to attach chains to the back of their tractors if they are operating under the lines. Why? Because it could be dangerous? I, for one, do not want myself, my children, my friends, my neighbors, or strangers exposed to this. Keep this line out of people's yards, towns and fields. Find a route that will impact no one. What about I-90?

Also, why have these massive lines cross the state. Why not have more windmills in action throughout the state. There is wind energy throughout. Use it and do not carry the energy so far across lines.

It's not too late to reconsider this plan and this route. Please at least consider it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pankow

I-131-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line

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

From: gordy@paumen.com [mailto:gordy@paumen.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line

Stephanie

I do NOT support the CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line for the following reasons.
Please do not allow such a project destroy the pristine river valley.

- I-132-001** | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-132-002** | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-132-003** | 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-132-004** | 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-132-005** | 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Gordy Paumen
Network Consultant

I-132-001

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

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

I-132-002

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

I-132-003

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid. The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-132-004

CELL 612-749-6986
www.paumencomputerservices.com

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

I-132-005

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX 2020

From: silvmem@myclearwave.net [mailto:silvmem@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:42 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020

Stephanie Strength,

I am writing in regards to the CapX 2020 transmission line project proposed for our area. We are on the alternate route but still greatly concerned. We live in Wheatland Township, Section 22, Wheatland Township in Rice County, MN. Our farm runs alongside Highway 19. If the lines go on that proposed route, we would have these huge poles running along our entire farm. There are many, many homes that it would impact very greatly because of their close proximity to the road. Our renter for our farmland, uses his airplane to check on his crops. There is a gas venting station that would be located almost right under the lines plus a bison herd which would graze right under the lines.

Another route suggested by a member of the Task Force Board would take the line right past our home & many other homes, all within 75 to 100' from the road. On this route it would impact a couple of dairy herds, one with 175 head of cattle, a lake, marshland, a beekeeping business & a garden center.

We cannot tolerate having a monstrosity such as this in our area, or anywhere else. We cannot afford to have our health, crops, livestock & livelihood destroyed by something that is not needed but being proposed because of money & greed.

Please support us in our concerns.

Thank you!

Clarence & Delores Salaba
9376 60th St. West
Lonsdale, MN 55046

Section 22, Wheatland Township, Rice County, MN

I-133-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:02 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: comment on capx20/20

From: joan schnabel/jeff falk [mailto:joanjeff@centurytel.net]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: comment on capx20/20

I-134-001 Dear Stephanie, My name is Joan Schnabel and I spoke with you at the Centerville/Galesville meeting. I sincerely hope that you do not allow them to build these lines, but if you do, they follow the I-90 corridor and cross at LaCrosse. I just got back from paddling my Kayak from Whitman Landing down to Indian Creek and back. I paddled and Snick, my Brittany, swam and ran along side. It was wonderful, Eagles, Great blue Herons, lots of Kingfishers, frogs and a zillion dragonflies mostly widow skimmers and green damers. It was so beautiful, I can't tell you, except to ask you to remember back to when you were a little girl out on the river. Would that paddle have been different next to gigantic power lines? Of course. And indeed one proposed route goes right down Kamrowski road, right by there. I cringe to think of the lines going through Trempealeau Wildlife refuge. WE have despoiled so much of our natural habitat do we have to take the refuges as well? I sometimes wonder if anyone remembers the meaning of the word "refuge?" So on behalf of all the birds that use the Mississippi flyway as their primary migration route, and the bald eagles that nest here, and the peregrine falcons that have begun returning to their traditional cyries on the cliffs on the river, and the little known, but significant population of Golden Eagles (88 on count week this January) that call this area their winter home, I ask you not to put the power lines here.

When I look at the web site for Capx 20/20 I see this quote.

"The region is experiencing tremendous job and population growth, leading to a steady increase in electricity usage. "

I-134-002 Well that didn't jibe with what I thought, so I went to the US Census data, and this region is NOT experiencing tremendous population growth. that is an out and out fabrication. It is true that Rochester, MN and because of that Omslead County are experiencing significant growth. Rochester lies to the west of the proposed lines. But if you look at the region, consisting of LaCrosse county, Houston County, Winona county, Trempealeau county and Buffalo county, the counties most impacted by these routes, there is hardly any population growth to speak of., about 3.5% over a 10 year period. I will be happy to send you the complete data, or you can find it at the census bureau site on the web. My point is, that if the Website for Capx20/20 starts off with a lie, how can I believe anything else that they are saying? I do not believe that these lines are for the benefit of this region.

I-134-003 I believe, that they will be used to carry electricity for the urban areas of Milwaukee and Chicago. I do not wish to see the aesthetics of the region damaged, and the birds and wildlife impacted for something that is of no benefit to this area.

thanks for reading this, Joan Schnabel Fountain City WI 54629 phone. 608-687-8486

I-134-001

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

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

I-134-002

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

I-134-003

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:03 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project
Attachments: E I Transmission Line.pdf; revised Alternate Route.jpg

From: Paul Schwinghammer [mailto:paul@redbarnridge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 11:35 AM
To: david.birkholz@state.mn.us
Cc: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project

Hello David,
It was a pleasure to speak with you at the Clearwater Town Hall. As per your request, I have put my thoughts in writing.
The attached documents are in regards to the EIS process for CapX2020.
Please feel free to forward these comment on to others.

Thank You!
Paul Schwinghammer
Schwinghammer Family Partnership
320.420.4937
Paul@redbarnridge.com

I-135-001 | Re: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project

Power line alternate options (At the point in which County road 136 turns from a north/south route to an east/ west route in St. Augusta) - see attached map)

The "Primary Route" (along I-94) is the preferred route by the vast majority of the citizens of the area. From an environmental impact standpoint the "Alternate Routes" have a number of issues that are of great concern to me and I suggest that the alternate options be amended. Listed below are some of those concerns and other possible options. The local community and I are very willing to work within the power line process to help construct this much needed resource.

1. Neenah Creek, a MN state designated trout stream, will be crossed three times in less than a mile due to the small jog in the "Alternate Routes". This is due to the small jog and the two 90 degree turns in the routes. In addition to the trout stream this route would also cross over oak savanna forests, a housing development, historic areas and would pass near Mr. Joe Kenning's home and farm yard twice.

- While it is commendable that the power company is trying to utilize an existing right-of-way, we the citizens of the area would prefer altering the proposed "Alternate Routes" and would be willing to help establish the less intrusive route's right-of-way. The proposed "Alternate Routes" could easily be changed by eliminating the small jog in the route and the two 90 degree turns. The power line would then continue straight west thus following County road 136 at the point in which it turns westward.

2. The proposed "Alternate Routes" will go past Mr. Kenning's house two times. Mr. Kenning is best known as the "Father" of the stray voltage awareness movement. The proposed "Alternate Routes" could be seen as a direct attack on Mr. Kenning for his years of law suits he brought against Northern States Power (NSP) Company. Mr. Kenning argued the impact of stray voltage on his farm animals and his family's health due to a NSP power transmission line over his property. Mr. Kenning had fought with NSP for years before NSP finally agreed to move the power transmission line. When I read the intended "Alternate Routes" my first thought was "are they trying to give Mr. Kenning a heart attack." Given the intensity of the previous on-going court battles, I could easily see a court agreeing with Mr. Kennings heirs should his health fail.

- The proposed alternate routes could easily be changed by eliminating the small jog in the route and the two 90 degree turns. The power line would then continue straight west thus following County Road 136 at the point in which County Road 136 turns westward. The power lines would still go along Mr. Kenning's property but it would be a significant distance from his home and farm animals. The power line would also go along the edge of our family property instead of thru the middle. This change to the proposed alternate route would eliminate construction cost and environmental impact on the trout stream, oak forest, and people

3. The historic St. Boniface Chapel and the historic St. Augusta Trail are located within the Chapel Hill Farm. The Chapel Hill Farm is in the process of being developed into a Village or community that highlights the historical significance of the sites and makes the sites a historical destination. The plans can be seen at www.chapelhillmn.com

- The current "Alternate Routes" with its small jog will cut through the middle of the Chapel Hill Farm thus effectively killing the project. This would result in a loss of a significant opportunity to preserve and highlights one of the areas oldest sites with historical significance and would be a great loss to the area.

Conclusion: As previously stated, the "Primary Route" is the preferred route by the vast majority of the citizens of the area. While it has been stated that the MnDOT is opposed to the "Primary Route", this route will have the least negative impact on the environment and the citizens. As an environmental consultant, I understand many of the possible issues and remedies. The DOT's opposition seems to be stated as a "safety" issue. While safety is the number one priority, it can be used as a "red herring"- who can argue against it. The terrain is such that in much of the area along I-94 the ditch slopes are quite high thus eliminating the possibility of vehicles hitting the poles. It is also my understanding that some poles are designed to accommodate vehicle impact and many additional measures can be put in place to resolve any of the DOT's safety concerns.

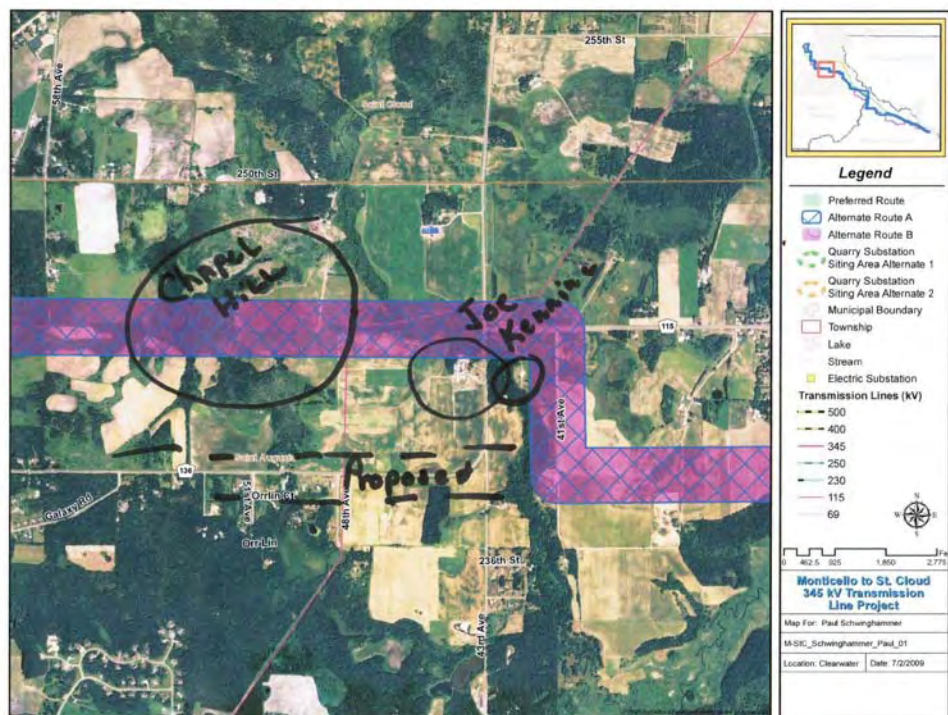
Thank You
Paul Schwinghammer
3135 Co. Rd 136
St. Cloud 56301
320.420.4937
Paul@redbarnridge.com

Property location: 4801 250th Street South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

I-135-001

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

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



Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 - Route B-27

Categories: pulled

From: senn.margaret@mayo.edu [mailto:senn.margaret@mayo.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 - Route B-27

I-136-001

This route is too close to homes it comes with in 1/4 mile of my house which is just south of Hammond Minnesota. I do not want this route to affect my family and my neighbors. I am opposed to route B-27.

Margaret A.S. Senn, MS, RN
Informatics Nurse Specialist
Department of Nursing
Phone: 507-255-8909
senn.margaret@mayo.edu

Mayo Clinic
200 First Street S.W.
Rochester, MN 55905
www.mayoclinic.org

I-136-001

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

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

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: La Crosse Capx2020 project
Attachments: image001.jpg

From: TVRCHOTA@amfam.com [mailto:TVRCHOTA@amfam.com]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 10:34 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: JGilmer@commercialcollectors.com; doctor@karenavrchota.com
Subject: La Crosse Capx2020 project

Dear Stephanie,

I have just been informed of the Capx2020 project going through southeastern Minnesota. I have a good friend as well as sister & Brother in Law that live in the Valley near Houston Mn. This is one of the most scenic areas left in Minnesota & many of us feel that it needs to be preserved as such. A high Power transmission line-such as the one being proposed, would ruin it for all generations to come. Your help and attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Tom Vrchota
763-389-5614
Princeton, Mn

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Note: After opting-out, you may receive emails that you have specifically requested from American Family. If you are a current American Family customer, you may still receive transactional emails regarding your existing policies or accounts with American Family, American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates utilize the PossibleNow DNESolution to administer this email opt-out process.

I-137-001

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

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

I-137-001



From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC[Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020

From: l.v.winn@att.net [mailto:l.v.winn@att.net]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 8:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Stephanie Strength,

My Wife and I are residents of Sky Harbor Airpark. It just came to our attention that an alternate route for the CapX2020 Powerline could be along 50th St. in our neighbor hood. This would put it right in the traffic pattern of our airport. There are over 50 airplanes that fly out of our residential airport and I feel the powerline would be a real compromise of safety and would greatly influence the value of our airpark. We are strongly opposed to this location of the powerline. Please consider our opinion when deciding its location.

Thank You,
Larry and Diana Winn
3279 45th St. W.
Webster, MN 55088

I-138-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville Community Center - Thompson WI.

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

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

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

I-139-001

the unnecessary confiscation and destruction of private
property in the unique driftless area of western Wisconsin
when an existing corridor already exists without disturbing into
western Wisconsin

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-139-001

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

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

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

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: Recreation

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

We have purchased our property to preserve it in its Natural State and protect it from Development. IF this project were to go thru our property the Confiscation and Subsequent Destruction of 150' of Right of way thru the Center of this 40 Acre parcel would totally Destroy our purpose. Our property is located in Trempealeau County Wisconsin Directly in the Path of the Northernmost and Easternmost Possible Route in Western Wisconsin.

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

In my opinion the most Sensitive Resources are the Very Unique, Beautiful and Sensitive Hills and Valleys of the unglaciated, Driftless area of Western Wisconsin.

It makes absolutely no sense to Detour this project into the Hills of Western Wisconsin Destroying 100's of Acres of private property when a much shorter Corridor already exists much of which is already Publicly owned.

I-139-003

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

I-139-002

the project description was explained along with its purpose
However the need was left questionable It was explained
As being "Redundant"

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: David Andersen

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: Box 98

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-582-2595

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

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

I-139-002

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

I-139-003

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

June 30, 2009

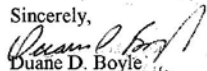
Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

RE: CAPX 2020-Scoping decision doc PUC no. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Ms. Strength,

I see that the 57th street Alternate has been changed to 50th street W.. The reasoning was to avoid homes along 57th Street W.. I would like to point out that there are Twenty mail boxes on 57th Street W. from Elmore to Hwy. 35W and nineteen mail boxes on 50th Street W.. I do not see why the twenty is that much more important than the nineteen on 50th Street West. I did notice that 66 street west contains only two or three houses. I would also like to establish the point that you would be moving seven blocks closer to the Sky Harbor air park (refer my April 8, 2009 letter to you) housing some forty planes and crop dusters. In addition this past weekend three hot air balloons were operating out of the air part flying every which way which could create a very dangerous situation. I would like to also add that at the intersection just west of County road 5 this new proposed 50th street line would run directly through one of the largest organic dairy farms in the state, the Coffing residents. Most of the people on 50th street west have not written because the original alternate was 57th street not 50th street. I myself living on 50th street am vehemently against the project and especially against the 50th street new proposal. I and my neighbor have spent thousands of dollars along with the US Fish and wildlife service establishing a natural wildlife area containing one hundred acres. We have planted thousands of trees and wild prairie grasses. The transmission line would destroy our whole concept as well as having devastating effect on our neighboring land values. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


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

I-140-001

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COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? CAPX2020 Plainview High School June 16, 2009

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

Property used for agriculture, recreation (get away)
and future residential development.

Located at ^{southeast}~~southwest~~ corner of 117th Street NW Oronoco
and Olmsted county road 31.

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

The most sensible routing ~~but~~ of the two options
for the 161KV line in NW Olmsted county
would be the one which takes advantage of
the abandoned railroad right-of-way (now the
location of the Douglas Trail)

I-141-001

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

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

I-141-001

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Richard F. Brubaker (Already on mailing list)

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 601 Memorial Hwy SW

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55902

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-288-1093

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? June 17, 2009 - Wamamingo, MN

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

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

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

Human impacts

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

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

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

I-142-001

Please consider the placement of the line in another location, as there are old growth Burr Oak trees on this site.

This property is located in Cannon Falls, MN, directly west of the southern stoplight on Highway 52.

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

I-142-001

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

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Laurie Anderson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 31994 County 24 Blvd., P.O. Box 278

City: Cannon Falls, State: MN Zip Code: 55009

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-263-3858

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? *Started Dec 11, 2008 at Cannon Falls + last meeting was at Wadena*

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

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

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

I-143-001

1- Coal fired plants are not clean & we do not have adequate carbon dioxide removal system, which needs to be in place before construction of more transmission lines.

I-143-002

2- Power plants in Wisconsin, like Pleasant Prairie should be responsible for producing electricity in their own state rather than getting it from Minnesota & North Dakota.

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I-143-001

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

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

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

I-143-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

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

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

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

I-143-003

1. Our farm is located on Highway 56 & we have some very rich agricultural soil. It is important that we can continue producing crops that will prevent soil erosion as more land is being used for development purposes.

2. We do have wet land on our property & the law is written that we can't tamper with that land because of cattle & other vegetation & groundwater. Now Cap & Rosa does not have to follow the law.

3. We have a herd of cattle that graze in the area that has been proposed for the line. They will no longer come close to staying out there. We may have to sell our cattle & everyone can just depend on the big factory farms to produce the food, this will be another way to get rid of the small rural farms.

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

I-143-004

1. I have been employed in the health field for many years and as a PA we are very concerned about the long term effects these high voltage lines can have on the health & safety of our grandchildren who live on our farm, ourselves also own herd of beef cattle.

2. Biological, which we mentioned above. Also this comes have a severe adverse effect on our natural resources including all the wild life we have in this area.

3. Our farm has been in the family for many years. Recently a man by the name of Hans Bakken who is a local historian from Jorstad, Norway traveled on a farm & is writing a book about a Norwegian family that settled on our farm in 1876. The picture of the farm will be in his book. We need to preserve the beauty & culture of rural America.

I-143-005

I-143-003

Your comment has been noted. Regulations and potential impacts to wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-143-004

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

I-143-005

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

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

I-143-006

Would like to have more explanation as to why they projected that there will be an increase in population in Minnesota to require more electricity. We did not see any statistics as to how they came to that conclusion.

I-143-007

Did not mention what they will do to prevent emissions of CO₂.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Henry & Runice Bauer*
 Representing (Optional): _____
 Mailing Address: *42599 Hwy 56 Blvd.*
 City: *NEERSTADT* State: *MM* - *55053* Zip Code:
 Daytime Phone (Optional): *507-789-6322*

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

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

I-143-006

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

I-143-006

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

I-143-007

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

June 30, 2009

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

Re: CAPX 2020 Project
Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Decision Document
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Ms. Strength,

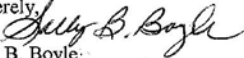
We are very concerned about the proposal regarding the use of 50th Street West, in Webster, MN, in Rice county, as a new proposal alternate route for the CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton project. We are shocked to find that this additional route option, which was never mentioned before, is in our front yard.

Your most recent proposal – A-RIC – 003 (Sirek), you say the alternate of 50th Street West is better than 57th Street W. to avoid homes on 57th Street W. There are 20 mailboxes on 57th St., and 19 mailboxes on 50th St. W. Why protect residents on 57th St. W. and not on 50th Street W?

The Sky Harbor Airpark, (only ½ mile from 50th Street W.) with the frequent presence of low flying small aircraft, hot air balloons, and helicopters, makes the site especially unsuitable and completely unsafe.

We have worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service to establish secure wildlife habitat and wetlands, and planted thousands of trees over the past 17 years. This has been a lot of hard work, to preserve the natural habitat of this land. The transmission line would have a devastating effect on our neighboring land values. We living on 50th Street West, are vehemently against this project.

Sincerely,


Sally B. Boyle
3850 – 50th Street West
Webster, Mn. 55088
Phone: 952-652-4041

I-144-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville - 6-24-09

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

C68 -161; 69;

Replaces 2 poles in field with one so we can use a pivot irrigation system which is more economical and uses much less electricity than the traveling guns we now use.

Forward maps to Grant Stevenson - talked to him @ meeting

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

No comment

I-145-001

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

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

I-145-001

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

Yes

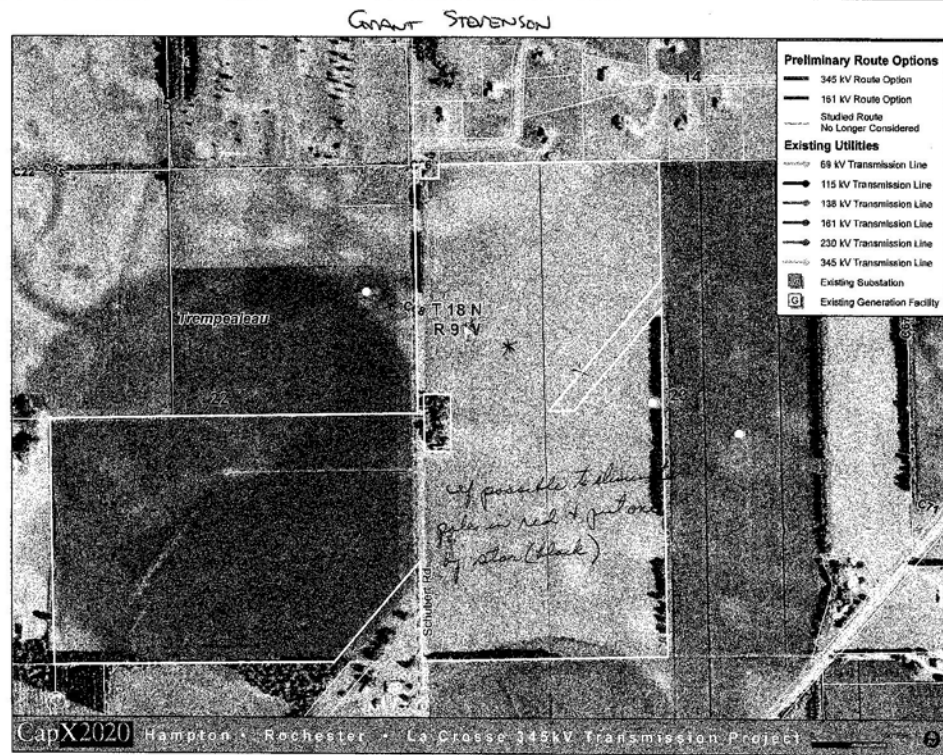
Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Alice Brenengen
Representing (Optional): Brenengen Family Farms
Mailing Address: N11794 Fremont St.
City: Trempealeau State: WI Zip Code: 54661
Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-534-6642

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

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



GRANT STEVENSON



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? June 18 St. Charles, MN

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

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

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

I-146-005 Does the project include any conditions to guarantee reduction of or phase out of coal for energy source?

I-146-001 Is the Needs Assessment based on current electricity use? or projected use?

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I-146-001

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

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

I-146-002

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

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

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

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

I-146-002

Prairie Restoration Project est. 1995
Certified Backyard Habitat by National
Wildlife Federation in 2003.
Location 25118 Co Rd 17
Wilson Township, Winona County

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

Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge
Mississippi River corridor
Agungnon Park
Perrot State Park
Great River Bluff State Park
Apple Blossom Scenic Byway / Pike Hole
** Migrating bird fly ways*
** waterfowl habitat - riparian habitat of M. River*
** Scenic bluff & conlee region*

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

- I-146-006 1) Does the Need outweigh the risks and impact of this high power transmission line project?
- I-146-007 2) Does this project meet goals & objectives for using or developing smart, low carbon energy sources?
- I-146-003 3) Is the Need Assessment accurate?
- I-146-008 4) What impact does consumer use of high efficiency energy products, CFLs, & other factors on demand side have on the Need Assessment?

