

Appendix Y

Comments and Responses

Appendix Y

Comment Response Document

Great Northern Transmission Line

Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared for
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Washington, DC 20585

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Cooperating Agencies:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota

October 2015

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Attachment C	Example Newspaper NOA
Attachment D	Response to All Comments on the Draft EIS

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Alternating Current
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOC-EERA	Minnesota Department of Commerce–Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	electric and magnetic fields
EO	Executive Order
kV	kilovolt
MW	megawatt
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MN PUC	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
PPSA	Power Plant Siting Act
ROW	Right-of-way
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

On April 15, 2014, Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc. (the Applicant), submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project (proposed Project). Following this initial submission, on October 29, 2014, the Applicant submitted an amendment to their Presidential permit and Route Permit applications to both DOE and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC), respectively. The amended Presidential permit application changed the initial location of the proposed international border crossing under DOE's consideration to cross the U.S. / Canadian border at latitude 49 00 00.00 N and longitude 95 54 50.49 W, which is approximately 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County.

An application for a Presidential permit is evaluated in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038, and the regulations codified at 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 205.320 et seq. (2000), "Application for Presidential Permit Authorizing the Construction, Connection, Operation and Maintenance of Facilities for Transmission of Electric Energy at International Boundaries." The DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, National Electricity Delivery Division (OE-20) is responsible for issuing Presidential permits. The Presidential permit for Minnesota Power (OE Docket Number PP-398) if issued, would authorize the Applicant to construct, operate maintain and connect the U.S. portion of the proposed Project.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), when considering an application for a Presidential permit, the DOE must take into account possible environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and associated facilities before making a final decision. DOE is using the NEPA process to involve federal, state, and local agencies; tribal governments; and the public in the environmental review of the proposed Project and alternatives. DOE has determined that the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the proposed Project would constitute a major Federal action and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate level of review under NEPA. DOE issued its Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping for the proposed Federal Action in June 2014 (79 FR 36493). This EIS is prepared in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA regulations (10 CFR Part 1021), and other applicable federal laws.

In order to avoid duplication, DOE and the Minnesota Department of Commerce–Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC–EERA) will prepare a single EIS to comply with environmental review requirements under NEPA and the Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA). DOE will act as federal joint lead agency with DOC–EERA acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b). DOC–EERA prepares EISs for proposed high-voltage transmission lines pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 216E.03, Subdivision 5.

The proposed Project would include construction, operation, and maintenance of an approximately 220-mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) overhead, single-circuit, alternating current (AC) electric transmission line that would cross the international border from the Canadian Province of Manitoba into the United States in Roseau County, Minnesota. After crossing the border, the transmission line would connect into the proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation that would be located adjacent to the existing Blackberry 230 kV/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The presentation of the analysis in the EIS divided the proposed Project into three geographic sections: West Section, Central Section, and East Section.

The proposed Project would typically be located on all new 200-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) with a wider area required for certain spans at angle and corner structures, for guyed structures, or for areas where special design requirements are dictated by topography. The transmission towers would be steel lattice structures for the majority of the route, with the exact type of structure in any given location dependent on land type, land use, and potential effect on the surrounding landscape. Tower heights would range from approximately 100 feet to about 170 feet. In some instances, taller structures would be required. As part of the proposed Project, the Applicant to construct a new Iron Range 500 kV Substation, a new 500 kV series compensation station, regeneration stations, permanent access roads, temporary access roads, laydown areas, and fly-in sites.

Figure Y-1 of this Comment Response Document shows the three geographic sections, the proposed international border crossing, the two major route alternatives proposed by the Applicant, and other alternatives considered in this EIS. Responses to individual comments received on the Draft EIS may be found in Attachment D of this document.