- I-146-004 * The displays & pictures & maps were very helpful. I asked to see where 345 KV transmission lines were presently existing & was directed to the lines along I-90. If the I-90 corridor already accommodates high transmission lines, shouldn't this be the plan for route to La Crosse?
- * I asked about energy sources, but was told this project is only addressing transmission. Shouldn't strategies be put in place to address the whole goal & objectives for energy use?

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Roberta Bumann

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 25118 County Road 17

City: WINONA State: MN Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional): rmbumann@gmail.com

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

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

I-146-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

I-146-004

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

I-146-005

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid. The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-146-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

I-146-007

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

I-146-008

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Democratic Party of Trempealeau County (May 23, 2009)

and Trempealeau/Whitishell County meeting and Ethical/Privacy Info Seminar

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-147-001

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

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

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

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

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

Proximity to homes - at least 1 mile away!!
Causing possible bird migration deaths
Prop-like sound -
Strobe effect

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

Initially, I felt - in Trempealeau County - the project idea slid into the forum. Because of concerns of many of us - the issue became prevalent and information was made known.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mary Ann Boxby

Representing (Optional): myself

Mailing Address: N 28427 Boxby Rd

City: Blair

State: Wis

Zip Code: 54616

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-989-2842

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Were not able to attend

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

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

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

I-148-003

Along with the obvious issues, the effect on wildlife, natural waterways, visual pollution we feel our AEs and ~~the~~ ^{land} ~~surp~~ ^{stay} that way on find current commercial property for your project.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

Our property & residence is located at
7384 Collegeview Rd Exota, MN 55934
The terrain is steep and aggressive with
creeks and wildlife, the area is wooded,
the soils are easily eroded. We would
lose the small amount of established wooded
areas that we have.

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

The impact ^{the Project} would have on wildlife
and agricultural structure of the land.
We feel the project would be visual
pollution. We also feel the project should
stay along existing major roads, rail roads
or current power routes.

I-148-001

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

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

I-148-001

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

I-148-002

We were not able to attend the meeting, I have looked at the website and your routing map is vague.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Paul Cassidy/Virginia Murphy

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address:

7384 College View Rd

City:

Evota

State:

MA

Zip Code:

55934

Daytime Phone (Optional):

507-529-8077

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

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

I-148-002

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

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

I-148-003

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

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

See Attached

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

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

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

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

See Attached

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

See Attached

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? _____

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

Key issues assessing the potential impacts of this project

In my opinion, with the existing transmission lines that already are in place, easements done, etc., people have already made the decision whether or not to live next to lines. Because these decisions have been made, the existing lines should be replaced or upgraded. If I wish to build a new farmstead building, I need to remove an old building first. I just cannot access my neighbor's land, but that, in effect, is what the utilities companies wish to do.

I-149-001

Route A3, A5, A6, A122

For the north-south routes around Hampton, the two eastern routes (A6, A122) would be more difficult to construct and gain because of going cross-country compared to the western route (A5), which follows Hwy 52.

It appears that following Hwy 52 would be the shortest route to the southeast from Hampton and appears to have the easiest access for construction and maintenance, since the line is next to the highway versus being a fair distance from maintained roads. The power lines and poles installed along the north side of Hwy 50 between Farmington and Lakeville and east side of Hwy 52, 117th Street East north to Inver Grove Trail, appear to be what should be installed all along Hwy 52 from the substation (north of Hampton) to the southeast toward Rochester.

I-149-002

If the ultimate goal is to send energy to Chicago, why not follow the existing railroads as indicated in the attached article or follow the existing interstate system?

Special uses or circumstances on your property

I-149-003

We are located on Lewiston Blvd, directly east of Hampton. Route A4 cuts across the middle of fields (ours and others). We would encourage locating lines along current property boundaries. Cutting across fields would make use of center pivot irrigation impossible and would add considerable time and difficulty to planting, harvesting and maintaining crops.

The single-pole tower placed on property lines would be easier to work (farm) around than the two-pole style.

Most sensitive resources

Cultural—We chose this location in 1988, not only to maintain our own farm, but also to be able to view farmland and natural resources. We do not wish to look out our windows and see towers and wires.

I-149-001

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

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

I-149-002

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

I-149-003

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

Project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained.

I-149-004

The project description and purpose were adequately explained, but I am skeptical of the real need to add additional transmission lines. It would have been nice to have more information on why the lines need to be installed and why the existing lines cannot be replaced and/or upgraded to handle increased electrical demand without taking over new areas.

I-149-005

I would encourage choosing the site option and equipment option that provides the least disruption to production agriculture. Placing towers in existing property (fence) lines, highway rights of way, non-farmable areas, etc., is much better than placing towers within fields. Field placement would make it difficult to use larger equipment (planters, etc.) and would limit use of irrigation equipment (center pivots, etc.).

Contact information

Chuck Clanton
23005 Lewiston Blvd.
Hampton, MN 55031-9744
612-625-9218 (day)
cjclanton@umn.edu

I-149-004

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

I-149-005

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

NSPE <DailyDesigns@nspe.custombriefings.com>
June 18, 2009

Freight Company Considers Allowing Wind Power To Be Routed Along Railroad.


The Wired (6/17, Barry) Autopia blog reported, "Freight company BNSF is considering allowing power companies to use its railroad rights-of-way...to route transmission lines from remote wind farms to major cities. In exchange, BNSF would get lower electric bills and a constant source of power for their locomotives should BNSF go electric." Such a deal "would position rail companies to benefit from any future "cap-and-trade" emissions policies," and could also "cut emissions as diesel locomotives are replaced with electric trains," which would "be a boon for domestic locomotive manufacturers." However, "the Association of American Railroads warns that many railway lines don't have the capacity to run both freight and passenger trains."

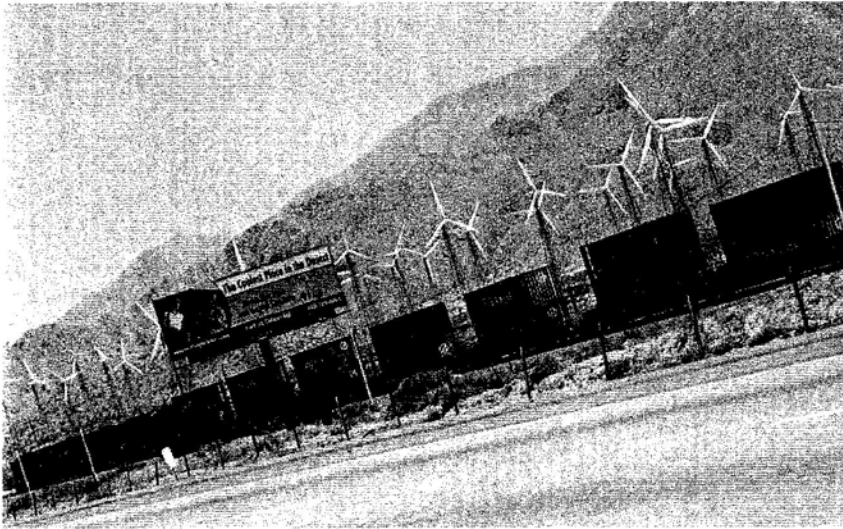
<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2009/06/rail-wind/>

Autopia

Planes, Trains, Automobiles and the Future of Transportation

All Aboard the Wind-Powered Railway

By Keith Barry  June 17, 2009 | 1:41 pm | Categories: [Infrastructure](#), [Rail](#)



The marriage of railway operators and wind farms could bring renewable energy to more people and energy-saving, higher-speed locomotives to America's rails.

Freight company BNSF is considering allowing power companies to use its railroad rights-of-way (such as the [Chicago-to-California Transcon](#)) to route transmission lines from remote wind farms to major cities. In exchange, BNSF would get lower electric bills and a constant source of power for their locomotives should BNSF go electric, according to [RailwayAge Magazine](#).

The concept makes sense. Railroad rights-of-way tend to be largely hidden from view but they also lead to major population centers, and they could pass big midwestern wind farms. A wind-and-rail combination would position rail companies to benefit from any future "cap-and-trade" emissions policies. It also could cut emissions as diesel locomotives are replaced with electric trains, and investments in wind power would help further offset emissions.

Electrification also would be a boon for domestic locomotive manufacturers — such as Cleveland's [EMD](#) and [GE Transportation Systems](#) — which would begin building all-new electric locomotives to meet increased demand.

Still, electrification isn't without controversy. According to *RailwayAge*, many rail experts believe electrification is the first step toward running high-speed passenger trains on existing freight corridors. The Association of American Railroads warns that many railway lines don't have the capacity to run both freight and passenger trains.

Photo: [Flickr/tom.arthur](#)

Tags: [Electric Vehicles](#), [Emissions](#)

[Post Comment](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments (0)

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

I-150-010 | Need wasn't discussed other than to just move power where it is needed.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Davidson

Representing (Optional): Karen, Davidson Family Landowner

Mailing Address: 46673 70th Ave

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55944

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-273-9250 Cell

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

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

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

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Family owned nature area

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

AGG
I-150-001

Sect. 31
Drainage tile - much of the land north of highway 60 drains north
to site of proposed line with main tile lines in possible pble route. Concerned
about damage due to compaction / construction. Replacement home building site located
(old site) in trees 1/2 mile north of Bombay.

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

Agricultural / ^{Cultural} Biological with oak trees and a combination of natural
beauty a you come out of 150 year old Holden Church and down its
side walk looking to the south.

I-150-001

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

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

Submitted 06/29/09

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? WANAMINGO

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

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

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

- I-150-003 | Usage and damage to agricultural property from compaction, long term interference with agricultural operations and drainage in farmland issues.
- I-150-002 | There should not be two (2) electrical easements through the same property within a half mile of each other serving either the same power group (Xcel). They should have to be combined into one line so the same landowners that gave up 55 years ago (an easement) for \$50 per pole (eg land rents would bring in yearly more income) don't have to give again for minimal dollars.

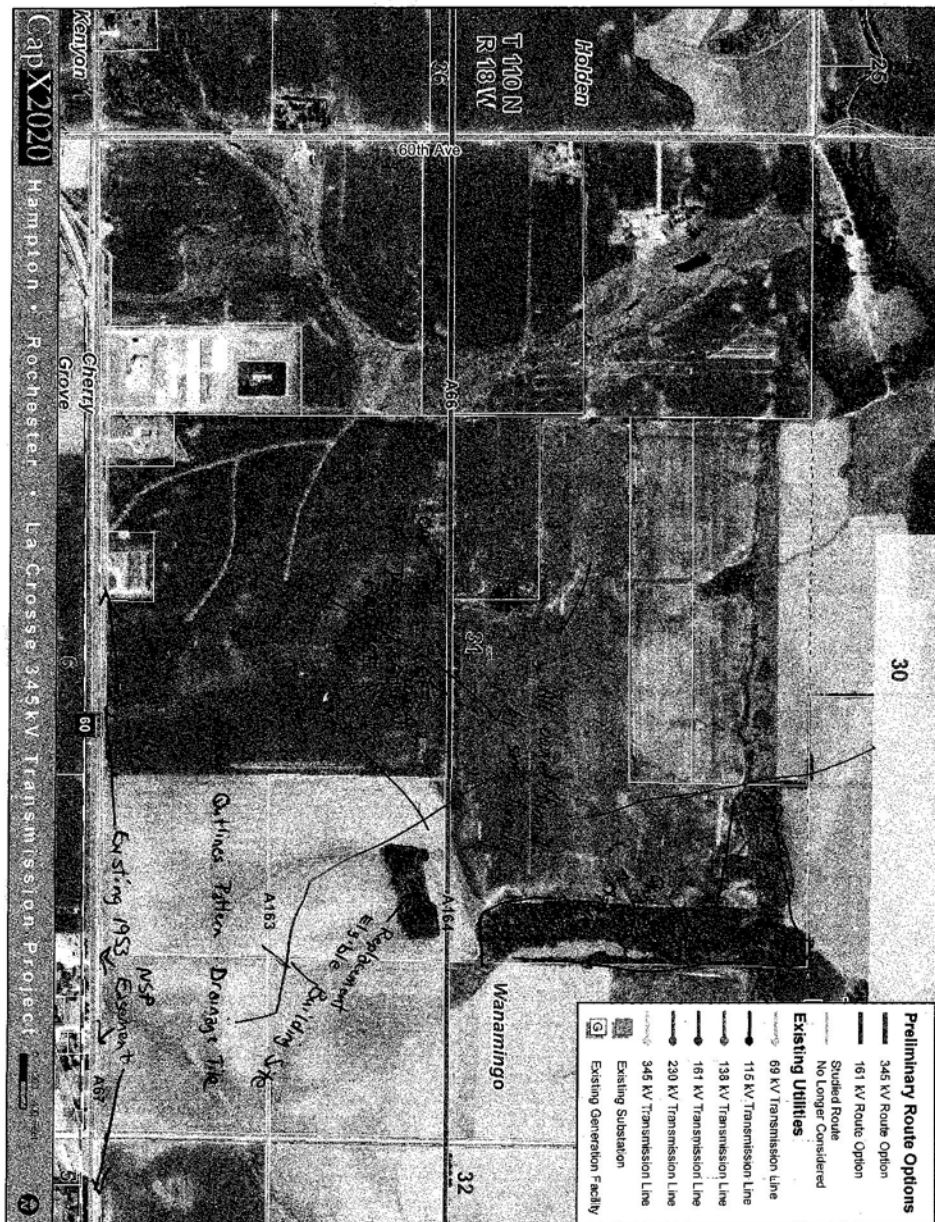
Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-150-002

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

I-150-003

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



Resubmitted 06/28/09 to emphasize
A-68
A-66
Linqs
Concerns.

CapX2020

CapX2020

COMMENT FORM

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.
Please submit comments by the following means:
• Leave this form at the open house.
• Mail the form or a letter to the address below.
• Submit comments electronically at www.capx2020.com/comments.html.
Please mail this form or electronically submit your comments by January 11, 2009.

Keel Energy
200 S. 1st St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404-9437

Tom Jellison
Keel Energy
P.O. Box 9437
Minneapolis, MN 55406-9437

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions on the SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Project and return your completed form today or mail by January 11, 2009. Your comments will help us plan and implement the project. Thank you.
Completion of this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.
☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list.
Which meeting did you attend? Capitol Hill WAPMHC
How did you hear about this meeting?
☐ Newsletter ☒ Flyer ☐ Internet
☐ Newspaper ☐ Word of Mouth ☐ Other _____

Please check the specific area(s) of the project that are of interest to you.
☐ Hampton Center Substation Siting Area ☐ Wisconsin-Mississippi River Crossing
☐ Cannon River/Cannon Falls Area ☐ La Crosse-Mississippi River Crossing
☐ U.S. Highway 52 Corridor ☐ Mississippi River Crossing
☒ MN Highway 55/50 Corridor ☐ North La Crosse Substation Siting Area
☐ Rochester Area ☐ Wisconsin Corridor
☐ Interstate Highway 90 Corridor ☐ North Rochester 151-kV Corridor

Other Area(s): _____
Please check the following criteria that are important to you for routing in the specific area(s)?
☐ Visual and Aesthetic Resources ☒ Priority to Residents
☐ Land Use (Agriculture, Recreation) ☒ Water Resources (Wetlands/Floodplains)
☐ Biological Resources ☐ Historic and Cultural Sites
☒ Radio and Television Interference ☐ Noise
☒ Health and Safety ☐ Other _____

I-150-011

CapX2020

Please use the space below to provide comments on the specific area(s) and routing criteria for the project as identified on the previous page.

Specific concern: MAP A-6B Cherry Grove Twp. Sect. 546

- ① Application of John Fertilizer on corn at heading corn is at max height so it must be done by air. Practice is just getting started by doing potato ridges. The website at <http://n.b5x.net/1/4/613636474/Crop-Insights-2.pdf> How are these losses figured into a perpetual easement payment? (untreated land under the lines and where access cannot get close enough due to power lines)

I-150-004

I-150-007

Line construction/maintenance would not follow roads so all construction equipment would compact fields decreasing yields for years in areas equipment drove and used. Pattern tile drainage lines cause water to go and are important to crop growth and maybe damaged causing needed repairs. Many times these repairs have resulted in sediment with the lines which shows up in the main lines years later as a plugged line down the drainage basin from the repaired lines. Some of these drain tile are only 3' deep and 45' apart on top on other lines 4' deep 90' apart. This was done due to the high water table / springs in Sect. 6. The occupant house at 46673 10th Ave has a 35' deep well caused with limestone that has always met this farm water needs. These are indicative of a very high water table only feet from the proposed line.

- ③ Farm machinery stored in shed 20' from proposed line (at 46673 10th Ave) is almost all equipped with electronic GPS equipment used for steering, planting, sprayer boom controls with mapping down to 1/2" spacing (GPS/Mach of its required records), harvesting records, etc. kept electronically on compact flash cards or PDA's. Data cards.

I-150-005

I've heard that the 345 kv line near Goodhue / Rembrandt has interfered with these electronic systems. Satellite dishes, cell phone tower, & GPS satellites

I-150-006

all need access to south facing sky so will these lines interfere? Cell phone antennas are used in the yard and wireless internet in shed is served from the house, will there be interference? Personal safety from electric fields located this close to the line for 8 to 10 hours some days this close to the line is also questioned?

Please share your thoughts on the public involvement process and the public open house meetings held to date:

I feel the information / notification has been good. The meetings do allow us to voice concerns but whether they are taken into consideration is always in question but at least we have the opportunity to offer input. The Dec 18th Citizen Public Meeting had a very nice, helpful young lady from Duane working at it. She was very good at helping us.

Please provide any other comments on the SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Project.

All routes should run along either roads or existing right of ways. Hwy 52 route / I-90, because the deal break as no farming runs through these areas and the busier highway etc. stops at these roads. If that could resolve the easement money (continued travelling as c.w. with any other official / highway) it could help them out and be positive publicity for the CapX2020 project. Hwy 52 corridor is the shortest, most logical route for this line.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jeff Davidson
Representing (Optional): Karen, John, ~~James~~, Donnie, Donelson, Jeff, Steve
Mailing Address: 46673 10th Ave
City: Keosauqua State: MN Zip Code: 55946
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-273-3280 Cell: 507-789-5941 H.
Email (Optional): jedavidson@frontiernet.net

General public scoping for the NEPA process will be initiated in February 2008 for the SE Twin Cities - Rochester - La Crosse 345-kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the scoping list, you will be notified when these meetings are scheduled. Please plan to confirm your involvement in the process and provide your comments when the proposed transmission line corridors are related to alternative routes. We appreciate your input.

Continued on separate sheet.

I-150-004

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

I-150-005

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

I-150-006

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

I-150-007

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

Continuation of Comments Jeff Davidson
 466 73 70th Ave
 Hwy 56/60 Corridor Keeyan, MN 55946
 507-273-9280 Cell
 jcdavidson@frontiernet.net

I-150-008

A-60 In Section 31 of Wauwaming Township
 Instead of going through our field for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of 70th
 Ave, go north at 70th Ave for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile then west along
 property line. It still is our property on one side or both
 for the next mile but it makes farming much easier for planting/
 conservation purposes and it doesn't change the cost or number
 of poles for the line.

I-150-009

A-67 If you choose the Hwy 56/60 route this is the much
 preferred route. Xcel (WSP) already have poles/consent from the ASD's
 which are in the field along Hwy 60. We feel this could be a win/win
 situation as we were told (at Cannon Falls Mtg. Spring 09) that the existing
 line can be added to these ^{new} poles so we would have fewer poles to farm
 around in the one mile that this line presently and in the future would
 affect us. This route permits road access for construction/maintenance,
 minimizes drainage tile damage/interference and allows the continued
 farming including aerial applications of pesticides to corn as the
 poles use the road/ditches as a portion of the R-O-W. Mn-Dot
 would also receive a portion of the R-O-W fees.

I-150-008

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

I-150-009

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

I-150-009

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

I-150-010

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the

Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-150-011

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

personal care from lawyers who care

July 8, 2009

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

Re: CapX 2020
Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse Route Options

Dear Ms. Strength:

We represent Dr. David Lowe and his family with regard to power line routing issues. I write on behalf of the Lowes to strongly object to the proposed routing option that would place a power line directly overhead of the Lowe home.

The proposed power line option at issue here is one of two route options for the north/south 161 kV transmission line running east of Rochester, Minnesota, from the Southeast Rochester/Chester substation northward. The Lowes' home is in the very southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 2 in Haverhill Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. The west-most of the two proposed power line routes is depicted on the CapX 2020 detailed maps as being directly over their home. A copy of the relevant portion of the map is enclosed showing the Lowe property. The home is built only 100 feet or so from the west property line, so if the transmission line follows the property line, the Lowe home would be well within the set back zone, and closer to the transmission corridor than the height of the proposed power line. This is unacceptable from both a safety and aesthetic perspective.

The path of this east-most proposed route is gerrymandered to avoid other residences, and it clearly is a less suitable option than the west-most proposed route.

With this letter Dr. Lowe wants to express in the most vigorous way possible that he will not willingly accept this proposed route, will not ever agree to an easement for such a route, will not



Attorneys

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

Anne M. Dennison**
Associate

Michael D. Klampe
(1947-2001)

I-151-001

LAW OFFICES OF **KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC**

Broadstreet Building | 300 First Avenue NW | Rochester, MN 55901 | 507 288 2447 | fax 507 288 4412 | 800 972 2447 | www.klompelawfirm.com

*Also licensed in Wisconsin

**Also licensed in Iowa

I-151-001

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

USDA Rural Utilities Service
July 8, 2009
Page 2

give up his home, and will take all legal steps available to challenge, delay and otherwise make unsuitable this proposed power line route option that would endanger his family and destroy the aesthetics of his rural home.

Respectfully submitted,

KLAMPE, DELEHANTY & MORRIS, LLC


Mark W. Delehanty

MWD/je
Enclosure

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

Misc/lowe/6802strngthltr





COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

*Like to be on the
mailing list*

Which meeting did you attend? None

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-152-001

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

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

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

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

I-152-001

Section 9
Half of the N.W. Section 9
in Section 9

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Alfred Dhedine

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4236-125th St. N.E.

City: Rochester State: Minn Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): 1-507-753-2024 55906

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend?

Like to be on the list
None, maybe List

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

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

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

I have a Pace Meter

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-153-001

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

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

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

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

I-153-001

Section 9
half of the NW quarter in Section 9

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

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

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Brandon Medene

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4236- 125th St. N.E.

City: Rochester State: Mass. Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): 1-509-753-6024 5596

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

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

July 7-09

Stephanie Strength:

I-154-001

My opinion on this Capx 2020 project is that it is not needed. Electric power demand is going down and with all the effort that is being put forth on energy savings, the demand will either be stagnant or decline further. Once this line is complete the cost will be put on the backs of the rate payers. I am seriously looking into setting up some solar or wind generation on a small scale because right now my electric bill is out of this world!!

The home heating businesses in our area are getting into geo-thermal - solar - and wind for sources of energy. Our electric generating system that we have now is too big and we need to decent-

I-154-002

size our system. If this powerline gets built that will give me an added incentive to get off the grid entirely. The technology is there to do it.

Sincerely,

Marvin Dworschak

53321 City M

Fountain City, WI 54629

I-154-001

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

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

I-154-002

Your comment has been noted.

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

MARVIN DWORSCHAK
53322 Hwy. M
Fountain City, WI 54629
(608) 687-7022

LACROSSE WI 546
08 JUL 2009 PM 1 T



Stephanie Streight
Environment Protection Specialist USDA
Rural Development, Utilities Program
1400 Independence Ave S W Room 2244
Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

20250\$1571



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Winningo - June 17, 2009

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

See attached document.

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

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

Adequately explained

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Julie & Kevin Ellingson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 7880 100 St. NW.

City: Pine Island State: MN Zip Code: 55963

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

June 23, 2009

Julie & Kevin Ellingson
7880 100th Street N.W.
Pine Island, MN 5563

Dear Stephanie Strength,

I am writing in response to CapX2020's tentative plan to place a 161 kv high voltage power line on or near our property. I would like them to consider other options.

I-155-002

My concern is how the possibility of a high voltage power line, near my home, will affect my life. As a result of a chemical poisoning 17 years ago, I have a significant number of health concerns that wouldn't typically concern the average person. Because of this, my husband and I searched for many years to find a property that would fit our requirements. We couldn't have farms fields or neighbors near us that would spray chemicals. We couldn't be near any industrial area or near high traffic roads with exhaust fumes, because of my acute sensitivity to anything with petroleum fumes. Also, I didn't want to be near any high voltage power lines. I won't take up your time with the whole list of criteria. The long and the short of it is that we finally found this property where we built our home. We put extensive research and time into constructing a healthy house, certified by *The American Lung Association*. We constructed our home with mostly alternative materials that didn't contain many of the toxic chemicals in traditional building products. We made our home handicap accessible, in the event that my health deteriorated further. We didn't want to be exposed to magnetic fields, so we routed all the high current wires to lesser-used locations of the house, and placed the electrical panel in the garage. We were careful to place lighting transformers away from highly used areas, and we used electronic fluorescent-lamp ballasts, rather than magnetic, to lower the strength of the magnetic field. Because of all these special considerations, our home cost us 25% more to build.

I-155-003

I understand that CapX2020's official position is that there is not sufficient evidence indicating that EMF's pose a significant health hazard. I would have to respectfully disagree with that. It appears that the majority of the studies that refute this theory are funded by The Electric Power Research Institute, which is sponsored by electric utilities. There is a great deal of research into the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation, and how it affects a cell's membrane, how it affects calcium flow from the cells to the brain, and it's affect on how

cells communicate with each other. The U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, has a summary of the most significant studies that have been done.

If they were to place a high voltage power line near our home, our only alternative would be to move. However, I'm sure you can see how difficult that would be for us, given the criteria that a new location would have to meet. If we sold our home now, we would not recover the additional 25% that we spent to build our home specifically for my health needs. In addition, a high voltage power line on our property would devalue the property 10%. If you add to that the state of a down housing market, I'm sure you can see the tremendous loss we would incur as a result of their decision to place a high voltage power line near our home. We built our home with a plan to stay here until retirement, and we are prepared to fight to do that.

We ask that you take our situation into consideration when evaluating the route plans.

Sincerely,



Julie Ellingson

I-155-001

I-155-001

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

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

I-155-002

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

I-155-003

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? 6 or more, the last at Danawingo on 6-17-09

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

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

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

- I-156-002) Prime farmland
- I-156-001) Interfering with two irrigation systems
- Crops
- More expensive than 52 route
- I don't think we need this through our farm for the attraction of it
- I-156-003) It will interfere with the breeding of our horse business that is done here.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-156-001

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

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

I-156-002

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

I-156-003

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

I-156-004

Your comment has been noted.

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

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

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

*it's in section 344 - the map will
show Hampton Township, Dakota County
Minnesota*

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

*Land Use - Irrigation systems
Interfering with horse breeding*

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

I don't like the lack of deadlines for comments being so subjective.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Mary Lou Endres, Melvin Endres*

Representing (Optional): _____

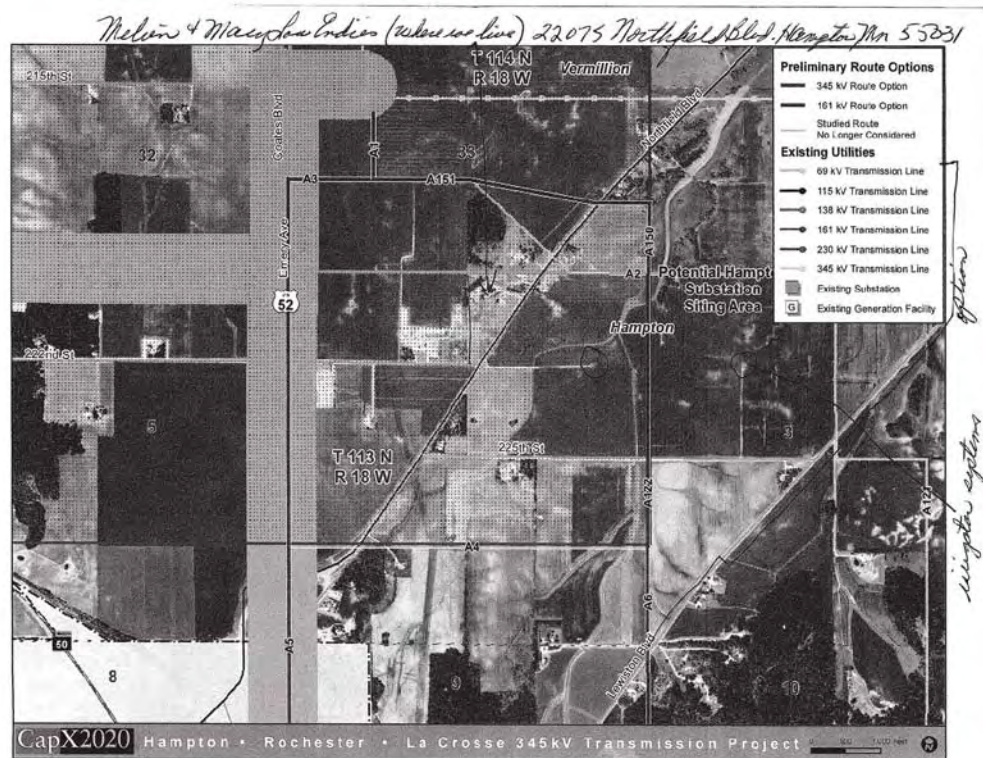
Mailing Address: *32075 Northfield Blvd.*

City: *Hampton* State: *Minnesota* Zip Code: *55031*

Daytime Phone (Optional): *651-437-9654*

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

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



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville, WI, 6/1

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

Ovoid Lowland Forests &
 Sensitive biological communities

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

I-157-009 Biological - Critical Habitats for plants, animals, especially endangered, threatened & special concern species and biological communities such as lowland floodplain forest.

I-157-001 Social/Health siting in highly populated areas.

I-157-010 Cultural - Several Archaeological sites exist near the Mississippi River & tributaries

I-157-001

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

Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will be available on the RUS website at:

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

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

- I-157-002 Very poor presentation of information related to natural resources, existing corridors vs new corridors.
- I-157-003 Critical Areas for biological plants & animal communities not available.
- I-157-004 Maps of proposed routes as handouts not easily obtained
- I-157-005 GIS maps not self explanatory
- I-157-006 Overheard some of the "staff" planning DNR & FWS for moving possible route through Blair without explaining their concerns.
- I-157-007 Overall considering the number of "staff" & resources available, this was a very poor presentation - also very poorly justified.

Please tell us how to reach you. Only one copy of report available for inspection on site

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: C. Glen Everland

Representing (Optional): SELF

Mailing Address: W6888 Casberg Center Rd.

City: Holmen, WI State: 54636 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

- I-157-008 This comment sheet is not adequate.

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

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

I-157-002

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

I-157-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-157-002.

I-157-004

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

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

I-157-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response XXX

I-157-006

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

I-157-007

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely

manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

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

I-157-008

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response XXX

I-157-009

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

I-157-010

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? St Charles - was represented by our Warren twp officer Everett Roling.

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

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

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

I-158-001 Using the existing line to save farm land and wildlife.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-158-001

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

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

I-158-002

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

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

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: wild life

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

Warren twp. Winona County, Minnesota.

We have not logged our woods, and release turkeys yearly. My husband has made
three ponds on our farm for the wildlife and we plant pine tree for small animal
shelter. We feel this line would defiantly hinder our work/enjoyment of wildlife.
Plus, moving equipment around poles and wire lines while farming doesn't sound
very fun...

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

Please read above! We enjoy our peaceful land, we do not allow trappers, we
do not hunt. We do enjoy walks and rides looking for wildlife, paw prints and
eggs or babies, that's how we enjoy our family time on the farm.

I-158-002

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

Everett stated it was very well presented and questions were very welcomed.

Thanks, Sue

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sue & Terry Hackbarth

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 25800 Morning Glory Dr

City: Winona State: MN 55987 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 457 6395 #6 Sue

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

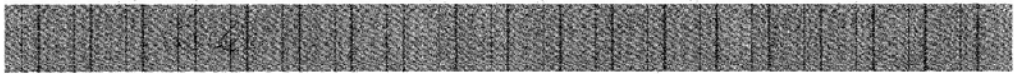
Which meeting did you attend? CFC school

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project



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

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

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

1 mile north of Cochrane, 4 mi. East of Hwy 35

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

I-159-001

The only sensitive resources in the area
are the farm fields

I-159-001

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

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

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

Yes
We need those power lines and dam
all for it.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Leland Haeuser

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: W1530 Seifert Hill La.

City: Alma State: WI 54610 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608 248 2243

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

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

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

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

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

Holden Township

Our township has the highest rating for soil production in the country. Taking acreage out of production, by damage or farming around, would not be good.

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

Most of the farmers in our township are good conservationists. They leave natural growth, including mature trees, along the property line for wildlife and birds. They preserve waterways and lowland areas. These would be eliminated by this project.

It makes more sense to use an established commercial/industrial corridor, like Highway 52, instead of disturbing exceptional farmland.

I-160-001

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

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

I-160-001

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

Which meeting did you attend?

Wanamingo

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mary Hagen

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 1361 Highway 246 Blvd.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): email lazykranch@frontiernet.net

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

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

5420 31st Avenue S.W.
Rochester, MN 55902
July 5, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
11400 Independence Ave. S.W. MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: Cap X 2020 Rochester – LaCrosse 345 KV Project Routes B17 & B18 RUS EIS

Dear Ms Strength:

We support, respect, and appreciate the need to plan for the future and meet the growth demands for electrical services in S.E. Minnesota caused by the growth in both population and business in the area. Likewise, today's need for personal stress relief with quiet and solitude or leisure activities and leisure open space is a growing situation and priority in people's lives. Public and private recreational areas, residential sites close to nature, and adjacency to water away from the pressures of urban city living, is a highly sought after and premium commodity for this reason. This section of the Zumbro river valley and Lake Zumbro are the closest adjacency to Rochester and one of the few useable lakes and rivers in S.E. Minnesota. To run a 345 K.V. high pole power line through this rural community is a hard-core, maximum impact, incompatible industrial intrusion, and should not be done. What is the total impact?

- Personal impact: Purchased 80 acres to provide future personal home site and residential development at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars.
- Invested tens of thousands of dollars to create a roadway access over 2,400 feet long to building sites.
- Invested several thousand dollars to get electric services into property.
- I am very concerned about the visual as well as electrical and magnetic field impact on my use of this property, especially my location being developed as a home site. It is only 100 to 300 feet from the proposed route B18 center line.
- I am concerned about the noise issues that come with high power lines. Included is the power "hum" at quiet times and the "whistle" created by high winds along the bluffs. How disruptive are these items to the serenity of the valley?
- This portion of the bluff has a substantial iron content in the subsurface rock. (a mining company once owned it with the intent of mining iron ore.) How does this impact or extend the magnetic field influence?
- My property value, resale and future residential development potential will be substantially impaired with the power line running full length of the property. What is this loss?
- If necessary, I am prepared to hire appraisal and legal counsel to cause an adversarial take of the entire 80 acres due to the negative impacts if this route is chosen.
- Routing a major trunk power line through this location along the bluffs and across the Lake Zumbro would present a major negative visual impact both upstream and downstream through the heart of this beautiful, rural community setting. What is the magnitude of the impact on the quality of life in the adjacent area?

I-161-001

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

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

I-161-002

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

I-161-005

I-161-006

I-161-007

I-161-008

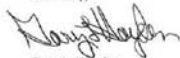
I-161-001

I-161-002

- I-161-003** • The bluffland zoning ordinance in this area is highly controlling for any visual impact or disruption to the bluffs. Construction of roads and buildings by individual landowners is prohibited in this zone for that reason. Should a power line be exempted from this policy/philosophy?
- I-161-009** • The Minnesota D.N.R. has previously considered and is currently pursuing a "scenic and wild river" formal designation for this area to preserve the natural beauty of the river, bluffs and valley for the benefit of the general public. How does the proposed power line fit it?
- Topography along this route rises up to 320 feet vertically from the river to the bluff top (El 860 – El. 1180).
- There are numerous steep slopes, cross slopes and ravines to be crossed with the route identified. Some slopes are in the 90 foot vertical rise per 100 foot horizontal distance category.
- I-161-010** • A portion of the soils along the river terraces are very sandy and highly erodible. Construction and maintenance traffic is detrimental and is an environmental risk. Currently there are locations in this area with serious erosion caused by past logging operations. What is the potential impact from the power line clearing, construction, and ongoing maintenance?
- I-161-011** • There is a longstanding occupied eagle's nest along this river bluff within 100 feet of route B18. Are high voltage power lines compatible with this and the waterfowl nesting areas along this river?
- I-161-012** • Maintenance access to service this area would be quite difficult. In addition to the slope and cross slope issues, there are few roads in the area. Access would need to come from the east end and travel the easement right of way over very rugged terrain for over a mile to access the westerly portions of this route. Is this the best route for maintenance needs?
- I-161-013** • There are two private Christian camps adjacent to our property: Camp Victory abuts our west property line and is a large growing summer camp for children and year around adult retreats. They have their primitive tent camping all along the bluff terrace where route B18 is proposed. Woodland Camp, a long established camp for children and adult groups lays full length along our south property line and would be significantly impacted by route B18. Route B18 goes directly through their camp and could well put them out of business. Is that appropriate and necessary?
- I-161-004** Notwithstanding, we suggest serious consideration of meeting the power grid expansion by utilizing existing roadway and utility easements and right of way, such as the County Highway 12 and 247 corridors that already disrupt the countryside environmentally. Another option would be to transverse this area further north at a location with lesser scenic bluffland, environmental, recreational, and residential impacts.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns and better understand the environmental impacts of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Hayden

(507) 289-6744

I-161-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Bluffland ordinances are outside of the RUS jurisdiction, however the routing process will follow established statutes.

I-161-004

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

I-161-005

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

I-161-006

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

I-161-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from operational noise will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-161-008

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

I-161-009

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

I-161-010

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

I-161-011

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

I-161-012

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

I-161-013

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

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

July 13th, 2009

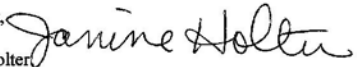
Dear Stephanie A Strength

I am writing you as a concerned citizen against CAPX2020 a 1.7 billion dollar high tower power transmission line that big energy companies are trying to force upon Minnesotans. Please do what you can to oppose this effort:

- I-162-001 | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-162-005 | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm — including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-162-002 | 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-162-003 | 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-162-006 | 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of hunting and fishing in SE Minnesota. The beauty in SE Minnesota is unmatched in the state. I also know many fine taxpaying citizens who live or have retired to this area. One I know in particular has the proposed power line cutting his beautiful farm in half, with the power line proposed over his home! This farm has been confirmed by the MN DNR to have rare endangered plants. What a shame if this fact is ignored! The cost of this project is not worth the destruction of such a beautiful area. If it must be built, which I question its necessity; it should follow already established corridors and highways.

Sincerely,


Janine Holter
610 Nelson Blvd
Montrose MN

I-162-001

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

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

I-162-002

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

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

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

I-162-003

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

I-162-004

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

I-162-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line, health and safety, socioeconomic resources, agriculture, wildlife, and vegetation will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-162-006

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? St Charles (-by proxy-)
MN

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

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need — Electricity Demand is falling past several years
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources — In Valley, Towers are 2 1/2 Valley Depth
- ☒ Proximity to residences — Too close to my house → decreases value
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation) [See below]
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors) —
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites — Crosses very close to Native burial sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety — I have to drive under every day ~ 4x
- ☒ Other: Blinking Tower lights on 3 sides of me
as lines come off ridge - into valley & back up on another ridge

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

- ① In Winona Transmission Lines Cross
Pleasant Valley (County Rd 17) Through
last open spaces in Area City of Winona has and
is annexing from Wilson Township - intended building
sites for ~ 500 homes.
- ② Crosses Native prairie, interferes with Mississippi
Flyway. Crosses Agahaming Park + Preserve
in Winona. Important nesting & feeding site for
listed (rare, threatened, endangered) species

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
but also large gardens + orchard; Spectacular
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

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

I live in Pleasant Valley along Side ^{Winans} County Road 17
in Wilson Township. I have retired and will
sell my home in next few years. Power line
nearby (2-4 miles) and under which I will have
to drive will decrease the value of my property.

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

- Crosses Native ~~hitt~~ ridge Side ^{Pleasant} ^{Valley} ^{Winans} ^{Winans}
- Crosses near or over Native American
burial sites (depending on precise location)

Fragments Miss Valley Bluff forests which are
critical for small bird migration + feeding/resting spots

Crosses through Winans's Agassiz Park + Preserve —
a wildlife Refuge + home to bird + mammal species
concern species

Power line corridor construction will vastly spread
invasive species of a major concern here: common + glossy buckthorn,
garlic mustard, leafy spurge, honeysuckle, Queen Anne's lace,
wild parsnip

I-163-001

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

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

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

I-163-002

Ver View

Apparently did not mention that U.S. electricity needs are falling for past several years - as described in Wall Street Journal and several technical/scientific journals I subscribe to.

I-163-003

~~Adequately~~ Did not adequately address fairness of me and most other Minnesota residents in paying for power lines when the power is not coming from power lines. Buried for points east of Minnesota should NOT be at our expense.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: C. Jefferson

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 28067 County Rd 17

City: Winona

State: MN

Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

I-163-002

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

I-163-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-002.

I-163-004

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

I-163-005

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

I-163-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-163-005.

I-163-007

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Waukegan, IL

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

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

I-164-002 ☒ Other: Effects on farmers working the fields and defoliation

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

If Live goes thru - farmers with defoliators operating
machinery can't get close to the line. will have
to hire people to work fields + harvest close to + under lines.

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

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

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

Property Value Decreasing

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

I-164-001

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

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

I-164-002

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Robert W. Kettner

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 48820 County 55 Blvd.

City: Pine Island State: MN Zip Code: 55963

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-356-8124

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? PLAINVIEW

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

I-165-001

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need AS PLANNED NOW, IN NORTHEAST ROCHESTER, IF THE B120 LINE IS USED, THIS WOULD PLACE A 61KV, 164KV, AND 345KV LINE ALL WITHIN A 1/2 MILE OF EACH OTHER. WHY NOT USE OR UPGRADE THE EXISTING 69KV OR 161KV LINES? AGAIN WHY NOT USE EXISTING ROUTES?
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings) THE B120 ROUTE OPTION IS PLANNED TO RUN DIRECTLY OVER THE TOP OF OUR HOME
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety — AS ABOVE, MY FAMILY AND I WILL BE LIVING RIGHT UNDERNEATH THE B120 LINE
- ☐ Other: _____

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

I-165-002

PLEASE USE EXISTING ROUTES.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-165-001

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

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

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

I-165-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-165-001.

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

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

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

NORTHEAST ROCHESTER, UNDERNEATH PLANNED B120 LINE

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

I-165-003

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

NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY EVERY EFFORT IS NOT BEING MADE TO USE EXISTING ROUTES AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: DAVID LOWE

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 6007 65TH STREET NE

City: ROCHESTER State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 259-2925

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

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

I-165-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-165-001.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? June 23, 2009 10:00 a.m.
at Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, WI

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

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

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

I-166-004 Eastern MN & Western WI - the driftless area, has
beautiful bluffs & valleys. The city of
La Crosse, and the nearby area, continue to
work hard to preserve the beauty of
this area. Although I don't consider the
windmills to be ugly, the idea of huge
power lines moving across MN & WI makes me
wonder if this is the correct way to produce
electricity.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

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

I-166-001

I believe Crossing the Mississippi R.
at any point will have some serious
biological impacts. Also, the footprint
of these huge poles needed for
the power lines will be much
wider than present lines. Think of
the disturbance that this will create
environmentally!

I-166-001

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

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

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

I-166-002

*the project description was fine —
purpose and need not clear
to me*

I-166-003

*I wish we could move away from the
idea of huge utilities providing
the energy needs of an area. I
wish we could move toward more
local community provision of
energy: solar panels on residences, businesses,
etc.; hydroelectricity produced by ^{runoff} rivers; using
waste gases for energy; etc.*

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Beverly J. Mach
Representing (Optional): La Crosse County Bd (^{but} my own opinions)
Mailing Address: 2538 S. 30th St.
City: La Crosse State: WI Zip Code: 54601
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

I-166-002

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

I-166-003

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

I-166-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-166-003.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview, Mn

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

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

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

Proximity to Residential because of health & safety
Concerns. Being close to dairy farms where they would have to
work under the power lines a lot, and the negative effect the
lines could have on their dairy operations.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

My address is 4514 Hwy 247 N.E. Elgin, MN. 55932. I live along Route B43-B118-B162 (on the map). The power line is running down the fence line behind my house which is within 25 yards of the fence. There is also two other residential homes in close proximity to where the line would be running. I believe that routes B-93-B159-B162, ~~SE~~ B93-B161-B160 would be a better alternative with less impact on homes, dairy farms and agriculture use.

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

Recreational because of closehess to homes with health and safety concerns, the effect on the land with the operation of Dairy farms and other agriculture use in the Project area.

I-167-001

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

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

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

I would just say that the people in the project areas being considered need to be kept updated.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Glenn Malwitz

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4514 Hwy 247 N.E.

City: Elgin State: MN Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-951-0170

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview Mn June 16/09

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

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

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

I have A DAIRY farm with crops
and ALFALFA. I AM IN ALFALFA FIELDS
20 times year cutting RAKES, BALING, feeding,
etc. will have to work AROUND poles
and under these LINES every Spring, Summer & Fall
See MAP showing contours & STRIPS

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

"See Attached"

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eldon Malwitz

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 10852 40th AVE NE

City: Elgin State: MN Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 273-8985

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

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

Special uses and circumstances on our property that should be considered when assessing the Project.

Our property is located in Sec 16 Farmington Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota.

The Capx 2020 electric lines are proposed to run down the middle of our property. Our Dairy farm has very hilly land and we therefore have a large number of crop contours on our farm. We have a high proportion of Alfalfa hay production because of rolling land (*See Reference #1*). We harvest our hay 4 times a year we spend a lot of time in the alfalfa fields. We plant the hay, spray for insects, fertilize the hay, cut the hay, rake the hay, bale the hay each harvest so we are on the land at least 20 times a year. This will make the power lines inconvenient for us versus a corn and soybean farmer which may go over their land 3 times a year. **We think a better solution is to run the power line to County RD 11 (B160 on the map) and then go south on Co Rd 11 because it will not be running down the middle of the fields and instead will be on the edge of Co RD 11 or to run the power line down B159.**

There are 3 dairy farms along the current proposal that will be badly affected by the power lines and there are **no** dairy farms along Co Rd 11(B160) or down route (B159). There are also a lot less farm residences on Co Rd 11 and down route B159 than under the current proposal.

The proposal of running the power line through the middle of our land is going to decrease the value of our land substantially. You can imagine the financial impact this will have on us. Even if we never sell the property, and our children inherit the land, it reduces the value that we or our future generations can borrow against the land. If the power lines can be run down on the edge of a road it will not put as much financial hardship on our farm property that is why we also like running the power line down Co Rd 11(B160) or down B159.