This document constitutes the Comment Response Document on the *Great Northern Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement*. All comment documents are available from the following websites:

- DOE/DOC project website at: <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>,
- MN PUC e-dockets website at: (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showeDocketsSearch&showEdocket=true>), docket number E015/TL-14-21)
- DOC-EERA website at: (<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#ui-tabs-3>, docket number 14-21)
- The Applicant's website at: <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com>



Figure Y-1 Proposed Project Alternatives Map

1.2 History of Public Outreach and Comment Process

On June 20, 2014, MN PUC issued a Notice of Public Information and EIS Scoping Meeting. The notice described the proposed Project and provided an overview of the MN PUC process and opportunities for public comment. The notification lists for the notice included individuals on the MN PUC's general service list and MN PUC's project contact list for the proposed GNTL Project (Minnesota Rules, part 7850.2100, subpart 1). Per Minnesota Rule 78520.2300 Subpart 2, notice of the public meeting was provided by the Applicant on MN PUC's behalf via advertisements in 11 local and regional newspapers along the proposed Project routes (Table Y-1). Issuance of the notice commenced the state public scoping period that ended on August 15, 2014. The Applicant also provided the notice to its landowner list of potentially affected landowners. On June 27, 2014, DOE published in the *Federal Register* its NOI to Prepare an EIS and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings; Notice of Floodplains and Wetlands Involvement for the Great Northern Transmission Line (79 FR 36493). The NOI, provided in Attachment A, explained that DOE would be assessing potential environmental impacts and issues associated with the proposed Project and the no-action alternative. The NOI was sent to interested parties including federal, state, and local officials; agency representatives; stakeholder organizations; local libraries, newspapers, and radio and TV stations; and private individuals in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line. Issuance of the NOI commenced a 45-day public scoping period that ended on August 11, 2014; however, DOE continued to accept scoping comments through August 15, 2014, in order to align the federal and state scoping period. (The state scoping period ended on August 15, 2014.) Late scoping comments were considered.

During the public scoping period, DOE and DOC-EERA conducted eight joint scoping meetings/hearings. A summary of the joint scoping process and associated public and agency comments are in the EIS Scoping Summary Report, the body of which is provided in Attachment D of the EIS. In short, five border crossing alternatives were suggested by the public and agencies for detailed study in the EIS during the public scoping period. Four of these border crossing alternatives were determined by DOE as potentially reasonable alternatives and are analyzed in the EIS.

In addition, the MN PUC requested the DOC-EERA to conduct a minimum of two citizen Workgroup meetings and consult directly with local government units within the project area. The purpose of the Workgroup was primarily to provide an additional opportunity for local government representatives to discuss their concerns, develop potential alternative route segments, review potential zoning conflicts, and ensure local input necessary for informed decision-making. The DOC-EERA held two four-hour Workgroup meetings in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on September 30 and October 29, 2014. In addition to the two meetings, Workgroup members were provided a scoping questionnaire designed to assist Workgroup members in identifying ordinances, land use planning, or zoning issues. The major issues identified by the Workgroup included concern about impacts to human settlement and private property use (particularly agricultural), the Big Bog State Recreation Area, outstanding natural resources and SNAs, and mining resources. They also identified the benefits of following existing transmission corridors to minimize impacts and suggested minor adjustments to alternative route segments or alignment modifications proposed during the scoping period to minimize overall impacts to residents of the proposed Project area.

The MN PUC must determine whether there is a need for a transmission line, and establish the size, type, and required end points of the proposed Project. The Applicant filed its certificate of need application for the proposed Project with the MN PUC on October 22, 2013. Following a formal contested case hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued her report on March 31, 2015, which concluded that the Applicant satisfied the certificate of need requirements and recommended the MN PUC grant a certificate of need to the Applicant for the construction of the proposed Project and associated facilities. On June 30, 2015, the MN PUC granted the certificate of need to the Applicant for the proposed Project.