We also understand that the easement rights will be half as expensive if the power line is shifted to a road versus down the middle of our property. We therefore believe there are better alternatives than the current on running through the middle of our farm.

I-168-001

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

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

I-168-002

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



COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Watched on TV - Winona City Hall

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

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

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

1. Court challenges and legal costs of valuations for taken/condemned property in a municipal environment.
2. Impact on housing and future development for residential, agricultural, and industrial land use needs.
3. Impact on the number of potential jobs lost.
4. Impact on the potential loss of tourist infusion into the community.
5. Impact on safety issues such as downed lines from tornadoes, ice storms and various other safety concerns for individuals, schools, and industries.
6. Impact on communications (cell phones) and health concerns.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

1. The esthetic view from my home looks at the beautiful wooded bluffs that would be destroyed or denuded of those trees and replaced by huge ugly power poles and lines.
2. The distance from my property is within a couple of blocks or very close proximity to my property damaging the current and future land use of this area. It would diminish my homes value and ability to sell it at all or for it's true financial value creating a significant monetary loss on my investment.
3. I have a very fragile health and any additional electromagnetic forces could result in further damage to my immune system resulting in premature death. It would be a concern for anyone's health.
4. My husband is an amateur radio operator and the electromagnetic forces including the associated radiation

I-169-001

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational,

1. Our environmental and esthetic resources in our valley are vital to tourism for the beauty of the Bluffs and the recreational use of the Bridges Golf Course. Touring Midwest bicycle group comes here yearly to be challenged by the bluffs route on Hwy. 17 as well as a yearly classic automobile clubs to tour up our Hwy.
2. 17. This is an important tourist city and county bringing in significant tourist financial impact for our community. The bluffs are also to be protected because it was the home to the Dakota Indians and there are concerns and evidence that their may be burial sights in the bluff ridge line caves and valley Native American artifacts that might be damaged in the proposed power line project.
3. From a biological standpoint, I am not only concerned about the regional and migrating birds, rare or endangered animals and delicate and perhaps endangered plant species in the proposed path of these lines, but I am very concerned about the health and human exposure to the electromagnetic forces and radiation. The proposed lines would be within blocks of our Middle School, and would expose and endanger the young lives of all of our entire school district children. It is also within, I believe a mile of our Vocational School. It has been proven in research studies that these line have been a contributing factor in the rise of Leukemia and Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome as presented at the International CFS Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 2006. I still have the research paper in my file. Our most valuable resource is the lives and health of our children.
4. Land use for future industrial and residential expansion in our community would be significantly damaged with enormous financial loss to the city and adjacent townships land owners. We have very precious little land as it is and to have this taken away from us either directly or by proximity to the lines would be devastating.
5. These lines would also more than likely interfere with sensitive electronic equipment used in our manufacturing plants and also expose our workers to potential spark and static electrical interference or fires with combustible materials adjacent to the lines. There is a large ethanol distributing facility, polymer composites, and sensitive electronic manufacturing in the immediate proximity to the lines. This could be a dangerous and damaging mix. Another valuable resource at risk are jobs and the safety of workers.

I-169-003

I-169-001

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

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

I-169-002

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

I-169-003

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

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

Document is attached.

1. There was inadequate discussion on alternatives to large transmission lines, such as regional power plants with lower voltage distribution in areas of need. (Example: Minneapolis and Rochester are growing. They could now be serviced by the construction of a nuclear power plant between those two developing areas reducing the need for long distance super high voltage power lines spread over a long distance with the accompanying loss of electrical energy along this proposed distribution grid.
2. There was no discussion of the use of hydroelectric generation along the Mississippi River water way at the existing dams that have been built to accommodate electrical generation. (I know the engineer that was in charge of the renovation of several of the dams in recent years).
3. There was no discussion of the East and West Coast Blackouts due to just one inline problem that took the whole grid system down a few years ago. With regional isolated grids with several smaller strategically placed power plants, wind, solar, water and clean coal (new scrubbers) along with new technology nuclear, we could minimize the safety of the whole country not going black.
4. There was not discussion of electrical regulation that would monitor monopoly purchase and sale/exchanges of electricity on this large grid. Who would pay for all of the infrastructure and impacts? Who would benefit, certainly not Winona?
5. With newer computers, monitors, televisions, lights, and other electrical appliances using less electricity than before, there was no attempt from what I could see to update future demand estimates based on new information.
6. Has natural gas burn off in the coal fields or refineries ever evaluated for capturing and use to generate steam powered regional electrical power?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 - 454 - 3800

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

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

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

leonemauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

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

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

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

Negative Impacts include:

- 1) Environmental issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor. The environmental issues include plant and wildlife species.
- 2) Health issues associated with the increased electromagnetic forces along the route of the proposed Winona corridor.
- 3) Impact on residential development along the proposed Winona corridor.

The limited amount of residential land available limits the development of a strong industrial base. The lack of housing diminishes the opportunity for manufacturing development.
- 4) Impact on manufacturing development along the proposed Winona Corridor; and, the concurrent decrease in manufacturing positions.
- 5) Tourism will experience the negative aspect as related to the natural beauty of this area; including the bluff lands.

Sincerely yours,



Leone J. Mauszycki

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, Minnesota 55987-6221

507 - 4354 -3800

leonemauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

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

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

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

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The limited amount of residential land available limits the development of a strong industrial base. The lack of housing diminishes the opportunity for manufacturing development.
- 4) Impact on manufacturing development along the proposed Winona Corridor; and, the concurrent decrease in manufacturing positions.
- 5) Tourism will experience the negative aspect as related to the natural beauty of this area; including the bluff lands.

Sincerely yours,



Leone J. Mauszycki

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

My property:

I am concerned for the devaluation of my property because of the following:

1. The esthetic view from my home looks at the beautiful wooded bluffs that would be destroyed or denuded of those trees and replaced by huge ugly power poles and lines.
2. The distance from my property is within a couple of blocks or very close proximity to my property damaging the current and future land use of this area. It would diminish my homes value and ability to sell it at all or for it's true financial value creating a significant monetary loss on my investment.
3. I have a very fragile health and any additional electromagnetic forces could result in further damage to my immune system resulting in premature death. It would be a concern for anyone's health.
4. My husband is an amateur radio operator and the electromagnetic forces including the associated radiation would significantly impair his radio reception or broadcasting. He also has used his abilities and station for civil defense and emergency services which have been vital for storm and other emergency services to our region.
- I-169-004 5. The power lines would probably interfere with our radio and TV reception since the main TV, Radio, and Internet service line is not buried in our area leaving it fully exposed in the air to noise interference creating fuzzy TV pictures as well as radio static and internet difficulties with grounding etc.

Sensitive Resources:

1. Our environmental and esthetic resources in our valley are vital to tourism for the beauty of the Bluffs and the recreational use of the Bridges Golf Course. Touring Midwest bicycle group comes hear yearly to be challenged by the bluffs route on Hwy. 17 as well as a yearly classic automobile clubs to tour up our Hwy. 17. This is an important tourist city and county bringing in significant tourist financial impact for our community.
2. The bluffs are also to be protected because it was the home to the Dakota Indians and there are concerns and evidence that their my be burial sights in the bluff/ridge line caves and valley Native American artifacts that might be damaged in the proposed power line project.

I-169-004

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

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

3. From a biological standpoint, I am not only concerned about the regional and migrating birds, rare or endangered animals and delicate and perhaps endangered plant species in the proposed path of these lines, but I am very concerned about the health and human exposure to the electromagnetic forces and radiation. The proposed lines would be within blocks of our Middle School, and would expose and endanger the young lives of all of our entire school district children. It is also within, I believe a mile of our Vocational School. It has been proven in research studies that these line have been a contributing factor in the rise of Leukemia and Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome as presented at the International CFS Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 2006. I still have the research paper in my file. Our most valuable resource is the lives and health of our children.
4. Land use for future industrial and residential expansion in our community would be significantly damaged with enormous financial loss to the city and adjacent townships land owners. We have very precious little land as it is and to have this taken away from us either directly or by proximity to the lines would be devastating.
5. These lines would also more than likely interfere with sensitive electronic equipment used in our manufacturing plants and also expose our workers to potential spark and static electrical interference or fires with combustible materials adjacent to the lines. There is a large ethanol distributing facility, polymer composites, and sensitive electronic manufacturing in the immediate proximity to the lines. This could be a dangerous and damaging mix. Another valuable resource at risk are jobs and the safety of workers.

Project Description:

1. There was inadequate discussion on alternatives to large transmission lines, such as regional power plants with lower voltage distribution in areas of need. (Example: Minneapolis and Rochester are growing. They could now be serviced by the construction of a nuclear power plant between those two developing areas reducing the need for long distance super high voltage power lines spread over a long distance with the accompanying loss of electrical energy along this proposed distribution grid.
2. There was no discussion of the use of hydroelectric generation along the Mississippi River water way at the existing dams that have been built to accommodate electrical generation. (I know the engineer that was in charge of the renovation of several of the dams in recent years).

Leone J. Mauszycki
1671 Valley View Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-3800

3. There was no discussion of the East and West Coast Blackouts due to just one inline problem that took the whole grid system down a few years ago. With regional isolated grids with several smaller strategically placed power plants, wind, solar, water and clean coal (new scrubbers) along with new technology nuclear, we could minimize the safety of the whole country not going black.
4. There was not discussion of electrical regulation that would monitor monopoly purchase and sale/exchanges of electricity on this large grid. Who would pay for all of the infrastructure and impacts? Who would benefit, certainly not Winona?
5. With newer computers, monitors, televisions, lights, and other electrical appliances using less electricity than before, there was no attempt from what I could see to update future demand estimates based on new information.
6. Has natural gas burn off in the coal fields or refineries ever evaluated for capturing and use to generate steam powered regional electrical power?

Other Key Issues:

1. Court challenges and legal costs of valuations for taken/condemned property in a municipal environment.
2. Impact on housing and future development for residential, agricultural, and industrial land use needs.
3. Impact on the number of potential jobs lost.
4. Impact on the potential loss of tourist infusion into the community.
5. Impact on safety issues such as downed lines from tornadoes, ice storms and various other safety concerns for individuals, schools, and industries.
6. Impact on communications (cell phones) and health concerns.

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

507 - 4354 -3800

tmauszycki@charter.net

June 29th, 2009

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

To the CAPX2020 Administrative Body:

I-170-001 I oppose the development of the CAPX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-KV Transmission Line Project through the proposed Winona corridor which will cross the Mississippi River.

Negative Impacts include:

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

Sincerely yours,


Thomas E. Mauszycki D.D.S.

I-170-001

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview 6/16/2009

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

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

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

Costs to clear land.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

- Our land is enrolled in the
Land Stewardship program.
- The value of our property will be greatly
reduced.
- Our plans to sell our property in the near
future will be difficult until the actual
route is defined.

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

Biological: Section B32 runs along our
southern border. The entire area of which consists
of woods and a fence row. The fence row is a stand
of 100 year old oak trees. Habitat for bees, birds and
mammals will be eliminated along with a much
needed wind break. You could not build a
power line in a worse place.

Please see our attached memo.

I-171-001

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

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

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

Yes.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Daniel & Jane McCann, 55743 299th Ave. Millville MN 55957

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional):

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

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

CapX2020 Environmental Concerns

I-171-003

Section B32 of the proposed CapX power line runs along the southern border of our property. The entire area of which consists of woods and a fencerow. The fencerow is a stand of 100-year-old oak trees. These trees, along with a wide swatch of grass underneath, have been left undisturbed for years and for good reason. It provides habitat for pheasants, deer, turkeys and birds. Bees nest in multiple trees and migrating Monarch butterflies use it to rest during migration. Sitting high on a ridge, the fencerow provides a much-needed windbreak to prevent land erosion.

I-171-002

We purchased this land in 1996. Shortly after purchase we enrolled the land in the Minnesota Land Stewardship program. Our desire to protect this land was our intent, and now more than ever remains our passion. In our opinion, optional routes along roads and exiting easements should be used for the proposed power line.

Consider the current environmental conditions. Bee's; a vital link in our existence are on the decline. Pheasants find fewer places to inhabit due to fewer fencerows and a decline in CRP acres. Think about all the efforts and money spent by the ASCS to limit land erosion. Groups like Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the Sierra club, donate large amounts of time and dollars to protect and provide habitat. Who hasn't been exposed to today's hottest buzzwords, "Going Green" and "environmentally friendly"?

To ignore such efforts and build a power line forever destroying vital habitat would be a shame. To hold public environmental meetings only to proceed without total regard to public interest would be hypocrisy. To disrupt the ecosystem when other options are available would demonstrate profound irresponsibility.

"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent thinking".
Aldo Leopold.

Daniel & Jane McCann
55743 299th Ave.
Millville MN 55957

I-171-002

Your comment has been noted. Conservation easements and other existing types of property arrangements are evaluated by the applicant during the routing and siting phase of the project.

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

I-171-003

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

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

Ms. Strength,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed route for the CapX2020 transmission lines.

This would make a very dangerous situation for my flying neighbors and myself as the towers would be constructed only a half mile away from our runway and directly in the traffic pattern.

We all moved to this airpark community because of our love of aviation. This proposed route would cause a huge devalue of our homes as well.

Please reconsider the problems this would cause to our wonderful community.



Marilyn J Niccum
4311 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-172-001

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

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

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

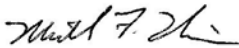
Ms. Strength,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed route for the CapX2020 transmission lines.

This would make a very dangerous situation for my flying neighbors and myself as the towers would be constructed only a half mile away from our runway and directly in the traffic pattern.

We all moved to this airport community because of our love of aviation. This proposed route would cause a huge devalue of our homes as well.

Please reconsider the problems this would cause to our wonderful community.



Michael F Niccum
4311 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-173-001

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? PLAINVIEW, MN ON 6-16-09

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

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

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

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

I-174-002

I have property in Maypole Township sec 27 and Oakwood Township sec 27 in Walaska County. The proposed line would cross approximately 50 yards from my house. I am aware that the EMF would not cause disease but can cause changes in human physiology. It would also decrease the aesthetic value of the area. The line further crosses my farm approximately in half. I am trying to establish a conservation easement on this property. The line & maintenance would interfere with my use and enjoyment of the farm.

I-174-001

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

I-174-003

Human - The proposed line in Maypole Township goes past many residential areas including a recreational camp ground and Lake Umbagog. As a large number of people would be affected both by EMF and the aesthetic problem in an otherwise beautiful natural setting.

I-174-004

I-174-001

Your comment has been noted. Conservation easements and other existing types of property arrangements are evaluated by the applicant during the routing and siting phase of the project.

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

I-174-002

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

I-174-003

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

I-174-004

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

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

I-174-005

The project and need was explained satisfactorily except the route the line would take. Unfortunately, the attitude seems to be a north route to Olma is the most talked about. This route goes thru the Zumbro Valley which is the most scenic in SE Minn. This area should be preserved in a natural state and the power line should go along existing roads, power line or railroads. It seems we are destroying all our natural beauty.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: LEE A. NAUSS

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 57227 - 406th AVE

City: Mazepa State: MN Zip Code: 55356

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

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

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

I-174-005

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview - June 16, 2009

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

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

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

I-175-004 Future / Projected / Planned land use
I-175-003 Economic Impact on Property Value

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

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

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

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

Property is NW of Zumbrota along Hwy 52.
(Currently Agriculture but Zoned Industrial for the future.)

I-175-001

Locating the line on this property would put severe limits/constraints on the future development of industrial sites for the city of Zumbrota. The city already has a 345 KV line on the east side of town, this line should not be located to limit industry on this side of town also.

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

Land appropriately located and suited for industrial uses next to the city and major transportation Corridor.

I-175-002

The location of the line 1 mile west of this land ^(as currently proposed) is much more appropriate with minimal impact on residences, ^{Land values,} agriculture, and future land use.

I-175-001

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

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

I-175-002

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

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

I-175-003

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

I-175-004

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

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

Yes

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ken Olson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 24614 530th St.

City: Pine Island State: MN Zip Code: 55963

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-356-8686

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Warrensburg

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

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

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

- I-176-001 Hwy 52 maybe the shortest route, but it has heavily
trafficked, going to fast and in conditions not safe.
So many cars and trucks go off the road. I
would consider it risky to put cement structures and
steel post where they could be hit by one of these
vehicles. you would also need to go around the city
I-176-002 of Cannon Falls. plus the road is going to be widened
I-176-003 and some discussion of light rail.

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I-176-001

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

I-176-002

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

I-176-003

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Larry L. Olson

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 9300 City 9 Blvd

City: Cannon Falls State: Mn Zip Code: 55009

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-259-0678

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

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

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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

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

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

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamings, MN

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

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

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

- I-177-003 #1 Is this the best solution to the supposed increase in demand for power. Are there better alternatives?
- I-177-001 #2 Use established right of ways instead of creating new ones and opening a new corridor through rural agricultural communities that will receive limited use from this project

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-177-001

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

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

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Location: Section 28 Twp 110 Range 18 in Holden Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

We own a little over 3.25 acres with a woods to the South and farmland to the east and west.

There is an abundance of wildlife in the area. Early routes showed lines on all three sides of our property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-177-007 | I'm concerned about all aspects. We live in a township striving to remain agricultural and our family farms.
I-177-008 | I'm concerned for the farmers trying to farm around the poles and in close proximity to the lines.
I-177-009 | I'm concerned about potential health dangers to people and wildlife and other animals.
I-177-010 | I'm concerned about the aesthetics of the area and about interference of radio and television signals. Also, I'm concerned about property values if this project comes through our area.
I-177-011 |

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-177-002 I'm not sure the information provided
explains the need for this project. Data showing
increased demand is provided by power companies,
I-177-004 however, that data is also being disputed. Our
State has mandates involving renewable energy
I-177-005 but this project relies on coal and there is a
loss of energy when it is transmitted over great
I-177-006 distances. I do not want to see a new
Corridor opened up through our area.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Annette Peters
Representing (Optional): _____
Mailing Address: 2719 450th St
City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55944
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-177-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-177-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-177-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-177-011

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-177-012

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo, MN June 17, 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Those aren't enough?!?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Recreational

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our property is located in Wamamfo Township between Kenyon and Wamamfo.

The "special use" of our property is that it is our home, our family farm. We, my husband & children and I, are here 24/7 along with our animals. We work, sleep and have our recreation all within this area -- walking, jogging, horseback riding, biking, playing in the creeks.

We made a choice to lead this materially poor, hard working but healthy, wholesome, family oriented existence, and have poured blood, sweat and tears into it for 20 years. Our quality of life would be diminished by the presence of a huge power line through this area -- both physically and perceptually.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

The health & safety of the "biological resources" of my family and those of my neighbors is my utmost concern. Also our animals. We don't want to live anywhere near a

great power line. Other farms around here have families on original family farms that date back to the days this area were homesteaded. That IS the culture in Goodhue County -- whether YOU value it or not, WE DO.

Additionally you would be removing from production some of the verifiably best crop land in the state.

The corridor from Hampton → Kenyon → Zumbrota is crisscrossed with innumerable creeks and wetland areas. Bald eagles are nesting & flying all around here.

Besides the obvious addition of cost/miles in detouring on Hwy 5 to go south (using Hwy 5) you would be affecting more residences, more schools (Kenyon and Wamamfo), more cropland, more wildlife habitats

And most of us in these communities live and work here, so our exposure would be greater.

I-178-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-178-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety as well as visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-178-007

There was no presentation, although tables were there with written information which was helpful although read later. The fact that this route is coming our way was completely new news to a lot of us. I was disappointed no one had the bravado to stand up in front of a bunch of upset Kenyon & Waramingo residents and try to explain why the utility companies should be able to insert something as unwelcome and detrimental as a giant power line onto our beautiful, quiet, rural properties to aid them in marketing energy from ND & SD to points East of LaCrosse WI to make a fortune for themselves now and into the future. Terms such as "certificate of need" and "eminent domain" sound very legal

I-178-008

and important, but terms such as "raping and pillaging" better describe the situation from our perspective. Oh, and as for as the personal consumption -- I hang my family's clothes on a line to dry them. We have one television (no cable, no DVD, no plasma), I wash my dishes by hand... we are low end users.

I-178-009

from our perspective. Oh, and as for as the personal consumption -- I hang my family's clothes on a line to dry them. We have one television (no cable, no DVD, no plasma), I wash my dishes by hand... we are low end users.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wendi & Greg Piller

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 43800 60th Avenue

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-289-5937

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-178-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-007

Your comment has been noted.

I-178-008

Your comment has been noted.

I-178-009

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: Property values.

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-179-001

See enclosed letter,

I-179-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: KEVIN POSSIN & ANN LAVINE

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 24847 County 17

City: WINONA State: MN Zip Code: 55987

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-452-0537

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

24847 County Road 17
Winona, MN 55987

April 7, 2009

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East
Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Dear Secretary Haar,

This letter is to urge you *not* to grant a Certificate of Need for the CAPX2020 powerline project, especially the La Crosse line.

- There are alternatives to this line that will adequately supply power: for example, more regional supplies, such as wind power, and the use of "Smart Grid" technology.
- The reduction in usage, due to the economy and enhanced conservation measures, has made the La Crosse line unnecessary.
- No accommodations for local and/or wind power additions to CAPX2020 have been made.
- The areas being considered targets for the La Crosse powerline, for example, Pleasant Valley and the Mississippi River Valley, would sustain ecological damage and/or severe reductions in property values.

For these and *many* other reasons, please reject CAPX2020.

Thank you for your consideration,

Prof. Kevin Possin
Chair, Philosophy Department
Winona State University
The Critical Thinking Lab

Ann Lavine
Lavine & Associates
Winona

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I wish to be on the project mailing list. RD

Which meeting did you attend? JUNE 24, 2009 - CENTERVILLE WI.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need ← *
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ I-180-002 ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings) - SPRAYING UNDER POWER LINES
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- ☒ I-180-003 DECENTRALIZING CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. THE INCENTIVE MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO LOCAL COUNTIES TO COME UP WITH SMALL SCALE PROJECTS TO OFFSET ELECTRICAL
- ☒ I-180-004 DEMAND. THESE LARGE SCALE PROJECTS TO HAUL ELECTRICITY SEVERAL MILES OVERHEAD ACROSS MANY STATES IS NOT INTELLIGENT.
- ☒ I-180-005 FROM THE SHEER WASTE TO THE HEALTH EFFECTS THIS IS TERRIBLE WE ALL SEE THIS IS JUST TO MAKE US MORE ENSLAVED TO BIG ELECTRIC COMPANIES AND THEIR SIDE BUSINESS'S.