A public comment period on the Draft EIS was initiated following publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA’s) NOA in the *Federal Register* on June 26, 2015 (Attachment A of this Comment Response Document). The DOC–EERA issued a NOA of Draft EIS, State Public Information Meetings, and Federal Public Hearings on June 19, 2015 (Attachment B of this Comment Response Document). DOE and DOC–EERA provided a 45-day review period starting June 26, 2015 and ending August 10, 2015. The NOA was sent to local newspapers and mailed to persons in the vicinity of the proposed Project. The NOA was published in 11 Minnesota newspapers (Table Y-1; Attachment C of this Comment Response Document). Copies of the Draft EIS were publicly available at public libraries located in the proposed Project area (Table Y-2).

Table Y-1 Newspaper Publication Dates and Area of Distribution for Draft EIS

Newspaper	Location	Publication Date(s)¹
The American	Blackduck, MN – Beltrami County	July 3, 2015
Anishinaabeg Today	White Earth, MN – Becker County	Not available
The Bemidji Pioneer	Bemidji, MN – Beltrami County	July 3, 2015
Bois Forte News	Lilydale, MN – Dakota County	Not available
Grand Rapids Herald Review	Grand Rapids, MN – Itasca County	July 1, 2015
The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Hibbing, MN – St. Louis County	July 1, 2015
International Falls Journal	International Falls, MN – Koochiching County	June 27, 2015 July 1, 2015
The Littlefork Times	Littlefork, MN – Koochiching County	July 1, 2015
Northern Light Region	Baudette, MN – Lake of the Woods County	July 1, 2015
Northome Area News	Northome, MN – Koochiching County	July 2, 2015
Red Lake Nation News	Red Lake, MN – Red Lake County	Not available
Roseau Times-Region	Roseau, MN – Roseau County	July 4, 2015
Scenic Range News Forum	Bovey, MN – Itasca County	July 2, 2015
Warroad Pioneer	Warroad, MN – Roseau County	June 30, 2015
Western Itasca Review	Deer River, MN – Itasca County	July 2, 2015

¹ Publication dates for newspapers that did not provide an affidavit of publication are listed as “not available.”

Table Y-2 Public Libraries where Draft EIS was Available during the Public Comment Period

Library Name	Location
Baudette Library	110 1st Street Southwest, Baudette, MN 56623
Blackduck Public Library	72 1st Street Southeast, Blackduck, MN 56630
Bovey Public Library	402 2nd Street, Bovey, MN 55709
Calumet Library	932 Gary Street, Calumet, MN 55716
Coleraine Public Library	203 Cole Street, Coleraine, MN 55722
Duluth Public Library	520 W Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802
Grand Rapids Public Library	140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Greenbush Branch Library	214 Main Street, Greenbush, MN 56726
International Falls Public Library	750 4th Street, International Falls, MN 56649
Marble Public Library	302 Alice Avenue, Marble, MN 55764
Northome Public Library	12064 Main Street, Northome, MN 56661
Roseau Public Library	121 Center Street East, Suite 100, Roseau, MN 56751
Warroad Public Library	202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad, MN 56763

During the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS, DOE and DOC-EERA held nine federal public hearings/state information meetings on the Draft EIS, as shown in Table Y-3: in Red Lake, Minnesota on July 14, 2015; Roseau and Baudette, Minnesota on July 15, 2015; Littlefork and International Falls, Minnesota on July 16, 2015; Kelliher and Bigfork, Minnesota on July 21, 2015; and two meetings in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on July 22, 2015. Notice of these federal public hearings/state information meetings were published in local newspapers (Table Y-1; Attachment C of this Comment Response Document) and mailed to persons in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Notice of the federal public hearing/state information meeting held on Red Lake Reservation was provided by the Band to its community members.

In preparing this Final EIS, DOE and DOC-EERA considered comments received during the scoping period (June 27, 2014 through August 11, 2014) and public comment period on the Draft EIS (June 26, 2015 through August 10, 2015). DOE and DOC-EERA also considered comments and input from its cooperating agencies (See Section 1.3 of this Appendix) in the preparation of the Final EIS. Any comments on the Draft EIS that were received or postmarked after August 10, 2015 were considered to the extent practicable.

Table Y-3 Dates and Locations of Public Hearings/Information Meetings on the Draft EIS

Meeting Date	Location	Number of Attendees	Number of Commenters
July 13, 2015	Seven Clans Casino, Red Lake, MN	4	3
July 15, 2015	Roseau Civic Center, Roseau, MN	44	2
July 15, 2015	Lake of the Woods School, Baudette, MN	13	3
July 16, 2015	Littlefork Community Center, Littlefork, MN	12	1
July 16, 2015	AmericInn, International Falls, MN	9	5
July 21, 2015	Kelliher Old School Center, Kelliher, MN	15	4
July 21, 2015	Bigfork School, Bigfork, MN	25	5
July 22, 2015 Morning Session	Timber Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN	24	6
July 22, 2015 Evening Session	Timber Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN	11	2
Total		157	31

The federal public hearings/state information meetings provided the public with the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments on potential environmental issues associated with the project. A total of 157 people attended the nine federal public hearings/state information meetings. A total of 31 people gave oral comments at the federal public hearings/state information meetings, and their comments were transcribed by a court stenographer.

DOE and DOC-EERA received comments on the Draft EIS in the form of 208 written letters, emails, or website submittals from private citizens, government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. The comment letters received during the open comment period on the Draft EIS and written materials submitted for the record at the public hearings/information meetings are provided in Attachment D of this Comment Response Document.

1.3 Cooperating Agencies

DOE invited several federal agencies and tribes to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS to ensure that the EIS meets the NEPA and other regulatory requirements of those agencies and engage agencies' specialized expertise. The cooperating agencies include U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Twin Cities Ecological Field Office (USFWS), and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota. The following outlines each agency's requirements and/or specialized expertise for this EIS:

USACE. USACE will use this EIS in their decision making for the permits that would be required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In accordance

with 33 CFR Part 325 Appendix B (8)(c), USACE will coordinate with DOE to ensure this EIS supports USACE's decision-making requirements on the Applicant's Section 10 and Section 404 permit application.

EPA. Under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to review and publicly comment on the environmental impacts of major federal actions. EPA also has responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. In addition, the EPA administers various statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Pollution Prevention Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

EPA involvement as a cooperating agency will include: 1) participation in relevant project meetings and calls and 2) review and comment on preliminary documents to the extent that staff resources allow. However, EPA will exercise its independent review and comment authorities on the Draft and Final EISs consistent with EPA responsibilities under NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

USFWS. USFWS's role includes evaluating general environmental impacts on fish and wildlife. They will also evaluate potential environmental impacts on federally-listed threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat, and may issue a Biological Opinion based on a BA prepared for the proposed Project, as appropriate. USFWS may issue an incidental take statement (along with reasonable and prudent measures) if appropriate. USFWS also has responsibility for enforcing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Coordination for any necessary eagle permits will be conducted with USFWS. USFWS will also coordinate any special use permit if ROW access is requested and granted on USFWS interest properties. USFWS provides a recommended route that avoids USFWS Interest Lands and is described in their August 10, 2015 comment letter in Appendix U of this EIS.

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota. The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota's role as a cooperator in the preparation of this EIS is to provide specialized expertise in the identification of resources of concern to the tribe and the evaluation of general environmental impacts on resources of concern to the tribe. The tribe's involvement as a cooperating agency includes: 1) participation in relevant project meetings and calls, 2) identification of resources of concern to the tribe that may be potentially impacted, including, but not necessarily limited to, natural resources (such as water resources), biological resources (such as wildlife, including game species, fish, and plants), cultural resources (such as archaeological sites, properties of traditional religious and cultural importance, and traditional cultural properties), and socioeconomic resources (such as environmental justice or game species such as walleye), and 3) review and comment on preliminary documents. Separately, the tribe is exercising its independent review and comment responsibilities as a consulting party to DOE's compliance process for Section 106 of the NHPA.