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-180-008 | I HIKE FISH AND CAMP ALL THROUGH THESE VALLEYS
I-180-009 | THESE LINES ARE A COMPLETE EYE SORE AND HEALTH
I-180-010 | HAZARD. I CONSUME MANY VARIOUS THINGS FROM
THIS AREA AS FAR AS FOOD AND YOUR SPRAYING ALONG
WITH DESTROYING WILDLIFE HABITAT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO
I-180-011 | ME AND MY WAY OF LIFE. THIS PROJECT IS
COMPLETELY UNNEEDED; DECENTRALIZING AND GIVING RESIDENTIAL
HOMES THE MONEY YOU GUYS ARE PUSHING FOR IS THE ANSWER
GIVING US TAXPAYERS OUR TAX DOLLARS TO GO SOLAR

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-180-012 | IT IS ALL VALUABLE! YOU ARE GOING TO CLEAR CUT
I-180-013 | THE AREA 300' WIDE THEN ERECT TOWERS THAT EMIT
STRAY VOLTAGE AND IONIZE PARTICLES. NOT TO MENTION
THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER HIKE DOWN THERE AROUND OR
UNDER THE LINES AS WELL AS HUNT OR FISH UNDER
I-180-014 | THEM. ALSO YOU WILL SPRAY RANDOM CHEMICAL UNDERNEATH
THEM EVERY YEAR TO KILL INDISCRIMINATELY WHAT YOU
DEEM A NUISANCE. WITH ALL THE CHEMICALS SPRAYED
EVERYWHERE WHAT DOES SURVIVE? AND WHAT ARE THE
INTERACTIONS AND TOXIC SIDE EFFECTS OF MIXING ALL
THESE CHEMICALS AND ALLOWING THEM TO GET BACK INTO
OUR WATER SUPPLY

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-180-001 NO! IT WAS NOT EXPLAINED WELL. SOME OF THE CHARTS AND GRAPHS YOU USED FOR STATISTICS ARE SKEWED AND FROM EARLIER YEARS SUCH AS 2002, 2003, AND 2004 SINCE THEN WE HAVE ALL CUT BACK ON ENERGY USAGE
- I-180-006 LATER MORE RECENT GRAPHS PROVE THAT. WE SHOULD HAVE HAD A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AS A WHOLE GROUP RATHER THAN THE WAY IT WAS DONE FOR THEN WE COULD HEAR ALL CONCERNS AND "ANSWERS" AS A GROUP WE ALL KNOW WHY IT WAS DONE THE WAY IT WAS DONE!
- I-180-007 I FOUND ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANIES DENIED TRUTH OR TRIED MAKE UP ANSWERS TO THE TRULY TUFF QUESTIONS SUCH AS: "WHAT CHEMICALS DO YOU SPRAY UNDERNEATH THE POWER LINES" ONLY ONE GUY OUT OF FOUR SAID HE DIDNT KNOW BUT WOULD GET ME THE ANSWERS. OVERALL SOME VERY "DODGY" ANSWERING

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: KRISTOPHER PROW

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: N26143 JOE COOLEE RD.

City: BLAIR State: WISCONSIN Zip Code: 54616

Daytime Phone (Optional): 406-471-9677

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-180-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-180-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-003

Your comment has been noted.

I-180-004

Your comment has been noted.

I-180-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-006

Your comment has been noted.

I-180-007

Your comment has been noted.

I-180-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-011

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-180-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-013

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-180-014

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Housing, safety of the power lines.

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

First of all our home. We rent out our land
to neighbors for them to farm and by using our
property that means less land for them to farm.
27411 But Rd Utica, MN 55979
Winona County - Utica township -

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-181-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-181-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-181-002
I-181-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Josh & Abby Randall

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 21641 Burt Road

City: Wica State: MN Zip Code: 55979

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? June 24, at Centerville WI.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Take 2-1 Danford line should be utilized to feed the
N-LPX Substation. we do not want more line engraved
into our wood lot that is in Calverville and DO NOT WANT OUR
beautiful city destroyed by power lines. we live along US 53.
William's reporting lines and segments. My home is worth about
300k. - and was built 2 years ago.

I-182-001

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I-182-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ANTHONY E. SACHER

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 12019 Blue Stem Lane

City: Colerain State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-397-7396

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? JUNE 25, C-F-C HIGH SCHOOL FT. WI

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-183-002

HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE LIVES OF ALL
WHO WILL SUFFER FROM THIS CABLE CAUSING
EYE SORE.

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In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-183-003 I DON'T THINK THE NEED IS AS GREAT AS THE CAP & 2020 GROUP HAS STATED.

I-183-001 STOP USING OLD LAND DESTROYING METHODS AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH SMALLER MORE LOCALIZED RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: JOHN SCHEIDEGGER

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: PO BOX 235 ~~FOUNTAIN CITY~~

City: FOUNTAIN CITY State: WI Zip Code: 54629

Daytime Phone (Optional): 1 507 396 3610

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

P.S. STEPHANIE WHEN I MET YOU AT C-F-C HIGH SCHOOL YOU SEEMED LIKE A BRIGHT CARING PERSON. PLEASE DON'T DESTROY THE RIVER VALLEY.

P.S.S. YOU'RE ALSO HOT!

THANK YOU
John

I-183-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-183-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety as well as potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-183-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

MY LAND IS LOCATED ON THE GREAT RIVER ROAD CORRIDOR
IN THE TOWN OF MILTON. I WANT TO BUILD MY
'DREAM HOUSE' ON THIS PROPERTY IF YOU BUILDING
YOUR POWER LINE ACROSS MY LAND THERE
WOULD BE ENOUGH ROOM TO BUILD.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I CANT BELIEVE THAT IN ONE DECISION IF THIS
LINE COMES DOWN HWY 35 'GREAT RIVER ROAD'.
YOU COULD DESTROY WHAT GOD HIMSELF HAS
CREATED. THE GLACIERS MISSED THIS AREA
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO NOW YOU CAN
DESTROY IT WITH ONE SWIPE OF YOUR PEN.
WHAT A WORLD!

Patricia H. Steffes
35044 568th Street
Rochester, MN 55906
June 21, 2009

Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength,

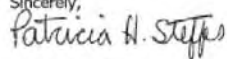
I am writing to you today to share with you my comments about a proposed 345,000 volt power line that is in the works for the state of Minnesota: specifically the CapX2020 (also referred to as the RUS-EIS). While I understand the need to supply the country with more power, I have great concerns about the path that this high-voltage line might take.

I-184-001 In the area that I live (southeastern Minnesota) there is a proposed B-27 route that would cut through the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. This pristine area includes many old trees (hardwoods) and is the habitat for many animals and birds—including a nesting area for the American Bald Eagle. Cutting the needed 150' path below this power line will have enormous negative impact on this state forest. There is an alternate route also planned that would fall a few miles south of this line (identified as B-28, B-111, B-91, B-93, B-161, B-162) that appears to only impact farm fields. It is my understanding that such a route could still have crops planted around it, creating much less harm to the environment.

I-184-002 But there is something far more critical to the people in this area than the harmed wildlife, and that is the health and well-being of every man, woman, and child living in this neighborhood and the small town of Hammond. We are all worried about the connections that exist between electro-magnetic fields and childhood leukemia, Alzheimer's disease, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and breast cancer to name a few. Even though scientists have yet to find the reason for the apparent links, the massive amount of research and undeniable increases in cancers in those areas high in EMF's cannot be ignored. And now research ~~does~~ show that EMF's attract and concentrate radon, a known carcinogen that is already in high concentrations in this part of the state. As a parent, I am gravely concerned. Even the representatives of the CapX2020 admitted that they would not want to have their home near one of these lines.

I-184-003 If the EIS must be built, then at the very least, please consider having it NOT destroy our memorial hardwood forest. And please do NOT put it in such close proximity to neighborhoods like ours. Help me protect our children. Please drop the B-27 route and opt for the alternate one instead. Thank you for your time.

I-184-004 You can contact me at any time at the above address, this phone number: 507-753-2009, and the following email: pats@zmsch.k12.mn.us

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Steffes

I-184-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-184-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-184-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-184-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-184-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Platteau High School June 16

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: Transmission lines on two sides of property

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-185-001 Land Values - As I understand it, a proposed route for the lines is to run the lines on our property line on the north side & the east side which would significantly diminish my property value. The line to the north would also run between our property & my in-laws property. We plan to own that property in the future. Because of the power lines these properties would be split.

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I-185-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-185-001 | My farm is located in section 09 Twp-108 Range-013
1160 Acres SW 1/4 Sec 9 10873. I have a 1160 Acre farm and
my husband's parents' farm is located adjacent on the
north side. If the transmission lines ^{run along} the north
and east sides of our property line our property value
will be significantly reduced since we will have easements
along all four sides - the north + east by power lines
and south + west by roads. Thus reducing the actual size
of my farm. The transmission lines will separate my land and
my in-laws' land which will one day be mine.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

Environmental aspect - My husband, sons + I enjoy
hunting (deer + pheasant) between my property + my
in-laws'

Air Safety - My neighbor 1/2 mile to the east flies
small airplanes + ultra gliders from his landing
strip.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I realize these lines are to be erected somewhere. However I heard different variations of what could happen. I heard something about ~~wind~~ wind power harnessed south of us may make the power lines unneeded. I also heard lines running on the 'southern route' may not come to fruition because of the difficulty crossing the Mississippi Wildlife Refuge Area. Excuse my ignorance but what is the difference between those animals & our animals? It was mentioned that the 'Alma' Route is preferable so ~~it~~ may be a line running along Elmsted City Rd 11 north & connect with lines running east & west.

I-185-002

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Corrie Thedens

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4313 Hwy 247 NE

City: Elgin State: mn Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-753-2694

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-185-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? PLAINVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JUNE 16

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☐ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☐ Historic and cultural sites

☒ Radio or television interference

☒ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☒ Other: MULTIPLE TRANSMISSION LINES ALONG 2 PORTIONS OF PROPERTY

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-186-001 -LAND VALUES: ONE OF PROPOSED ROUTES WOULD BE PLACED ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF PROPERTY AND ALSO A SECOND TRANSMISSION LINE ALONG THE NORTH SIDE BESIDES. HAVING TWO SETS OF TRANSMISSION LINES WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE VALUE OF MY PROPERTY. IF ~~WAS~~ THESE TWO ROUTES WOULD ALSO GO BETWEEN MY PROPERTY AND MY PARENTS FARM. I WILL ALSO OWN THIS PROPERTY IN THE FUTURE. SO MY PARENTS LAND VALUES WOULD BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY ~~THESE~~ THESE TRANSMISSION LINES.

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I-186-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

MY FARM IS LOCATED IN SECTION 09 TWP-108 RANGE-013
160 ACRES SW 1/4 SEC 9 108 13. I HAVE A 160 ACRE
FARM AND MY PARENTS FARM OF 80 ACRES IS LOCATED
ADJACENT ALONG THE NORTH. IF THE POWER COMPANY
IS ALLOWED TO PLACE ~~BOTH~~ TRANSMISSION LINES
ALONG BOTH THE EAST AND NORTH SIDES OF MY FARM
I WILL BE SURROUNDED BY EASEMENTS FOR ROADS ON
THE WEST AND SOUTH AND FOR TRANSMISSION LINES
ON THE NORTH AND EAST. MY PROPERTY WILL ALSO
BE SEPARATED WITH A TRANSMISSION LINE FROM MY PARENTS.
THIS IS TOO MUCH IMPACT ON ONE PERSONS PROPERTY.
In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational,
ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-186-003

ENVIRONMENT - I HIGHLY ENJOY AND ENGAGE IN
HUNTING AND ~~FARM~~ FARMING. I HAVE DONE THIS
ON BOTH ~~MY~~ MILE AND MY PARENTS PROPERTY
ALONG WITH MY FAMILY. I WOULD HATE TO SEE
THIS PROJECT AFFECT THIS ON MY PROPERTY.

AIR SAFETY - MY NEIGHBOR LOCATED WITHIN 1/2
MILE OF THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION HAS
SMALL AIRPLANES AND ULTRA GLIDERS THAT I
SEE FLYING OVER MY PROPERTY DURING THE
YEAR

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I DO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT. I WISHED BEFORE THE POWER COMPANIES ~~WOULD~~ CHOOSE ~~THE~~ THE PREFERRED ROUTES I WISHED THEY WOULD CONTACT ^{THE} PROPERTY OWNERS ~~SPECIFICALLY~~ WHOSE LAND ~~THE~~ THE LINES ARE TO BE PLACED ON.

I-186-002

LOOKING AT ROUTES IT SEEMS MORE REASONABLE TO ^{LOCATE} ~~LOCATION~~ THE TRANSMISSION LINE RUNNING NORTH/SOUTH ALONG MY PROPERTY AND MOVE IT 1 1/2 MILES TO THE EAST ALONG ~~THE~~ COLUMBIA COUNTY RD 11 AND ~~EXTEND~~ IT TO THE NORTH TO CONNECT TO ONE OF THE ROUTES RUNNING EAST/WEST.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: MIKE THEDENS

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 4313 HWY 247 NE

City: ELGIN State: MN ~~55932~~ Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-328-2626 OR 507-753-2694

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-186-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-186-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural and recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 6-16-09 Plainville Schools, Plainville, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other:

*In Farmington Township on map 3
B112-B89 affects multiple
dairy farms but
B159 + B160 options do
not affect any dairy
farms, affect less
homes*

I-187-001

I-187-007

I-187-008

*Impact on dairy-farmer-land (accessed multiple x/year) vs. crop-farmer-only-land.
Routes should be put in crop farm only land for less interference + health threat to farmers.*

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

*Concern about health issues, especially related to children as we live w/in 0.5 miles of proposed routes and have 3 kids under 5 yrs. We are one of very few families w/ young children in Farmington Township due to 80 acre zoning ordinance. On map 3 in Farmington Township the proposed B112 - B89 route comes w/in 0.5 mi. of our home and cuts my in-laws dairy farm in half (Malwitz - 10852 40 Avenue NE) - the children spend much time here. Wouldn't it make more sense to move routes away from the only young children in the area? I propose alternative routes B159 + B160 to the east as more economical + direct routes that do not impact kids, affect less homes, and does not cross dairy land which is accessed much more frequently than strictly Hampton + Rochester. La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project
corn + soybean farms which are accessed much less and fall along B159 + B160 routes.*

I-187-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property Address: 9525 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN 55932 (section 3, Farmington Township, MN)

Nearby family farm: Malwitz, 18852 40 Avenue NE, Elgin, MN (Dairy farm)

- We have 3 children under 5 yrs. of age. Lines are proposed w/in 0.5 miles of our home and on our family farm up the road. Concerned about health negative impact on children. Really are no other small children in the area. Propose route options B159 + R160 as more direct, affect less homes, no dairy farms crossed + no children affected. Our kids spend much time at grandparents (Malwitz) dairy farm. Must also consider that routes will affect dairy farmers much more than just crop (corn + soybean) farmers as dairy farmers access their land much more frequently for haying, etc. Throughout the year whereas crop farmers only access their land twice a year (2 x/year for planting + harvest). (Our home also has historical significance as a former 1-room school house.) In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, school, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-187-003

I-187-002

- Health + safety from EMF exposure to those nearby these lines. Especially for young children - research suggests increased health risks w/ lower voltage lines already so whose to say what will happen w/ these much larger lines. Health + safety risks are greater for dairy vs. crop only farmers as dairy farmers are exposed much more. Also makes it much less convenient for dairy farmers to access their land which happens frequently throughout year compared to crop farmers who only access their land 2 x/year.

I-187-009

I-187-004

- Concern for negative impact on wildlife habitat.
 - Concern for decreased aesthetic + property value of land/homes. We live in a historically significant one-room school house, these lines would wreck the value + history of this.

I-187-010

- Concern for not being able to use our land + family farm in a recreational manner with our kids any longer due to health threats.

I-187-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-003

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-004

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-187-011 Need up to date, comparable research on health risks of these high voltage power lines. Existing research is not fairly comparable to the high voltage of these power lines + threats of living near (especially for children). No studies over time either for these large power lines, EMFs.

- I question the need to cut cross farm + home land unfairly and to threaten health, safety, wildlife, land + property value, ability to farm

I-187-005 use land recreationally as a cross-way means. Why not stay along interstates + highways? (i.e. Hwy 52, Interstate 90)? Why destroy country way of life if this project is as "Safe + positive" as those behind it portray? If this is the case go along existing right of way.

I-187-012 It doesn't seem that all possible routes are being considered fairly + note all consequences, i.e. B159 + B160 routes on map 3, Farmington township, are more direct + less impacting of homes, children, dairy farms vs. B112 - B189 route options.

I-187-006 Please tell us how to reach you. Also, there are multiple missing homes on the map even after we have requested them to be added multiple times!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mitch Walch

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 9525 48 Avenue NE

City: Elgin

State: MN

Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 - 288 - 3310

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-187-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-006

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-187-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-009

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-010

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources as well as human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-187-012

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? 12/16/09 Plainview School, Plainview, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

existing
- These lines should have to follow right-of-ways versus cutting unfairly through farms, land in farmington township, sections of map we propose route options B19, B10, B11 instead of B12-1389.
* - Health issues need much more attention in this matter. I work in healthcare at Mayo Clinic and have researched the impact of power lines and health risks both myself and with leading physicians in family medicine, pediatrics, and neurology. While existing research has not proven direct links to health risks, it has found increased likelihood of health risks associated with living near power lines. This is increased
Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project
in children. Also - it is very important to note that existing research is not current and

I-188-002

I-188-003

(continued) it is based on much lower voltage power lines than those proposed by this project—thus it amounts to comparing apples to oranges. Also, there is no research available that assesses the health risks of 161 and 345 kV transmission lines over any significant time span to accurately research longer term risks of living near these lines—there are not longitudinal studies. We have 3 children under the age of 5 years old and are especially concerned about the health risks of having our children so close to such high voltage lines. If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture
crop/livestock
☒ Residential
☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial
☐ Industrial
☐ Other: _____

A Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.
Property Address: 9525 40th Ave NE, Elgin, MN 55932

A ① We have 3 children under the age of 5 years old and are gravely concerned about health threats to our children if forced to have such high voltage lines in close proximity to our home and their grandparents' homestead where they attend daycare and spend large amounts of time. (Elson-Benda Malwitz Farm - 1892 40th Ave NE, Elgin, MN 55932) Research existing in health risks + high voltage lines is not current or fairly comparable to the 161/345 kV lines proposed. There are not many other existing children in farmington farms/homes, largely due to zoning ordinance requiring 80 acres for a homestead—thus most neighbors are determined to have the property of at least 3 kids under 5 yrs.

B In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?
The proposed B159-B160 line is within 0.5 mile of our home and cuts my parents' farm in half. For the children's health and many other concerns, there are other routes that should be considered.

A ② Land Use - We live in the country to escape environmental hazards of city living as well as to use the land for recreational, livestock + other purposes. My parents' farm (see neighbor) [Malwitz farm - address noted above] is a place us + our 3 young kids spend much time outdoors including in the fields helping farm. The Malwitz are dairy and crop farmers which means they access their land much more often during the year (20+ times at minimum) compared to non-dairy farms who only have to access 3x/year. We propose route options B159 + B160 as less impacting routes that affect less homes, no children, do not cross dairy farmer land, and are more direct routes.

A ③ Historical - We live in a renovated one-room school house. This home has much historical significance and value. To run high voltage power lines within 0.5 miles of our home would affect this longevity.

A ④ Wildlife habitat - There is much wildlife in our area that I am concerned would be negatively impacted by this project.

I-188-001

I-188-004

I-188-005

I-188-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-188-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-188-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-188-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources as well as socioeconomic issues such as

I-188-006

Question 6: What are most sensitive resources? Health - serious to individuals living in close proximity, especially children. EMF impacts. Daring, farmland land affected as they use fields multiple times each year. Wildlife habitat. Degraded land value. Negative aesthetic impacts. Impact on crops. ^{unproven}

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I-188-007

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

NO - I question the need for this project versus the goal of monetary gains of those behind it. Rochester MN is closing and has adequate power supply for us. Our land, health is being unfairly targeted as a "cross-way".

I-188-008

Also - I do not feel there is adequate research regarding health risks to those living within close proximity to these lines. There is not current research on the 161-345 kV lines, and certainly not time-based studies to adequately examine the long-term health risks. My concern is especially for raising children under these lines. I have done research myself and have had physicians also research for me - there are increased health risks especially for children with smaller voltage lines so I do not want to take a risk or be a "guinea pig" for the higher voltage lines.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sara Walch

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 9525 40th Ave NE

City: Clagan

State: MIN

Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-288-3310

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

property values will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-188-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-188-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-188-007

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-188-008

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? C.F.C. school

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

- I-189-001 #1 - I think it is needed, but at least 75% of the electricity produced should be wind or solar, not coal or oil.
- I-189-002 #2. Try to stay away from running parallel with river and major roads.
- I-189-003 #3. Try to use existing routes or easements if possible.
- #4. make it twice as more capacity right away
- #5.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-189-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-189-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-189-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

#1. We (Wald Brosport) own agricultural land from Dairyland Power Coop and would like a 10 year extension.

2. we would like 15 2.5 MW wind turbines put on our property (class III wind) at 300 ft is class four. We are in U.S. fish & wild life recreation for wind turbine placement for distance from Mississippi River (1 mile from cliffs)

3. Dairyland Power has 1 1/2 miles of power lines on our and Xcel energy has 1/2 miles.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

→ We are 2 miles East of Dairyland Power generation plant at Abma, Wis on the main River.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-189-004

yes it is needed; But I did not find out how much electricity is produced by coal and how much is produced by renewables for this 345 KV line.

ppp

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: GALE WALD

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 51997 Chickadee Lane

City: ALMA State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-189-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? C.F.C. Meeting.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

We would like it set up to put up
wind towers. We really would like to
see some go up. We have a wind between
class 3 & 4. I live 3 miles from the
coal power plant. I live on a bluff.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-190-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-190-001

The poles ARE ON EACH side of my field.

I do NOT WANT ANY set in the field.

IF THEY PUT THE NEW POLE WHERE THE OLD
ONES ARE, THERE IS NO ~~PROBLEM~~ TROUBLE.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

NONE.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

yes it was.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wesley WALD

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: W1712 cty Rd .E.

City: ALMA State: WI Zip Code: 54610

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608 685 3588

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Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo (attended by family member)

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse 345 kV

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-191-001 | I operate a dairy farm less than a half mile
south of the proposed route in Section 27 of Holden
township. I have concerns over stray voltage from the
I-191-003 | line and concerned about the route cutting through
prime agricultural land. I feel our farm land should
I-191-002 | be protected. The route should follow existing roads.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-191-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-191-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-191-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jim Way

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 3357 450th St.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Farmington Township Section 7, Olmsted County MN
Actual line appears to come within
120 feet of residence. At 77 years of age
it is time to sell Property and move to
a home that is handicap accessible.
The value of this property is already
affected because of this potential route.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-192-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-192-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

In my opinion this project is
not needed.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Allen Whipple

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 12005 Highway 63 North

City: Rochester

State: MN

Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-193-002

Our recommendation would be to build ~~the~~ the transmission lines along existing interstate highways where easements are obtained. Additional agricultural land purchased would be minimal.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☐ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☒ Other: Milking Herd

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

We own and operate a 400 cow milking herd and are concerned with the closeness in proximity of a proposed transmission line. Our concern is the energy field surrounding the lines and health affects. ~~Milk~~ Production of milk loss to our herd from cattle ~~off~~ being in close proximity to the energy field.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-193-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-193-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dennis ~~Wirt~~ Wirt
Representing (Optional): owner / operator of dairy
Mailing Address: 25607 County Rd 25
City: Lewiston State: MN Zip Code: 55952
Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 523 3718

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:
Attachments: EIS letter to USDA 6-19-09.docx
Categories: pulled

From: bwood@sspps.org [mailto:bwood@sspps.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: docbernwood@aol.com
Subject:

Stephanie,
I would like to submit this letter as part of the public comments for the scoping hearing.
Thank you.
Bernadette

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Minn 55024
651-460-2347
docbernwood@aol.com

June 19, 2009

Stephanie Strong

USDA

As a 12 year resident of Eureka Township in Dakota County, I live within ½ mile of the proposed Hampton to LaCrosse section of the CAPX 2020 power line.

I-194-001

I believe that the Environmental Impact Statement being conducted by the USDA should recommend a no-build alternative, which relies on conservation, local generation and local transmission to provide for our future energy needs. This alternative would protect the Mississippi Flyway, the Wildlife Refuge, or any of the other protected natural areas from the harmful affects of the power line.

I-194-003

I-194-004

At this stage, a no build alternative is a viable option due to the fact that demand is dropping and the La Crosse line is not needed. The EIS should use Xcel Energy's and Dairyland Power's most current forecasts, not old out-of-date information;

I-194-005

Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other natural resources;

I-194-006

Power lines cause environmental harm: visual impacts, noise, magnetic field risks especially on farm lands, decline in property values, fragmentation of habitat, risks to endangered and rare species, bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway, and an increase in cancer especially childhood leukemia as a result of electromagnetic fields.