2.0 Agency and Public Comments on the Draft EIS

A variety of issues and concerns were raised during the public review comment period on the Draft EIS. DOE and DOC–EERA considered all comments, including late comments, in preparing the Final EIS. This section presents all these comments as well as transcripts of comments provided during the public hearings on the Draft EIS. The comments (whether written or oral) are presented in chronological order of receipt (Table Y-4). Table Y-5 provides an alphabetized index of individual comments based on the last name of the commenter in order to assist the reader. Each comment within a comment document is delineated (i.e., bracketed). Each discrete comment within a comment document is marked by a vertical bar in the margin and a unique comment number. For example, 200-01, is the first comment within comment document 200. Responses to the delineated individual comments are displayed in the margin to the right of the comment.

DOE and DOC–EERA responded to written and verbal comments from 208 comment documents. This included five comments from federal government officials or agencies, seven from federally recognized tribes, 12 from state government officials or agencies, 21 from local government officials, agencies, or planning boards, one from a non-governmental organization, 12 from commercial companies, four from the Applicant, one from a Manitoba Justice, and 145 from private citizens (Table Y-3). Comment numbers were assigned based on the order in which the comments were received. DOE and DOC–EERA responded to those comments that are within the scope of and relevant to the analysis in this EIS.

A list of examples of major representative issues submitted during the Draft EIS public comment period, cataloged by general resource type, are provided in Table Y-6. In addition, Table Y-7 provides the substantive revisions made from the Draft EIS to the Final EIS based on agency and public comments. All comments received during the Draft EIS public comment period, including late comments, along with DOE and DOC–EERA’s responses are provided in Attachment D of this Comment Response Document.

Table Y-4 Draft EIS Commenters Presented Chronologically

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
1	James L. Johnson	Private Citizen
2	Linda Johnson	Private Citizen
3	Terry, Carol, Tim, and Jessica Kveen	Private Citizen
4	Gary Slater	Private Citizen
6	Lynn Lewis	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS
7	Andrew Brunner	Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review
9	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
10	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
11	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
12	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
13	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
14	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
15	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
16	Robert Burbie	Private Citizen
17	David Christenson	Private Citizen
18	Anne Marguerite Coyle	Private Citizen
19	William Gray	Private Citizen
20	Mike Handzus	Private Citizen
21	Mary Lou Hufnagle	Private Citizen
22	Mike Hughes	Private Citizen
23	John Kannas	Private Citizen
24	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
25	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
26	Ronald Lindner	Private Citizen
27	Todd Lund	Private Citizen
28	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
29	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
30	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
31	Marshall Nelson	Private Citizen
32	Charles Olson	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
33	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
34	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
35	Denny Pavek	Private Citizen

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
36	Joe Plumer	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
37	Daniel Sigfrid	Private Citizen
38	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
39	Chris Viere	Private Citizen
41	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
42	Lorris and Elsie Erickson	Private Citizen
43	Janet Foster	Private Citizen
44	Linda Johnson	Private Citizen
46	Susan Lisell	Private Citizen
47	Joanna and Susan Lisell	Private Citizen
48	John Lund	Private Citizen
49	Keeley Todd	Private Citizen
51	Shannon Johnson	Manitoba Hydro
52	Larry Sullivan	Private Citizen
53	Gale Olson	Private Citizen
54	Gerry Reed	Private Citizen
55	Norman and Allayn Kveen	Private Citizen
56	Richard W. Myers	Private Citizen
57	Richard Stacy	Private Citizen
58	Karen L. Stacy	Private Citizen
59	Gary and Ione Olson	Private Citizen
60	Marie Johnson	Private Citizen
61	Daryll Dahlquist	Private Citizen
62	Greg Grahm	Private Citizen
63	Gerry Grahm	Private Citizen
64	Michael Grahm	Private Citizen
65	Willard Comstock	Private Citizen
66	Blair Comstock	Private Citizen
67	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
68	John Gaukerud	Private Citizen
69	Gordon Hannon	General Counsel, Manitoba Justice
70	Shannon Johnson	Manitoba Hydro
71	Jeff Pelowski	Coordinator, Roseau County
72	Marlin Elton	Clerk of Dieter Township
73	Dan Fabian	Minnesota House of Representatives
74	Rod Skoe	Minnesota State Senator

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
75	Ann Rest	Minnesota State Senator
76	LeRoy Stumpf	Minnesota State Senator
77	Lorene Hanson	Auditor/Treasurer, Lake of the Woods County
78	Teresa Briggs	Board Clerk, Koochiching County Board
79	Jerry Adam	Private Citizen
80	Karen Adam	Private Citizen
81	Curtis and Carol Amundson	Private Citizen
82	Ben Bless	Private Citizen
83	Ben Bless	Private Citizen
85	Janet Delich	Private Citizen
86	Lorella Fulton	Private Citizen
87	Audrey Horne	Private Citizen
88	Bonnie Horne	Private Citizen
89	Duane Jaenicke	Private Citizen
90	Cavour Johnson	Private Citizen
91	Jon Johnson	Private Citizen
92	John E. Johnson	Private Citizen
93	Raymond Johnson	Private Citizen
94	John Kannas	Private Citizen
95	John Kannas	Private Citizen
96	Jon Keener	Sterling Lumber
97	Tony Kellin	Private Citizen
98	Thomas King	Private Citizen
99	Barb Kirk	Private Citizen
100	Scott Kofstad	Private Citizen
101	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
102	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
103	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
104	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
105	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
106	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
107	Karen Lucachick	Private Citizen
108	Annie and Tom Lund	Private Citizen
109	Tom Micheletti	Excelsior Energy Inc.
110	Dan Money	Two Rivers Watershed District, MN
111	Brian Moody	Private Citizen

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
112	Donna Muirhead	Private Citizen
113	Kari Olson	Private Citizen
115	Colin Pearson	Private Citizen
115	Jeff Pelowski	Coordinator, Roseau County
116	Bruce Sampson	Private Citizen
117	Brad Springer	Private Citizen
118	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
119	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
121	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
123	Frank Weber	Private Citizen
124	Roger Weber	Private Citizen
125	Robert Anderson	Mayor, City of International Falls, MN
126	David Dahlgren	Supervisor, Stafford Township
127	Justin Howell	Supervisor, Stokes Township
128	Scott Johnson	Chairman, Town of Falun
129	Jon Johnson	Supervisor, Ross Township
130	Steve Lee	Supervisor, Dieter Township
131	Tom Johnson	Private Citizen
132	Coleen Lofgren	Private Citizen
133	Gerald Krahn	Private Citizen
134	Mike Handzus	Private Citizen
135	Mark Cass	Private Citizen
136	Charles and Scott Habstritt	Private Citizen
137	Terry Kveen	Private Citizen
138	Jessica Kveen	Private Citizen
139	Gary Johnson	Private Citizen
140	John and Janile Hiatt	Private Citizen
141	John Wahlberg	Private Citizen
142	Karen Lucachick	Private Citizen
145	Patricia Kveen Beaumont	Private Citizen
149	David Lund	Private Citizen
152	Justin Howell	Supervisor, Stokes Township
159	Midwestern Governors	Midwestern Governors
160	Douglas Shaw	Assistant Chapter Director, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
161	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
162	Erwin Berglund	Private Citizen