I-194-002

The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to this line need to be evaluated. The La Crosse project should be considered with the Brookings and Fargo power lines in making this environmental review

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Bernadette Wood

Dr. Bernadette E. Wood
23775 Essex Avenue
Farmington Mn 55024

I-194-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-194-002

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need and cumulative impacts will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-194-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-194-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to visual resources, noise, rare species, human health and safety, as well as socioeconomic impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: jldupay@netscape.com
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2009 8:33 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX20200

July 18, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

I've just been informed that the CapX2020 transmission lines are considering W. 50th St. in Webster, Mn for an alternative route.

I'm strongly against this transmission line being installed on W. 50th St. in Webster. The reasons: the health risk posed from the dangerous high voltage electric and magnetic fields, irreversible property devaluation, the effect on dairy production, the wild life environment damage, hazard for small air craft, the constant sound of crackling and humming and what an eye sore.

Please, help us keep this line off W. 50th St. in Webster. Thank you.

Jane DuPay
3480 W. 50th St.
Webster, Mn 55088

Netscape. Just the Net You Need.

I-195-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: suziefox22@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 10:30 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: NO..... CAPX2020!!!!

Please do not let this happen to my family down in Houston, MN,,,

I-196-001 | NO to CapX2020.....This is not the thing to do,,,Please stop this,,,

Thanks,

Susan Fox
suziefox22@comcast.net

I-196-001

Your comment has been noted. Once published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 comments/EIS

-----Original Message-----

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 comments/EIS

I-197-001

Stephanie,
Dairyland Power and Xcel Energy must first prove there is a need for new high voltage lines to meet LOCAL need.
Below are articles showing how the energy company is not being truthful with the rate-payer.
Xcel just announced a new wind option where rate payers can pay MORE for wind. The problem? energy experts tell us there is no way to deliver just "WIND" generated power to a customer (unless you have your own windmill). The electrons all giggle together regardless of the source. Read further to see how Xcel over charged Colorado rate payers for the same program and faced fines.

I-197-002

Bottom line, the utilities motives MUST be analyzed in the process. If the power is to be sent to Chicago and points east in order to profit the utilities, MN and WI tax payers SHOULD NOT pay for this project. Also, CapX will not commit to ANY amount of wind on THEIR lines for the La Crosse Project (Source: MN Public Utilities Commission)
Thank you for including this information in your decision making process.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html>

Monday, July 20, 2009, 1:52pm CDT

Xcel Energy adds wind power option

The Business Journal of Milwaukee

Xcel Energy in Eau Claire said Monday that it has launched a Windsource program that allows Xcel customers to elect to have all or more of their residential or commercial energy generated by renewable resources.

The energy provided for Windsource in Wisconsin during 2009 will be generated from wind farms in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. Windsource has been ranked as the largest voluntary green power program in the United States for the past six years, and has more than 70,000 residential and 1,000 business customers participating in Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico.

Since the launch of the Wisconsin program last month, about 190 residential and 10 business customers, such as Northland College in

1

I-197-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-197-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-197-001.

Ashland, have signed up to receive some or all of their energy through Windsource, Xcel officials said.

According to Xcel Energy management, Xcel is the top renewable energy provider in Wisconsin and in 2008 about 18 percent of the company's electric generation in the upper Midwest was produced from renewable resources and 43 percent from carbon-free resources.

Windsource costs \$1.15 per 100-kilowatt-hour block above current rates for electricity, with the average residential customer signing up for Windsource seeing an increase of \$12 to their monthly bill. Business and residential customers must agree to be on the program for a one-year term.

"This voluntary rate option gives each and every electric customer throughout our Wisconsin service territory a choice to buy renewable energy and promote the development of wind power," said Steve Mudd, Windsource product manager. "It is a great option for businesses that want to demonstrate their environmental leadership or even obtain LEED certification points."

Comments

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009 9:16AM EST

Did you know that not only is their NO WIND on CAPX2020 AT ALL except for a small amount on the Brookings line (Fargo/Brookings/Minneapolis-La Crosse = the 3 lines), but there is NO REQUIREMENTS on the Twin Cities line to La Crosse at all?
And when 'they' said the "allegedly windy" CAPX had no plan of going EAST past La Crosse - why now is American Transmission Company going to build the La Crosse to Madison Line? Tourism, Hwy 60, and scenic byways? Ha-hysterical! Getting it yet? Best of all - can you tell when the lights go on if its wind, coal or nuclear you are getting? HERE IS THE NEXT PHASE to Madtown:
<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2409577/> and also see <http://nocapx2020.info/?p=593>

"In politics, an organized minority is a political majority." Jesse Jackson

Report Abuse

<<http://networking.bizjournals.com/community/app/templates/tpemail.aspx?tpt=reportcomment&title=Xcel%20Energy%20adds%20wind%20power%20option&date=July%2021,%202009&author=Bill%20Bo&link=http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html&mid=%7B28B7B602-5D61-4042-9D60-09698440B30F%7D>>

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009 9:13AM EST

Less impact from the PUBLIC RELATIONS machine ~ Denver "JANUARY 2009 - WIND PROBE - Xcel eyes deal when ACCUSED of selling more wind power than it generated. Xcel's voluntary wind- energy program will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed SETTLEMENT following a STATE INVESTIGATION into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.Xcel will REFUND \$1.6 million this year to "Windsorce" customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium

price. The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsource, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy." http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889

"The two greatest obstacles to democracy in the United States are, first, the widespread delusion among the poor that we have a democracy, and second, the chronic terror among the rich, lest we get it." [1941] Edward Dowling

Report Abuse
<<http://networking.bizjournals.com/community/app/templates/tptemail.aspx?tpt=reportcomment&title=Xcel%20Energy%20adds%20wind%20power%20option&date=July%2021,%202009&author=Bill%20Bo&link=http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html&mid=%7B5683D07C-AB3E-414E-AF8E-2A52E1EC1D76%7D>>

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill12391>> July 21, 2009
9:11AM EST

IF \$12 a month gave you part "OWNERSHIP" in the entire "smart grid" (which incidentally, these lines may not be the that new technology) and a "claim stake" to local/regional clean energy - so one day your kids would in fact own it...would you pay it then? I would instantly! But that's the very last thing on earth the utilities want. Question: Could these dollars from this "greenish wind" program be going to ADVERTISING & PR expenses "selling us" on what they want us thinking they are doing with wind in the first place? Is Doyle involved? Oh - and that's just CAPX - there is ANOTHER one coming to WI - GREEN POWER EXPRESS! SEE <http://legalelectric.org/weblog/2900/>

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river" Nikita Krushchev

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889#comments

Xcel eyes deal in wind probe

The utility proposes a \$2.6 million settlement after it was accused of selling more wind power than it generated.

*By Steve Raabe *
/The Denver Post/
<<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post:%20Xcel%20eyes%20deal%20in%20wind%20probe>>

Posted: 01/09/2009 12:30:00 AM MST

Related

* Dec 25:

* Report: Xcel plan oversold in 2008
 <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11306709>
 * Dec 24:
 * Xcel must honor the public trust
 <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11298121>
 * Dec 23:
 * Xcel overbilled for wind plan
 <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11291714>
 *

Xcel Energy will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed settlement following a state investigation into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.

Under the pending agreement, Xcel will refund \$1.6 million this year to Windsorce customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium price.

The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsorce, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy.

The settlement enables Xcel to use its entire portfolio of renewable energy to sell to Windsorce customers, instead of just the two relatively small wind farms in northern Colorado that originally were designated for Windsorce.

As a result, the program will be able to grow beyond its current sold-out capacity of 47,000 customers.

"The benefit is that it allows more customers to participate and it allows more development of renewable energy," said John Nielsen, energy-program director of Western Resource Advocates, a Boulder-based research group that helped draft the settlement.

For an average household that buys all its power from Windsorce, Xcel's \$1.6 million refund would lower the extra cost from about \$35 a month to \$23, on top of normal power rates.

"This removes a great deal of uncertainty about the viability of Colorado consumers' access to renewables," said Arthur O'Donnell of green-power certification firm Green-e Energy.

The refund will be paid through 2009. Starting in 2010, Windsorce rates will be based on the cost to build and acquire new renewable energy, which could result in higher Windsorce premiums, Nielsen said.

/Steve Raabe: 303-954-1948 or sraabe@denverpost.com
 <<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com>>/

*Article Comments (2)
 <<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?t=11410889>> *

You must be registered to comment (your comment will be saved for you while you register). It's quick (it takes about 30 seconds) and we only require your email and name. Comments that include any offensive material <<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/groundrules.php>> are prohibited. By using our site you agree to our terms of use <<http://www.denverpost.com/termsfuse>>.

Enron?

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=11686>>

*Gary L Warn

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=11686>>*

Joined: Sep 26

Points: 226 Permanent link to this comment

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?p=626946#p626946>>Gary L

Warn

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(aka Graybeard) | 2:44 PM on Friday Jan 9 Vote up

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/Xcel Energy will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed settlement following a state investigation into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.

/

/Under the pending agreement, Xcel will refund \$1.6 million this year to Windsource customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which the.../

> View all this article's 2 comments

<<http://neighbors.denverpost.com/viewtopic.php?t=11410889>>

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:

From: joanfrancois@acegroup.cc [mailto:joanfrancois@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:12 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject:

I am writing as a concerned citizen about the environment. I feel that the needs for the future need careful evaluation and that we don't have to continue thinking that bigger is better. We need to think outside the box when it comes to energy resources. So please consider local-renewable-cost effective ideas. Thanks Joan Francois La Crescent, MN

I-198-001 |

I-198-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: GJBJackson@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:36 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects

Stephanie,

- I-199-003** | I read with dismay the point that Dairyland Power does not want to pay their portion of CapX and would like the taxpayers to cover the cost. I am very much against this tax burden. We are very much overburdened
- I-199-001** | with tax responsibilities now and forthcoming with the new administration. The forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project.
- I-199-004** | The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line will result in additional adverse impacts of the project. Other adverse affects are visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi
- I-199-002** | Flyway. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to Ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.

Is this another rush and push for a project that has not been given adequate thought, consideration and validity to workable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gloria Belzer

I-199-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-199-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-199-003

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

I-199-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and

agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Custer Nilsson [custernilsson@ridge-runner.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 4:50 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments re: CAPX2020

The CAPX2020 transmission line designed to primarily serve communities surrounding Rochester, MN and La Crosse, WI should not be routed through rural areas in Trempealeau County, WI. In May of 2009 residents of Trempealeau County were informed that two new 'alternate' routes had been developed for the CAPX2020 transmission line. Both of the new routes traverse wide swaths of Trempealeau County. JUNE 2009 WAS THE FIRST TIME WE WERE INFORMED THAT NEW ROUTES WERE BEING CONSIDERED NEAR OUR HOMES.

I-200-001

Residents along all other routes had been informed over a year earlier and had been given the opportunity to impact initial decisions about proposed routes. This opportunity was denied to citizens along the new routes in Trempealeau County.

We are poor - *see per capita income below - we are few - *see population data below and we were not given equal opportunity to impact early decisions about these transmission routes. This process has put citizens of Trempealeau County at a distinct disadvantage.

I-200-002

I-200-003

At no time in all the years of planning leading up to this process did Dairyland Power or Riverland Energy inform rate payers that new transmission lines could be placed in the rural areas of Trempealeau County that are bisected by the new routes.

The transmission lines should be placed near those population centers that are creating the need - don't destroy our rural landscape. Taking the route through our heavily wooded and agricultural lands will destroy hundreds of trees at a time when an increase of carbon monoxide in our atmosphere threatens life on our planet. Rural wooded lands such as ours should be preserved, not destroyed.

Why are the transmissions lines being routed around the city of Rochester, MN? Did the influence of Rochester area businesses and the Mayo Clinic give them special access to route planners? None of the proposed routes go near that city, yet that is the largest population area to be served by this project.

At the June meeting representatives of the project stated that they wanted to place the lines away from population centers - away from people.

Guess what, the citizens of rural Trempealeau County are people too. We choose to live in a rural environment for a reason, and we pay premium prices for the privilege. We pay more for all basic services like electricity and transportation. We receive less state and federal support for our infrastructure. We don't even have the broadband Internet access that is needed to open your files on the transmission line reports. That's okay, we accept less services as part of our choice to live in a rural area. But our choice does not include living under the transmission lines that are required to provide a better quality of life for people in urban area. If urban centers want a better quality of life they should live with the cost and consequences of that choice.

I-200-004

These lines will do nothing to improve the electric service in our area. Many of us live with poor service, constant fluctuation in power and regular power outages. These new transmission lines will in no way improve the delivery of electricity to our rural lanes.

Routing these lines through rural Trempealeau County is the most expensive option being considered. It is clear that these routes are only being considered because we can't scream as loud as the urban population centers and we have less influence on the decision makers. I urge you to deny funding to Dairyland Power and Riverland Energy for the purpose of building the CAPX2020 transmission lines through rural Trempealeau County.

Per capita and Population
County

Per capita 1999 per US census

I-200-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. The utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-200-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-200-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Population 2008 estimate per US census

Trempealeau Cty. WI

\$17,681

27,790

La Crosse Cty. WI

\$19,800

112,627

Olmsted Cty. MN

\$24,939

141,360

NOTE: The combined population of La Crosse and Olmsted counties is nine (9) times greater than Trempealeau County. What is the likelihood that the voices of Trempealeau County citizens will carry the same weight in this discussion? We have already been put at a significant disadvantage in this discussion because planners did not consult us until May 2009 – all others were consulted repeatedly over a year ago.

Put the power lines by the people who will be using them, not by rural people who have no representation and will not benefit from this project.

Cristeen Custer
N18585 Hammond Lane
Galesville, WI 54630

I-200-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line

-----Original Message-----

From: Daley.Nancy@MacPhail.org [mailto:Daley.Nancy@MacPhail.org]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:05 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line

To whom it may concern,

We oppose this project for the following reasons:

I-201-001

1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;

I-201-002

2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.

Nancy and Kevin Daley

I-201-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-201-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Comment on USDA/RUS EIS for CapX2020 La Crosse Project
Importance: High

From: jtrodude@charter.net [mailto:jtrodude@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:13 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on USDA/RUS EIS for CapX2020 La Crosse Project
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Strength:

Below are my comments, concerns and perspectives on the USDA/RUS EIS for the CapX2020 La Crosse Project. I am a concerned citizen who lives in La Crescent, MN and works as a natural resource professional in La Crosse, WI, so I see the issue from both sides of the state line. I think if Maryland Power's request is granted, it will result in unsound environmental policy along a number of fronts (wildlife conservation, recreation and aesthetic, and possibly most important, additional greenhouse gases from the coal power generation it will enable in the Dakotas), as well as generating additional unfair and unjustified expenses to taxpayers. Below is a summary of key points to include in the comments on the EIS. We need to put any resources we have into localizing the existing power grid to modernize it. We do NOT need to be transmitting power inefficiently across vast distances with power lines that are potential health risks to humans and animals and disrupt migration and the scenic landscape. There are much better alternatives now available to distribute electrical power and we should be putting our resources into developing those, not what CapX2020 in general is proposing.

- I-202-001** 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-202-002** 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi flyway.
- I-202-003** 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-202-004** 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-202-005** 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Thank you for your time and for incorporating my comments into the EIS.

1

I-202-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-202-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-202-003

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-202-004

Jeanne T. (Terry) Dukerschein
1206 Currier St.
La Crescent, MN 55947

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-202-005

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:05 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020 Project in Minnesota
Attachments: SkyHarborAirpark.jpg

From: ryanflicek@yahoo.com [mailto:ryanflicek@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 12:04 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 Project in Minnesota

Hello Stephanie,

I'm a Rice County, Minnesota resident and have been reviewing those documents regarding the Brookings Co to Hampton Transmission line (part of the CapX2020 Project) on the Minnesota State website.

I have read about one of the alternative Rice County routes that is being included in the Environmental Assessment. As a local pilot, I can tell you because of Sky Harbor Airpark, an airport located just north of 50th St West, the alternative route should NOT have been accepted for review. If this proposed alternative route was to be used, the approach path to Runway 30 at Sky Harbor would be severely compromised, causing a significant safety hazard for landing aircraft.

Both the 57th St W and the 50th St W options pose a significant danger to Sky Harbor air traffic, however the 50th St W option would definitely pose more danger. Some people with a naïve understanding of airport operations may simply suggest a change to the traffic pattern, however the problem is much more complex. A much more critical consideration is the safety of the approach/departure surfaces off the end of the runway. Under the 50th ST W option, if we were conducting an FAA approach/departure obstruction survey on the RWY 30 approach-end at Sky Harbor, the proposed transmission line would fall within the limits of the FAA-approach-surface used for evaluation. At its closest point, the transmission line would fall within 0.5 miles of the runway end. On a straight-out departure, the transmission line would cross the approach surface approx 1-mile from-runway-end. At a 40:1 approach/departure slope, an object higher than approx 65 feet would penetrate the approach/departure surface at the 0.5 mile point. At the 1-mile point, an object higher than approx. 130 feet would penetrate the approach/departure surface. As I understand it, the transmission lines would be approx 150 feet tall. So, just running quick-and-dirty numbers, the transmission line would definitely constitute an "obstruction" as it relates to aviation.

Sky Harbor Airpark is a destination which welcomes many visiting pilots and large gatherings/fly-ins. Because the Runway is grass (not asphalt) at Sky Harbor, many curious visiting pilots are attracted to the area (grass runways are becoming more rare). These transmission lines would pose the increased risk to visiting pilots, not as accustomed to the area as local pilots. Because it is a private field, pre-flight information regarding Sky Harbor is not as readily available to pilots as it would be for an FAA-governed airport, such as a Municipal, Regional, or International airports. Thus, I am worried that the status of new transmission lines in this area may not adequately be disseminated to pilots. This danger would rise exponentially when you factor in flight operations occurring at night or in conditions involving reduced visibility.

Because of the short length of the runway at Sky Harbor, traffic patterns are often flown much lower than standard. Furthermore, in addition to many normally certificated aircraft, Sky Harbor is home to many Ultra-Light Aircraft as well. The normal operating altitudes of these types of aircraft is much lower than those of normally certificated aircraft. The performance characteristics of these aircraft make them less capable of making abrupt flight maneuvers to avoid collision with obstacles, should a pilot accidentally find themselves too close to these obstacles. There are also a few Sky Harbor residents that operate helicopters, which often depart and approach

I-203-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

the area at altitudes much lower than fixed-wing aircraft.

All-in-all, as a pilot, flight instructor, and professional in an aviation-safety industry, I know that there are far too many safety-risks pilots already encounter on a day-to-day basis. By erecting these transmission lines, it would be unfairly imposing another great risk to safety on these pilots, further complicating their operations.

Attached to this email is an aerial photo showing the proposed route of the transmission line (in green) and the runway (in red). For your orientation, this location is just a couple miles southeast of Webster, Minnesota.

Thank you.

Ryan Flicek

206 10th Ave NW

Lonsdale, MN 55046

507-581-3519



Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020/USDA/RUS comments
Attachments: Attached Message Part; Attached Message Part

-----Original Message-----

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:56 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020/USDA/RUS comments

Ms. Strength,
Additional comments:

Please question the LOCAL need for CapX and consider the NO BUILD option.

Per Carol Overland, Attorney:
in MN: Remember we have 1,900 MW of wind, and that we could shut down
900MW of coal right now based on Xcel's demand alone... and almost shut
down Prairie Island! Monticello nuclear is 600 MW, we could shut that down!

The question to ask the utilities is:

Why do you claim we "need" new generation?
Why do you imply/assume we can't shut down fossil fuel or nuclear fuel now?
Why do you state there are NO alternatives to your project (See the
wind info. above)

I-204-001 DEMANDS HAS DROPPED - HERE IS the Evidence:*

Xcel's 2008 10-K filed February 23, 2009
<<http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/financials/drawFiling.asp?docKey=136-000104746909002013-6PNAQ1ITEM17MR5OD3T090RE08&docFormat=HTM&formType=10-K>>

From their 10-k, p. 10:

* Capacity and Demand

*

Uninterrupted system peak demand for the NSP System's electric
utility for each of the last three years and the forecast for 2009,
assuming normal weather, is listed below.

System Peak Demand (in MW)			
2006	2007	2008	2009 Forecast
9,859	9,427	8,697	9,662

I-204-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020
Attachments: 3475_001.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: rfuhrmann@integra.net [mailto:rfuhrmann@integra.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:27 AM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us; Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Please see my attached comments.

Thank you

Roy Fuhrmann
3161 Cass Trail
Webster, MN 55088

I-205-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

July 23, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CAPX2020

Dear Mr. Ek and Ms. Strength:

I have reviewed the proposed alignment options for the CAPX2020 Transmission line and offer the following comments concerning the alignment of Alternative A-RIC-003 in Rice County, Minnesota:

Sky Harbor Airpark is a private residential airpark located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Canby Ave and Rice County 3, one mile east of the city of Webster. The Airpark is home to over 50 based aircraft and 46 homes and has a southeast/northwest runway, Runway 12/30, which is 2,855 feet long.

Minnesota Statute 360.062 Airport Hazard Prevention, states that "an airport hazard endangers the lives and property of users of the airport and of occupants of land in its vicinity". Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8800.1200 Criteria For Determining Air Navigation Obstructions, defines obstructions to air navigation. As defined in Chapter 8800.1200, Subp. 5, B. the Horizontal Surface is an imaginary horizontal plane 150 feet above the established airport elevation and extends in a 5,000 feet arc around the primary surface of the runway.

The proposed Alternate A-RIC-003 alignment is approximately 2,600 feet from Sky Harbor Airpark's Runway 12/30. The transmission line towers are described as being 170 feet tall and therefore they will penetrate the above described Horizontal Surface, be within the 5,000 foot arc from the runway and therefore be considered an Air Navigation Obstruction. Additional analysis needs to be completed to determine if the Alternative A-RIC-003 alignment penetrates any of the Primary Approach Surfaces to Runway 12/30 at Sky Harbor Airpark.

Finally, given the known location of the Airpark any transmission lines located on an approach path or within one mile of an airport should be appropriately lighted and safety balls should be placed on the transmission lines to prevent potential accidents. I ask that you consider the above information as part of your alignment selection process.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed CAPX2020 alignment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-384-7973.

Sincerely,



Roy Fuhrmann
3161 Cass Trail
Webster, MN 55088

I-206-002

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-206-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

From: Andrew Gilmer [gilmermac@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:39 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am concerned with CapX2020's plan to install new transmissions lines across MN. I recognize that the country's energy needs need to be addressed and that doing so may require new infrastructure to be built. This is not a "not in my backyard" situation. I am asking for the public to be given a choice after an independent fact finding study with reasonable assumptions has been accomplished. A study that demonstrates the future need for power, while considering a spectrum of options. These options should include improvements to energy efficiency, reduction in per capita energy consumption, off the grid technologies and distributed generation. Only after a thorough study is accomplished should we take action that is on scale with CapX2020's plans. In addition, if such an "improvement" in infrastructure is required, care should be made to place that infrastructure along already established lines of communication. For example routing the lines along the I94 and I90 corridors and established bridges vs. ruining pristine bluff country in SE MN and placing new high tension lines across the Mississippi. While this would cost more it would minimize the impact on both the beauty of the land and potential harmful impact on bird species found along the Mississippi and the threatened Eastern rattlesnake habitat in SE MN. The local citizen should be given a voice in how their power is generated and routed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Gilmer

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAP X powerline

From: blgregers@myclearwave.net [mailto:blgregers@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 7:47 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAP X powerline

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I write to you with my concerns for the CAP X2020 power line that is being proposed to go from the Dakota and ultimately end up in Chicago. I am sure that you have read them all, but I would like to state my concerns.

- I-207-001** 1. I understand that the current updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for ultra high voltage power lines -- including the LaCrosse Project. If we don't need them, then why build these kind of lines -- we can't afford to do business as usual and just build or buy things like we used to do. The money is not there.
- I-207-002** 2. I have a real concern about the environmental damage that will occur from coal and the pollution it causes. There is no "clean coal power." Why are we using this kind of energy source when there are much more environmentally sound ones. Please don't do this. We only have one world and we are responsible to leave it a better place for our children and grandchildren. Please consider how the entire project will cause pollution.
- I-207-004**
- I-207-003** 3. Let's not further damage the environment and protected national wildlife refuge by putting this kind of power line in the places where we have already declared it to be a refuge. There are so many other ways to do this and at a much lower cost. Don't continue the fallacy of going with what we know. Let leave this world a better place for our children. Let us not damage or destroy the environment so that we have children who do not know the beauty of the land without power lines overhead.
4. Please do not put further burdens on already financially strapped people by asking them to pay for utility lines that they will receive no benefit from -- not to mention that their property value will decrease with a high voltage power line on it.
- In this past couple of years, we have been the victim of so many greedy corporations who have no regard for the "little" people. They don't care who gets hurt as long as they get their way or their money. Well, we are in a financial crisis in this country because of that greed. Maybe you should listen to the "little" people who kept their head on straight and did not over extend themselves or did not get greedy. We are the backbone of this country and are paying for that greed. Please don't let the power companies the comprise CAPX2020 take advantage of the "little" people. We don't need to get hit again.
- Thank you for your time.
- Linda Gregerson
Northfield, MN
- I-207-005** 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

I-207-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-207-002

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-003

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-005

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 1:10 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Attached Files mailed Comment Form Puboic Scoping Meetings. Thank you.
Attachments: Barb Hammes.vcf; Email0134.jpg; Email0135.jpg; Email0136.jpg

From: bbhammes@acegroup.cc [mailto:bbhammes@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:31 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: bjhammes@gundluth.org
Subject: Attached Files mailed Comment Form Puboic Scoping Meetings. Thank you.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-208-002

We understand the need was not adequately addressed by the process in MN.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Bernard Hammes
 Name: Barbara Hammes - property owner
 Representing (Optional): Mississippi River Wild (Refuge Friends
 Mailing Address: 314 Shore Acres Rd. Group
 City: La Crescent State: MN. Zip Code: 55947
 Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-208-003 Our Shore Acres MN home property
fag yearly for river frontage proper
taxes. Looking directly at the 5-3x
highest larger tower & lines
is an eye sore/nuisance which
would decrease our property
values & property taxes
paid.

Our Trempealeau cottage is also on the upper
Mississippi River Refuge.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational,
etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-208-001 Many river birds (eagles, osprey, ^{migrates} fowl,
herons, egrets, cormorants, martins etc)
use the Mississippi River fly
way. The proposed tower & lines
are 2-3x higher & larger than
the existing ones which already
cause damage & death to
these birds. We volunteer many hours
improve & enhance the Upper Mississippi
River Refuge & do not wish this project
to cross or be seen on the
Refuge areas.

I-208-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-208-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-208-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line as well as socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by July 25, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety

I-208-004 ☒ Other: LSE airport proximity issues

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-208-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to public transportation as well as health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

Full Name: Barb Hammes
Last Name: Hammes
First Name: Barb
E-mail: bbhammes@acegroup.cc
E-mail Display As: Barb Hammes (bbhammes@acegroup.cc)

Kessler, Ellen

From: chelmberger@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 2:04 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Fw: Powerlines: South Dakota through Minnesota (Hampton, Rochester) to LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
Stephanie, I submitted this to you on 6/29 but wanted to be sure that you received it.

Please read the entire email of mine below but in short:

- I-209-001** | 1. This is a massive project through South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin - it is not just a segment from Hampton to LaCrosse.
- I-209-002** | 2. This is a huge financial impact to people whose land and homes will be devalued.
- I-209-003** | 3. There are existing rights of way that the power companies can use and they choose not to do this. Using existing lines would be less disruptive to families and ag land and acreage land.
- 4. Excel Energy has about 44 full time lobbyists at the Minnesota Capitol. Yet the 22,000 plus individuals directly impacted as their land has to be given up(so you can imagine how many indirectly are impacted -ie their home is within a short distance of the powerlines) are just a whisper. Please do NOT let the big guys get there way on this. You must know that 22,000 canNOT be in favor of these powerlines.
- I-209-005** | 5. There needs to be more research on if there really is the need for these massive powerlines. If these go in, they will double and triple over time.
- I-209-004** | 6. One can only think that we in Minnesota and Wisconsin will have our land taken from us for pennies compared to what it is worth only to let these lines bring power to other states way east of here.

Thank you,
Cindy Helmberger

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Cindy Helmberger <chelmberger@yahoo.com>
To: stephanie.strength@usda.gov
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 2:52:19 PM
Subject: Powerlines: South Dakota through Minnesota (Hampton, Rochester) to LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Hello,
I am writing regarding the large multi-faceted powerline project from South Dakota to Minnesota to Wisconsin.

If I may please ask that you email me back that you received my email, I would appreciate it

ET2/TL-08-1474 CapX 2020 Brookings to Hampton / Rochester to LaCrosse
345 KV Transmission Lines
Submitted by Cindy Helmberger (24311 Lakeville, MN 55844 â€œ New Market
Township in Scott County).

I-209-001

Your comment has been noted. While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need. It is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-209-002

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-209-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-209-004

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020

My area of concern for which I am commenting on is the Rice, Scott and Dakota (Minnesota) counties.

Please note: The powerline is from Brookings , South Dakota and has running routes throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin . It is NOT just the Hampton/ Rochester to LaCrosse, WI line. Great River Energy and Xcel Energy's proposal was for several high voltage lines that interconnect and is multi-faceted and has future plans to these lines. Please consider the entirety of this project (South Dakota , Minnesota and Wisconsin) and its devastation to communities, people, landowners and the environment. If these powerlines are approved, it is only allowing future powerlines to be built and to tag onto these new powerlines. The power companies already have acknowledged and received approval to double the voltage on these 345 KV lines. So the project is not just what will happen in 2010 it will be what happens in the future. If the rights of way are granted, they and any other type of telecommunication or powerlines are given open access to whatever.

CAPX2020

- Their mailings did NOT indicate on the outside of the envelopes that it had to do with powerlines through the person's neighborhood or backyard. People tossed the envelopes aside as they had no idea what CAPX2020 was.
- Applicant's Appendix K " regarding public comment was only 2 pages long. There were only 393 comments out of 22,000 mailings. How could they base any decisions on routes or what people thought based on 393 comments. These comments could have been from 10 people only.
- For landowner's whose land or homes would be impacted and require an easement " there was no certified letter mailed " just another generic envelope.
- CAPX failed in their mailings and failed with their meetings which I am sure had very low attendance.
- They failed in their preferred and alternate route selection. They could have chosen a route based on their own original proposals that would not impact so many people and homes.
- In the past month or two the meetings and the involvement of citizens is due only to the citizens notifying their neighbors of what is going on.
- CAPX2020 has proposed a build up of the Lake Marion substation in Lakeville , MN . The application references purchasing between 12 to 16 acres at the current Lake Marion substation. Allowing them to build up this station will only be an invitation for more powerlines. The area near this station is very populated with homes as it is one household per 2.5 acres. Such a massive substation should not be allowed near that many humans.
- It is very feasible for CAPX and the utility companies to develop a new substation south of the Lake Marion one in a less densely populated area. Then they can run distributor lines from the new south substation to Lake Marion . I know someone who spoke with a person at Great River Energy who said they could build a new substation in this area and that it did NOT need to be at Lake Marion . Having two substations in the area would make the system more reliable because if there was an issue at a sole substation, then the system does not have a back up to rely on.
- Scott County Minnesota Board voted unanimously on the topic of the powerlines and it is NOT for these lines in the county.
-

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Minnesota Administrative Rules # 7849.5910 Factors Considered:

- a. Aesthetics: visual impact from project. Scott county townships on route has a population of 8,125 and that does not include parts of New Prague. Rice county townships on route has population of 6,088. The powerlines will be seen for miles " a devastating and huge impact aesthetically and monetarily. Nobody wants powerlines in their neighborhood however, if the lines need to go somewhere the route should be where there are less people

Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-209-005

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

impacted. I heard that they may consider burying 2 miles of lines by Hiawatha because people do not want them.

b. Cultural Resources: People choose to move out to the semi-rural area for the cultural values of a small town. The values of those who spent a lot of money to purchase land and their homes will be destroyed. Example: A person spent \$200,000 on a lot in Scott County and built a \$500,000 home. Now powerlines will be in their backyard or very visible to them. Now that \$700,000 investment is reduced down to \$450,000 or less and maybe the person will get \$ 5,000 for that loss?

c. Land Use: Primarily, it is not judicious to have powerlines run through land and near homes that will lose the most financially.

d. Socioeconomic: Population information. Noted above. Repeated again: Why run powerlines through areas where there are currently more people and in the future will allow more people? Utility System: The alternate route through the areas of my concern would only cost \$ 8 million more dollars. That is only \$ 100 each for 80,000 users of electricity to make up that \$ 8 million. Let those using the electricity pay such a low amount for the extra cost. Why should those who will lose the most financially have to lose up to hundreds of thousands of dollars because the line goes through / near their home. The utility companies can very easily buy land cheaper south of here and build a new substation there and then feed a small line up to Lake Marion.

Rights of way: There are existing rights of way in Rice county, along Interstate 35, and near Cannon Falls. They could utilize these existing rights of way, create a new substation that is closer to the existing lines in land areas that are NOT more densely populated.

e. Safety and Health: Just a simple question "would you want to live near an enormous powerline?" Just a simple comment "it has to be safer to live without a line than with one."

f. Natural Environment: Sections of land in New Market township are the start of the Vermillion watershed / trout stream.

More Comments:

1. I would please ask that the electricity need be analyzed. Have there really been any brownouts? We will most likely not see the population growth that was experienced "will the need really be there to have such a mass increase in electricity?"

2. Are these powerlines really for the people in Minnesota and Wisconsin or is their goal to direct electricity beyond these states?

3. Will the electricity companies mitigate damage done to the environment and the monetary loss that landowners will have?

4. Please, please, please have a much more in-depth study be done.

5. Have all the right state and Federal governments commented on the issues surrounding the powerlines?

6. Have there been impact studies done on comparable powerlines that have comparable impact to like communities and environment?

7. This is a huge endeavor by the power companies and it should thoughtfully and thoroughly be investigated by the different state and Federal agencies.

8. Has the uniqueness of the joint venture between Great River Energy and Xcel been investigated thoroughly? Meaning, are they placing this under the guise of a not for profit like Great River only to turn it over to Xcel Energy?

Thank you very much for the USDA's review of this project and what the impacts are.

Sincerely,

Cindy Helmberger

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project
Attachments: letter to USDA.docx

From: Mary Kleese [mailto:mkleese@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:46 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project

Ms. Strength,

We respectfully submit this letter on behalf of Holden Township and appreciate your consideration of it.

Sincerely,
Doug and Mary Kleese
4667 Co. 30 Blvd
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-6313
mkleese@myclearwave.net

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist

Re: Cap X 2020-proposed route through Holden Township, Kenyon, MN

We live on a 3rd generation farm in Holden Township, Sec. 23 Kenyon MN. Just recently it was brought to our attention via our local newspaper that the newest revised route for one of the Cap X2020 proposed power lines is just south of our property, in direct view and vicinity of our home and livelihood. This was the first that we were made aware of this. We never received any correspondence regarding informational meetings or proposed lines that potentially would be placed so close to where we live. Though it would not directly go through our property, due to the position of our home and land, we are in constant direct view and exposure of the proposed towers. Our strong concerns regarding these proposed lines are threefold; 1) from a safety standpoint, 2) maintaining the rural integrity of the area, and 3) an aesthetics viewpoint.

I-210-001

Firstly, along with farming our own acres, we rent the acreage that the proposed lines would actually go through. Our children pick rocks from these fields twice yearly so our farm equipment is not damaged. We literally would be picking rocks under these towers. We are concerned about being able to run our machinery around and under these lines. We have read about EMF emissions and it appears that not enough studies have been done regarding 345kv transmission lines at this time. It is a real concern!

I-210-002

I-210-004

Secondly, as residents and farmers in Holden Township, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. Our township ordinances reflect this continuing goal to maintain our agricultural area and to provide area farmers the opportunity to continue farming and preserving the agricultural integrity of Holden township. Furthermore, the way the line is proposed, it would run directly down the section, causing a great disruption of the acreage and the farming practices. The number of rural acreage in Minnesota is limited. Farmland is not a renewable resource. It is difficult to understand the reasoning of disrupting and changing this rural area when other rights of way have already been developed. Transmission lines, such as the one's proposed by the Cap X2020 project, would forever disrupt and destroy our rural landscape, and arguably some of the best farm acreage in Minnesota.

I-210-003

Thirdly, we love our home and farm. We are surrounded by fields of corn and soybeans, oak groves, ninety-foot pines and a rolling landscape. We cannot adequately describe how much we appreciate the nature and landscape that surrounds us. The Zumbro River runs close to the fields we farm, wooded acres provide a natural habitat for deer, birds and many other animals. We hike through the woods, walk the fields and play outdoors. Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park is only 8 miles from us. We invite you out to our property to see for yourself what a disruption such a transmission line would be to the aesthetics, rural integrity and way of life for the farmers and residents of Holden Township.

In conclusion, we find it ironic that there is even a proposal to increase transmission lines especially so close to where we live. We, personally, have used less electricity the past few years due to our concerted effort of conservation. Our government agencies have spent a great deal of time and money

I-210-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-210-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-210-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-210-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

advocating conservation, and its working. More and more Minnesotans are seeing the need for conservation of energy and the last 2 years of consumption have decreased.

I-210-005

We would like to add this for consideration; why is the disruption to all of these prime farmland acres, (the acreage of which is already shrinking in this state) our agricultural heritage and way of life even being considered when agriculture hasn't created the suggested need for more power?

Respectfully submitted,

Doug and Mary Kleese

Holden Township

4667 Co. 30 Blvd

Kenyon, MN 55946

507-789-6313

I-210-005

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020

From: caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:30 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020

Dear Stephanie,

- I-211-001** | I am a citizen who is concerned about whether or not the CAPX2020 project makes sense. I do not want to see tax dollars used to support this project for the following reasons:
- I-211-002** | **Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers** without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-211-003** | **Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020** ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project
- I-211-004** | The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-211-005** | Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Please consider my families concerns when discussing this project!

Kind Regards,
Caroline, Michael, Inga and Vladimir Lexa

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I-211-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-211-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-211-004

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Publicly on <http://medRxiv.org/content/early/2019/07/10/20190710.155558>

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:13 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

From: lonnieandgayle@gmail.com [mailto:lonnieandgayle@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 LaCrosse Project

I-212-001 Taxpayers should not have to finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service which will happen if it's not funded by USDA/RUS & it will also make it more difficult to move forward. Please represent the taxpayers in this matter, and keep our best interest a priority.

Lonnie and Gayle Malwitz

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

From: John & Kari Tonsager [mailto:jktonsager@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 6:00 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: btmurphy@frontiernet.net
Subject: Public comment - CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project
Importance: High

Stephanie-

In regards to the proposed line in Dakota and Goodhue County, specifically Sec 32 in Hampton Twp (owned by Bernard Murphy Farms LP) and Sec 26 and 36 Goodhue County, Holden Twp. (same ownership):

Sec 32 in Hampton: The best use for the railroad bed would be the future extension of the rail from Randolph north. The power line would limit this. Also, there is a problem with this line in Sec 29 where line would go across farm with irrigator.

Sec 36 in Holden Twp: In the future we are looking at putting an irrigator on this land. Also, plan to have cow/calf operation.

Any questions, please call Brian Murphy 952.292.3035 or 952.469.1261. We would be in support of the one of the easterly routes.

Brian P. Murphy

I-213-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: calnyjo55@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 2:41 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on CAPX2020 Rochester project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Stephanie Strength,

I hope it's not too late for this. The rural coop newsletter said that we had until July 27th to make comments.

My husband and I live at 5009 Viola Road NE, which is just west of County 11 and just south of County 2

We and are opposed to route B46, which will run just west of our property. We have talked to a number of our neighbors and feel that they are opposed to this too. We are opposed because:

1. We feel it is too close to a lot of homes that are currently along this section line.

I-214-001 2. We have heard that a power line of this size this near to homes results in a devaluation of the properties.

I-214-002 3. We have heard that being this close to this large voltage is a concern for both health and for problems in homes, barns and businesses with stray voltage that the property owner then has to deal with.

I-214-005 4. It degrades the country look of the area.

I-214-003 5. It is right next to the new Quest DSL box which was recently installed on our property and we are concerned that this would interfere with the phone and internet services.

I-214-004 We would prefer route B120, as this seems to go behind a lot of the properties in the area and so keeps the line farther away from the homes. Even this route though seems very close to homes.

Otherwise, if this power line is not a problem near homes, then we don't understand why it doesn't go down the B47 route, since this is County 11 and would probably be the easiest road to use to service the line.

Sincerely yours,

Mike and Cathy Nordstrom

I-214-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-214-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-214-003

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-214-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-214-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

-----Original Message-----

From: rdo_mn@yahoo.com [mailto:rdo_mn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: No Need For Capx2020 - Expansion of Dirty Coal Is Not Wanted

Key Concerns:

- I-215-001** 1. There is no need for high voltage lines if we can tap into community based, local sources of electricity.
2. The USDA needs to make a decision about the public interest for the citizens of Minnesota and not just rubber-stamp CapX2020. The power companies are already well represented.
- I-215-002** 3. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-215-003** 4. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-215-004** 4. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-215-005** 5. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.
- I-215-006** 6. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Regards,
Robert Olson
Warsaw Township Tax Payer, Rate Payer, Voter, Hunter
Goodhue County

1

I-215-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-215-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-215-001.

I-215-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-215-004

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their

electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-215-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-215-006

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: rozfarm98@acegroup.cc
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 2:51 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Dairyland Power Application, CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength:

I am writing to express concerns about the proposed Application by Dairyland Power for the CapX2020 project.

I did attend several of the meetings held by USDA in the La Crosse area and had the opportunity to speak with you. My concerns are broader than many that I heard in attendance. Many of the rural constituents seemed concerned about the placement of the lines. While those concerns are definitely legitimate, the broader concern at this time should perhaps be about the lack of facts and need, and the timing of the proposed CapX2020 project in light of alternatives in energy production today.

Having read the letter Minnesota Senator Ropes sent to you, I fully agree with what she has said.

I would add my own emphasis to that.

I-216-001 | * The claims made by the power companies are not up-to-date, therefore, USDA/RUS should conduct a new EIS.

* The proposed lines will carry coal-powered energy, with its environmental consequences, rather than green energy centrally developed and used through smart grid technology, as embraced by the current administration.

I-216-002 | * The National Wildlife Refuge and its inhabitants will be irrevocably damaged.

I-216-003 | * Getting lines through to La Crosse will prove to be much more expensive, damaging, and difficult due to the terrain.

I-216-004 | * As a taxpayer in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, I do not want my tax dollars or others tax dollars to finance the CapX2020 project including the La Crosse portion.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and the facts presented by so many people in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rozovics
P.O. BOX 246
La Crescent, MN 55947

I-216-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-216-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-216-004

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020

-----Original Message-----

From: rozlac@acegroup.cc [mailto:rozlac@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:54 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

With regard to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project, I have read the letter from Sharon Erickson Ropes to you dated July 23, 2009. Please count me among those who are in full agreement with the concerns and requests that Ms. Erickson Ropes has outlined. To that I would add that the future of energy production and consumption in this country is local. It is a future that is already taking root and is gaining momentum every day. Projects that promote continued reliance on centralization of production and/or long distance transmission of electrical power are sadly out of step with new realities and will soon become obsolete.

If CapX202 is allowed to move forward, it will come at an extraordinary yet totally unnecessary cost in both dollars and environmental degradation and the new towers and transmission lines (wherever they are constructed) will stand in lasting, mute testimony to a tragically flawed view of the future that favors the narrow interests of the utility companies over the real needs of consumers. Accordingly, I respectfully request that USDA/RUC refuse to lend its support to the CapX2020 La Crosse Project by choosing a "no-build" option.

Sincerely,

Jim Rozovics
4637 Turkey Valley Lane
La Crescent, MN

I-217-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-217-002

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Colliris, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: shea.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:51 AM
To: bshea1956@yahoo.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Mr. Shea,

Thank you for providing your feedback and suggestions regarding the routing of the CapX2020 Hampton - Rochester - La Crosse line. Your comments are being provided via this e-mail to the USDA Rural Utilities Service (Stephanie Strength) for inclusion in their federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We do have 3908 Dawn Haven Court NE in our database, but under a different name. I'm wondering if there was a change of ownership since our mailing lists were first compiled. I apologize that you hadn't been getting the mailings. You are now entered into our database for future correspondence. Please do encourage your neighbors to contact us with their information, and we will gladly add them as well. They can provide comments to us at any time, however for comments to be included in the federal EIS, they must be received by tomorrow, July 25. Comments can also be sent directly to Stephanie Strength; her e-mail is included and her phone number is 202-720-0468.

Please let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights - North
Xcel Energy
CapX2020
800-238-7968

William Shea 507-288/5690 bshea1956@yahoo.com
3908 Dawn Haven Court Ne
Rochester MN 55906

Key Issues: That there re better alternatives. There are two existing high power lines with right of way both going north from Co Road 9 (Olmsted). The one routed north and south on Co Road 11 is the worst route to take because of the higher density of residential housing. But then is altered to not only cut through a recreational and wildlife sanctuary but also near more residential housing. The other would be north on 50th Ave impacting much less residential housing of which have chose to build near the existing high powerlines recently. From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and Blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th ave Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland. Property: 300 yards to the east on Dawn Haven Ct NE. We moved here for the aesthetic value and

I-218-001

I-218-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-218-003

have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops. Opinion: The proposed Co 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Ave or the 50th Avenue route is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more to build this route, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting the energy. Additional information needed: All of it. A land owner north of us brought it to our attention 14 days after the original deadline. Coincidentally 2 neighbors of ours on Dawn Haven Court Ne who are heirs to the farmland directly to the west and impacted by this project knew nothing about this either. 7/23/2009 8:05:00 PM

I-218-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-218-003

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

From the supplied map with Red (proposed existing) and blue (proposed alternates), it appears the blue route just west of the 50th Av. Red route is the best. It impacts very little residential housing and less farmland.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

300 yds. to the east on Dawn Haven Ct. We moved here for the aesthetic value and have 2 neighbors who co-run the land for farming crops.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

The proposed Cor. 11 north goes right by residential housing, then turns east into recreational land near Silver Creek reservoir. It then turns north again through prime wildlife management land and then prime farmland to the north. It makes little sense to disturb this when a blue proposed line west of 50th Av. (or 50th Av.) is a far better alternative with much less impact. If it cost more, maybe the buyer who receives the electricity should bear the cost. It is obviously not for us. But then we have no idea who is getting it!

Collins, Carly

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:41 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader
Attachments: myletter.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: skubes@co.rice.mn.us [mailto:skubes@co.rice.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2009 9:26 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: myletter.pdf - Adobe Reader

I-220-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

WHAT IS YOUR IMPACT?

Hello. My name is Sonja Kubes, and we live in Lanesburgh Township in section 14. I want to start by saying that I'm disgusted that this entire CAPX2020 project is even still up for debate. I have yet to meet one single person who is in favor of this ridiculous project. This project has upset the entire foundation in this community. I don't care what route you are on...I'm sorry that the route issue is even up for debate. I am truly hoping that we can win the "big battle" and put an end to the CAPX2020 project all together, but if that is not on the table for debate, then I have to try and win the little battle by telling you a little bit about what my ranch offers the community.

We own and operate Sand Creek Ranch. It is a quarter horse and cattle performance/breeding stable and arena. Our ranch is located on your **alternate** route in LeSueur County on County Road 164 (141st Ave.) outside of New Prague, MN. The power lines may go right down our 12 acre hay field, the only hay field we desperately need to maintain a reasonable life. It will be within close proximity to our farm yard, several metal pole sheds, and our pastures. However, as our business grows, we have plans to build an indoor arena, an additional stall barn for horse/cattle competitors and vendors. A ROW power line taking over half our hay field would greatly impact our livelihoods by preventing us from growing our business. Because of the issue that machinery cannot be safely operated around these lines, we would lose a lot of hay. This hay feeds our livestock.

If we can't operate our machinery safely, we lose money. We will have to spend money to buy a lot of hay; this directly impacts our financial bottom line. Besides the fact that the value of the property would decrease astronomically. This is a livestock ranch, and should remain as one with the numerous nice farm buildings, pastures, and home.

For us to run a successful business we NEED our hay that is harvested from that field. We harvest approximately 3000+ bales of good grass hay from that field every year. We can support our entire herd of cattle and all the performance horses from this field. We do not need to buy any outside hay....which we all know is a very big expense. We will lose this self-sufficiency if we lose any part of our hay field and pasture land.

If the power system goes through our hay field, our business will be grossly

negatively impacted. We will be in peril. We have spent many years growing our business. We expect to spend many more years growing our business. This land is our livelihood and a lifestyle we choose.

We moved here 30 years ago. We moved to LeSueur County, an Agri-County. We moved out of Scott County which was already becoming unfriendly to Agri-Business. LeSueur County is still, and will continue for many years to be, primarily an Agri-County. All around us are families with both small and large-sized Agri interests. There are numerous horse entities, dairy farms, and crop farmers.

The impact on our ranch, livestock and family is devastating to the success of our business and the health of our family and animals. We average between 20-30 horses and 20-30 head of cattle on the ranch. Training, boarding and breeding horses plus sponsoring rodeos, cutting and team roping jackpots are our livelihood, as well as our lifestyle. We have three children who are growing up with horses and the wonderful ranching lifestyle that includes family and friends.

We are active supporters of LeSueur County 4-H and MN High School Rodeo by providing numerous youth training clinics and lessons for their benefit. We do NOT want to lose this way of life for them or us. If the power line goes through our property, we will not be able to keep things as they are for them, the youth, or our customers.

Surrounding the farm yard, there are 25+ acres of cattle/horse pastures that are enclosed with 4-strand hot wire fencing with mostly steel fence posts, pastures surrounded by pipe fencing, and metal gates, besides the numerous automatic waterers. If waterers are subject to any type of electro magnetic field or stray voltage, the livestock will not drink because of their high sensitivity to electric currents. Horses and cattle MUST have constant water to survive because without water availability, they will not eat. The ground on the ranch is a high mix of peat with some clay. Peat ground holds more moisture (hence high hay production we have), but will also be a conduit for the electro magnetic field from the power lines.

This is unacceptable for maintaining a livestock ranch.

If we need to replace the 25+ acres of hot wire and steel pipe fencing, the cost

is prohibitive. And, how do we water this much livestock every day with a sufficient amount of water?? We would be forced to stop using the automatic metal waterers and use rubber tubs with no way to transport the water to these tubs that the livestock requires on a daily basis. What do we do in the winter to keep the tubs from freezing?? Will we have to spread miles of extension cords to power these tank heaters hoping that there is no electric feed-back from the power lines...and don't forget the astronomical electric bill costs.

In closing, we are asking your company to please, please hear our concerns and objections to placing the power lines in our neighborhood; the work and planning was done for good reason for the primary route. We are NOT your primary route for business economical reasons; the extreme added costs to run the power lines on the alternate route is not good business for you, or us. Those high added costs will, we're sure, be passed on to taxpayers who are already financially stressed in these horrible economical times.

Please, preserve our ranch for our children, the youth in our community and our agri-business lifestyle.

Please say "NO" to Capx2020!

Sincerely,

Sonja Kubes
Skubcs@rice.co.mn.us
Sanderkranch@bevcomm.net
952-758-2099

Kessler, Ellen

From: w2938f-msg11@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on public Scoping meeting: Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse

I attended the Meeting June 18, 2009 at St. Charles Mn.

As per the Comment form:

Issues considered important:

- Visual, Proximity to residences, Land use, Radio-TV interference
- Project need
- Health and safety
 - I have recently seen an article from Europe proving the effects on cattle. The cattle and deer oriented per the power line and not according to normal earth magnetic field.

Key issues that should be addressed as impacts of project.

- I-221-001** | - The effect of construction and the use of heavy equipment is an ongoing effect for a number (probably 5) years. One of the issues is ground subsoil compaction affecting plant growth.
- I-221-002** | - The route should be along already established corridors for public facilities. The state guidelines establish this as a goal.
 - Access is already established and minimum impact is made on the community.
 - Minimum disturbance is made to land and peoples property
 - Property valuations already reflect this intrusion

Property owned in proposed corridor:

- Agricultural, Residential

Special uses or circumstances on property that should be considered.

- The proposed corridor runs on top of the highest ground in area.
 - This is prime positioning for future wind turbines. The line takes the only route that would be viable for turbines on this property. On adjoining property it would reduce the number of turbines for future use.

Project description, purpose, and need.

- I-221-003** | - The claimed need was described, however
 - I learned from an outside source that recent electric use data was not used in the proposal. The recent data apparently does not support the need due to a drop in electric use.
 - Recent articles in IEEE (professional society) indicate that that there may be ways to maximize the use of existing transmission lines. This may make the need of the line a question.

Wayne Theel
7943 Collegeview Rd E

I-221-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-221-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-221-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Eyota, Mn 55934

Kessler, Ellen

From: Duane Tiede [dctiede@ameritech.net]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comments on Proposed CapX 2020 345 kva Power Line
Attachments: CapX2020 Comment Form Duane Tiede.pdf

Stephanie,

Attached are my comments on the proposed 345kva power transmission line from Hampton Minnesota to La Crosse, Wisconsin. I have received general information on this project for the past several years but very recent information with the latest proposed routing directly impacts my farm as the proposed line runs adjacent to my house, garage, machine shed and farm drive and is the only alternative route shown for the 2.5 miles.

Please consider the attached comments in your environmental review. I will mail a hard copy also.

Thank you for your consideration.

Duane Tiede
(630) 640-8212
dctiede@ameritech.net<<mailto:dctiede@ameritech.net>>

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line
crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-222-001

My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.

The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.

I-222-002

Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.

I-222-003

There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-222-004

The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.

The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-222-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, potential socioeconomic impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-222-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-222-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-222-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-222-005
I-222-006

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 6s521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-222-005

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-222-006

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments by the following means:

- Leave this form at the public meeting.
- Mail the form or a letter to the address below.
- Submit comments electronically at www.capx2020.com/Projects/project_tc-roch-lac.html

Please mail this form or electronically submit your comments by June 29, 2009.

FOLD HERE



**1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

**Stephanie A. Strength
1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571**

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

Kessler, Ellen

From: Jessica Trost [jessica_trost@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 10:43 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Hamp-Roch-Lac 345kV Project Public Scoping Comment Form
Attachments: USDA Comment Form.docx

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have taken the time to answer the questions on the public scoping comment form for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV Transmission Project. I have included my answers to the questions in this email and also attached a Word document containing my answers.

Thank you for considering the public comments. This is an issue that will affect many Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Trost

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

x Project Purpose and Need:

o The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.

x Visual/Aesthetic resources:

o Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.

x Proximity to residences

x Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

o These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.

x Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

x Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

o Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!

x Historic and cultural sites

- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ Other: property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-224-005

This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more green by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-224-001

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting-another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

I-224-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

I-224-002

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-224-003

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

I-224-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

I-224-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-224-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-224-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-224-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meetings:

Which meeting did you attend: Family member attended meeting in Cannon Falls, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need:
 - The need for energy has decreased in MN in the last three years.
- ☒ Visual/Aesthetic resources:
 - Have you seen these lines?! They're huge and they cut through beautiful landscapes.
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
 - These lines are going to go through many Minnesota farms.
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
 - Many trees will be cleared in the right of way of the lines!
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
 - And GPS on farm equipment
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
 - EMF, danger of electric shocks under the lines!
- ☒ **Other:** property values

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

This will be a huge construction project that will destroy a lot of land in Minnesota. These lines do not seem to be a sensible solution to the growing energy need, especially since energy use has decreased in the last three years. The coal plants that are supposed to be built are an outdated form of energy production. Let's make this project more *green* by finding solutions that create less pollution, destroy less of our land and agricultural resources, and are closer to the area of need.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Residential
- ☐ Conservation Easement
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Other:

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our farm is located in Holden Township. We produce feed and raise livestock. These lines would disrupt the agriculture in this area and could pose dangers to the livestock and farmers. Wooded areas would need to be cleared, which would disrupt hunting—another important activity for my family. Massive transmission lines would spoil the pristine beauty of this rural agricultural community.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.) in the Project area and why?

Natural and biological resources definitely need to be considered. Vast areas of forest need to be cleared for such lines creating smaller patches of woods that do not meet the habitat needs of all species. Many efforts are in place to preserve and protect the Big Woods in this area and power lines should not be an exception. I am also concerned about the effect EMF from the power lines can have on plant and animal species as well as residents in the area. Farmland is also a resource that is becoming more valuable every day. We cannot afford to compromise our excellent farmland in this area to make way for transmission lines.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

NO. I had the impression that the project was being carried out when it was actually still in the approval phase. I don't fully understand the purpose of such massive lines that lose energy as they transfer it. Nor do I understand why we need such massive lines running across the entire state. I have been informed from other sources that the assessment of need didn't include the past three years, when energy use has actually decreased. I have also been informed that very little of the energy is slated for use in Minnesota. This project, according to information I had to collect with my own research efforts, will not be benefitting Minnesotans—it will just be an eyesore that destroys our landscape and resources and cause great resentment. Other (greener) options need to be considered and Minnesotans deserve to get the truth and whole story behind the lines.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Trost

Mailing Address: 3149 County 30 Blvd.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip: 55946

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

From: linda@archdirect.com [mailto:linda@archdirect.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:49 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 High Voltage Transmission Project

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Rm. #2244
Washington DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength,
As a landowner in Eureka Township, inheriting land from Norwegian immigrant ancestors, I am deeply concerned about preservation of environment passed on to me. Our parcel is presently rented to organic farmers and is becoming very productive. We are near a lake which is habitat for many endangered species and many more not endangered.

I-225-001

I have followed with interest the effort of many neighbors to halt the project to build a high voltage power line close to our land and participated to a limited extent. I feel that the effort to stop this project is in the best interest of our land, which is close to the Twin Cities and provides food for the area, clean air, and recreational and many other uses which could be harmed by the construction of high voltage lines which incidentally do not seem to be really needed if local generation, local transmission and conservation practices are employed.

Thank you for your consideration and careful attention to my concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Turpening
I urge you to examine this project very closely and

I-225-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: vaughn.gail@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: jeremychipps@gmail.com
Subject: no to CAPX2020 please

To: Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

Dear Ms Strength,

I am hoping you will be willing to refuse to allow the CAPX2020 project to get taxpayer-funded money in order to move forward.

This project is just a dinosaur waiting to inflict as much damage as it can in its waning days, to support an energy solution that is headed in an obsolete direction.

While the 'need' for this huge outlay of money, in order to build enormous new transmission systems, has not been proven, what HAS been proven is that it will harm our beautiful land and wildlife even more. And it is also a guarantee that those moneys, if used for this project, will not be used instead on new alternative sources of renewable energy, and energy conservation.

It would just be so great if someone exercised some common sense and said 'NO', this is not a good use of anyone's enormous amounts of money.

I am hoping your organization will say NO.
Thank you very much.

Gail Vaughn
61033 County Road C
Ferryville WI 54628

(right next to that beautiful Mississippi river, and just down the road from Dairyland Power)

I-226-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-226-001

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 12:43 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 power transmission line

From: charles.weerts@gmail.com [mailto:charles.weerts@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 power transmission line

Ms Strength,

This email is in reference to the CAPX2020 power line proposed to run through our area. We live in Rice Co. at the Sky harbor airpark (airport) near Webster, MN. There is a proposed alternate route to run this huge transmission line very near the airport which is a serious hazard to aircraft landing and taking off at the airport. Please help to keep this transmission line from becoming a hazard to pilots using the airport.

Charles & Delrae Weerts
4419 Canton Court
Webster, MN 55088

I-227-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: capx2020 project

From: t7n28@acegroup.cc [mailto:t7n28@acegroup.cc]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:21 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: capx2020 project

To Stephanie Strengthth:

I-228-006 | This e-mail is in concern to the proposed capx2020 project. We find it quite disturbing to hear that capx2020 is asking the usda to help contribute some 47 million to this project. If this is a project brought on by a group of utilities, why is it the taxpayers responsibility to fund the project. Then we can pay twice. Once through our taxes and then monthly with our increased electric bill. This seems absolutely WRONG.

Why is this project being pushed to move along so quickly? We read daily on how people have been coming up with better ideas on how to conserve and produce power in smarter ways. Lets check this out before we begin destroying our landscape with power lines running all across our country. To run massive power lines from out west to our cities to the east seems like old technology. Coal is a polluting source of power and wind energy seems more of a wishfull idea that still has endless holes in it. Maybe these e-mails are falling on deaf ears and our federal government already has plans to control the utilities of our country. They have already moved into the auto industry, finance industry, airline industry and now are working on the health industry. Hopefully we are somewhat still the democratic country we fought to become years ago. We hope these e-mails and letters are being read and some our thoughts are being heard.

I-228-007 | We need to consult with experts who don't share an interest in this capx project. The need or this project seems to be driven by the utilities themselves. I guess I can understand that a dairy farmer would not tell anyone NOT to drink milk, being that is what produces his income. Electrical utilities have to operate with the same mind set. To get these lines in place would definitely keep these companies operating and generating large amounts of profit for years to come.

I-228-001 | Why are we not exploring the different ideas that are out there, and not directly tied in with the utility companies? We have how many dams along the rivers to look at. What about the ideas of smart energy they are working on in Colorado? How about the biomass idea that many larger industries and some hospitals are looking at? What I am trying to say is lets not just jump onto this capx idea, when we have so many other options to explore yet. We thought the LaFarge dam project was such a great idea in the 1960's. After millions of dollars and countless families being evicted, the land sit idle for the wildlife. What a waste. Obviously with a little more time and effort spent on that project, we wouldn't of wasted millions of dollars and located many many families for nothing.

I-228-002 | We live in the rural LaCrescent area in which the lines are prosed to possibly pass through. So if we REALLY do need these lines, then **location is another issue.** Recent and future data do not even support the need for this project in the LaCrosse area.

I-228-003 | The proposed line through the LaCrescent area appears quite ridiculas. The lines run along the back of the city across the ridge which will be viewed by everyone below in the city, not to mention the

I-228-001

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-228-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-228-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Kessler, Ellen

From: weibergc@visi.com
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2009 4:00 PM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us
Cc: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 - Aviation Hazard - 1MN8

Dear Mr. Ek,
I am a pilot and resident of Sky Harbor (1MN8) with a significant safety concern over the CapX2020 project.

Our airport serves over 70 aircraft based at the field. We also have significant traffic from guests and/or visitors for local events. Our airport also serves as an emergency landing field 24 hours a day, as it is lighted. All traffic to and from 1MN8 would encounter transmission lines 1/2 mile from the runway end. This presents a serious navigational hazard during take-offs and landings, and would exist within our designated emergency landing area. The risk of collision and loss of life resulting from the CapX2020 transmission line near Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) must be taken into serious consideration. The lines cannot safely coexist near any airport. There will be accidents resulting from the height and proximity.

Please accept my comments regarding this projects, and I would encourage you to contact me to discuss the matter in detail.

Sincerely,
Carl F. Weiberg
4370 Canton CT
Webster, MN 55088

phone: 952-652-6123

I-229-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

4322 Chester Ct.
Webster, Mn. 55088
July 17, 2009

Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Spec.
USDA Rural Utilities Sv.
Engineering & Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Av., SW. Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

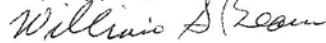
RE: CapX2020 transmission lines relocation proposal

The proposed relocation of CapX2020 transmission lines to 50th St., Webster, Mn. will create a serious problem in air navigation for resident pilots at Sky Harbor Airpark and other fliers such as the National Guard C130s and emergency aircraft. The 50th St. relocation would place the tall transmission lines in the airport traffic pattern—1/2 mile from the end of the runway. This would become a dangerous situation that must be avoided.

Sky Harbor Airpark has been in existence many years and consists of 51 properties all on, or adjacent by taxiway to, a 2800 ft. runway. It is a community of people interested in flying. The transmission lines would be a hazard and seriously interrupt flying activities jeopardizing the purpose of this unique airport community.

The transmission lines should not be constructed along 50th St.

Very truly yours,


William S. Beam

I-230-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

7/19/2009

Ms. Stephanie Strenght

Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff

RE: CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton

Dear Ms. Strength,

I have enclosed another copy of a letter I send to Scott Ek, at the Minnesota Office of Energy. If my information is correct there is to be a EIS from Hampton to LaCrosse, Wisc., but not from Brookings to Hampton. This does not make sense to me, why not a Environmental Impact Study on the entire line? Is the Brookings to Hampton less important than the Hampton to LaCrosse. It seems like they are changing routes and adding alternates every week, the more people evolved the more complicated it is becoming, actually I feel the whole project is becoming a real fiasco. I would appreciate any up to date information as to if the whole project is going to have a EIS.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle
3850 W. 50th Street
Webster, Mn. 55088
952-652-4041

I-231-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is will be available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication. The Brookings County-Hampton 345-kV Project will not be discussed in the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project DEIS.

The Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Information on all of the CapX2020 projects is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

I-231-001

July 19, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Mn. 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:

RE: CAPX 2020-Scoping decision PUC no. ET2/TL-08-1474 A-RIC-003 (Sirek)

Since my last letter to you I had the opportunity to fly over the proposed 50th street new alternate route being considered. I was amazed at the number of farms and residents that have livestock on the 50th street west route. Starting with 50th street west at Elmore there is the Larson dairy farm, directly east is the Coffing organic dairy farm. At 50th street west and city rd 5 is the Horejsi livestock farm, directly east is the Herman horse farm (the Clary Lake Veterinarian Equine rehabilitating horse farm) the Balfany residence horse farm, the Dupay cattle farm, the Hennek livestock farm, the Jones cattle farm, and last the Joe Simon Rodeo horse and bull breeding farm. I can certainly see why all these people are outraged that 50th street should be considered over 57th street which I found not to contain much livestock (mostly hay farmers) if any. I would hope not, but some residents feel that maybe having a couple of (ATF) members living in the 57th street area could have a effect on this proposal. I would be remised if I didn't add into the equation the air park of which the run way ends very close to 50th street west. I do appreciate your time bringing this information to your attention. I will be looking forward to seeing you again sometime in October.

Sincerely,

Duane D. Boyle

3850 W. 50th Street

Webster, Mn. 55088

952-652-4041

cc: Stephanie Strength

In addition, the ATF will include:

- Five private citizens, who live, work, or own property on or near the proposed project

The ATF will comprise no more than 20 members.

The OES charges the advisory task force as follows:

1. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying impacts and issues in the area of concern that should be evaluated in the EIS.
2. ATF members will assist the OES in identifying alternative transmission line routes or substation locations in Dakota, Rice, and Scott counties that may maximize positive impacts and minimize or avoid negative impacts of the project in the area of concern.

ATF members are expected to participate with OES staff in up to three meetings and to assist staff with the development of a summary of the task force's work including their preferences, or recommendations, if any. Meetings will be facilitated by OES staff or a facilitator engaged by OES staff.

The Lake Marion to Hampton ATF will expire upon issuance of the EIS scoping decision. ?

OES EFP staff is directed to appoint, as appropriate, members of the ATF and to begin work on the above-noted charge.

Signed this 6th day of March, 2009

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY


William Glahn, Director

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-232-003

I-232-001

I do not think that there is a clear
NEED for these lines. ARE these lines
serving our AREA? Why can't the
existing lines be updated and used?
Why start New Corridors of lines

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: M. Coughlan

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 220

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code: 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-232-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-232-002

These lines will pass over land that has organic farms. There will be spraying to maintain the lines - that will destroy the land as organic farms.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-232-004

Why have the lines cross over the Mississippi River and then back over it again? Is it necessary to disturb the River with such lines in two different places? It seems that it would be more expensive to build & maintain lines over- through the river. What about the long term care/ cost of lines over the River?

I-232-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts, including those to agricultural resources, resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-232-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-232-004

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

July 16, 2009

Roger and Melinda Holtegaard
Blue Horizon Dairy Farm
1329 75th St. N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Re: CapX2020 High Voltage Power Lines Affecting Dairy Farms

We are one of the many dairy families that are extremely concerned about your proposed power lines and the devastating affect they will have on our family, employees and animals.

We have an extensive history on this family farm. We were chosen by the University of MN as "Farm Family of the Year" as well as hosting "Breakfast on the Farm" for our community. My two oldest daughters have represented Olmsted County and the dairy industry as Dairy Princesses. We are very involved in 4-H and our community. We have 5 children, who have lived and worked on our farm. After graduating from NBSU in Environmental Resource Management, our son, Nathan, returned to farm with his dad. Courtney is an oncology nurse (and will begin graduate school this fall as a cancer specialist in nursing) and Portia just graduated with her biology degree (and is currently working on the farm while waiting for future graduate schooling). Annabelle and Marjorie are in high school and work on our farm daily as well.

I-233-003

Now we are told that decisions have been made that will affect our future, our health and our animals. We are concerned that decisions are being made to come through areas where we live and work 24 hours a day. Would you live and work under such conditions? Would you expose your children to such conditions? Your current decision to disregard the health and well-being of an American family farm and people is disturbing. Who will be accountable for the negative financial, health, emotional and physical impact this decision will have on our business?

I-233-001

Please use common sense and use the route where there are no family dairy operations. Roger Stathes and his mother purchased this original farm after he served his time in World War 2. We have continued to live, work and expand this farm, please reconsider your hazardous decision. With all of the struggles currently facing the American Family Dairy Farmer, you should be able to do better for the backbone of this nation! As an elementary school teacher, I encourage my students to be involved and have a say. Let us have a say in such vital matters.

I-233-004

Sincerely,

Roger, Melinda, Courtney, Nathan, Portia, Annabelle and Marjorie Holtegaard

CC: Strength, Hillstrom/Xcel Energy, Thompson Dairyland Power, Amy Klobuchar, Andy Weid, Dept. of Agriculture, State of MN Pollution Control, President Obama, AF Franken

I-233-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-233-001 and I-233-002.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☒ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? La Crescent, MN & Centerville, WI

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☒ Project Purpose and Need

☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☒ Historic and cultural sites

☒ Radio or television interference

☒ Noise

☒ Health and safety

☒ Other: effects on livestock; danger of proximity to steel
livestock buildings

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-234-001

Keep poles and wires in right-of-ways
along roads and highways not through
farm fields. Go through non-cropped
land instead of farm land.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-234-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: wood lands

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-234-002

My land is almost entirely tillable. I
do not want poles or lines going through
this prime ground.

My farm is located near the intersection of
I-90 and HWY 76 - Waseo and Pleasant
Hill townships, Winona County, MN.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

My crop land, because its valuable, expensive
productive open land.

I-234-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-234-003

It was all adequately explained, but I'm not buying it all, especially the need for the project. There is also reactions from people East of here that states they don't want this kind of power. They feel before 2020 very green alternatives can be in place.

I-234-004

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Vincent G. Kitching

Representing (Optional):

Mailing Address: 29500 Kassica Road

City: Winona State: MN 55987-6270 Zip Code:

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-452-2470

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-234-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-234-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jonathan Kroening

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 5595 Viola Rd NE

State: MN

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55906

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

*Our house is located in the Haverhill township Section 15
Olmsted County Rochester MN 55906*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

We don't want the B119 proposed site going through our yard. If a new line needs to be ran why isn't the B415 site being utilized.

I-235-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? _____

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project