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
163	David Christenson	Private Citizen
165	Stephen Fahlman	Private Citizen
167	Kevin Peterson	Private Citizen
168	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
169	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
170	Mark Meester	Private Citizen
171	Norman Nystrom	Private Citizen
173	Cheryl Adams	Forest Resources Manager, Blandin Paper Company
174	Chris Viere	Private Citizen
175	R.D. Learmont	Coordinator, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
177	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
178	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
179	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
180	Ron Berglund	Private Citizen
181	James and Patricia Schaffran	Private Citizen
182	Yufna Soldier Wolf	Director, Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office
183	Patrice Jensen	Planner Principal, Environmental Review Unit, Resource Management and Assistance Division, MPCA
184	Kenneth Westlake	Chief of NEPA Implementation, EPA
185	Laura Imax	Private Citizen
186	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
187	Stacy Kotch	Utility Transmission Route Coordinator, MnDOT
188	Lynn Lewis	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS
190	Minnesota Power	Applicant
191	Minnesota Power	Applicant
192	Minnesota Power	Applicant
193	Minnesota Power	Applicant
194	Lori Dowling-Hanson	Regional Director, MnDNR, Northeast Region
195	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
198	Terry Kveen	Private Citizen
199	Mark Meester	Private Citizen
200	John Hoshal	Private Citizen
202	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
203	Anne Marguerite Coyle	Private Citizen
204	Carol Kveen	Private Citizen
205	Tim Kveen	Private Citizen

Comment Number¹	Commenter Name	Commenter Agency or Organization
206	Bill Latady	Bois Forte Band
207	Jason, Greg, and Maynard Braaten	Private Citizen
208	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.

¹Comment numbers are consecutive; however, some comment letters were submitted multiple times. Therefore, in the sequence, missing numbers represent duplicate comment letters.

Table Y-5 Draft EIS Commenters Presented Alphabetically

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Adam	Jerry	Private Citizen	79	263
Adam	Karen	Private Citizen	80	264
Adams	Cheryl	Forest Resources Manager, Blandin Paper Company	173	405
Amundson	Curtis and Carol	Private Citizen	81	265
Anderson	Robert	Mayor, City of International Falls, MN	125	324
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	15	61
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	41	190
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	161	392
Beaumont	Patricia Kveen	Private Citizen	145	374
Berglund	Erwin	Private Citizen	162	393
Berglund	Ron	Private Citizen	180	417
Bleess	Ben	Private Citizen	82	267
Bleess	Ben	Private Citizen	83	268
Braaten	Jason, Greg, and Maynard	Private Citizen	207	909
Briggs	Teresa	Board Clerk, Koochiching County Board	78	262
Brunner	Andrew	Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review	7	34
Burbie	Robert	Private Citizen	16	65
Cass	Mark	Private Citizen	135	363
Christenson	David	Private Citizen	17	68
Christenson	David	Private Citizen	163	395
Comstock	Willard	Private Citizen	65	232
Comstock	Blair	Private Citizen	66	234
Coyle	Anne Marguerite	Private Citizen	18	71
Coyle	Anne Marguerite	Private Citizen	203	833
Dahlgren	David	Supervisor, Stafford Township	126	325
Dahlquist	Daryll	Private Citizen	61	224
Delich	Janet	Private Citizen	85	269
Dowling-Hanson	Lori	Regional Director, MnDNR, Northeast Region	194	780
Elton	Marlin	Clerk of Dieter Township	72	254
Erickson	Lorris and Elsie	Private Citizen	42	192
Fabian	Dan	Minnesota House of Representatives	73	255

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Fahlman	Stephen	Private Citizen	165	397
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	33	154
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	34	164
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	195	820
Foster	Janet	Private Citizen	43	194
Fulton	Lorella	Private Citizen	86	270
Gaukerud	John	Private Citizen	68	238
Grahn	Greg	Private Citizen	62	226
Grahn	Gerry	Private Citizen	63	228
Grahn	Michael	Private Citizen	64	230
Gray	William	Private Citizen	19	76
Habstritt	Charles and Scott	Private Citizen	136	364
Handzus	Mike	Private Citizen	20	80
Handzus	Mike	Private Citizen	134	340
Hannon	Gordon	General Counsel, Manitoba Justice	69	239
Hanson	Lorene	Auditor/Treasurer, Lake of the Woods County	77	260
Hiatt	John and Janile	Private Citizen	140	368
Horne	Audrey	Private Citizen	87	272
Horne	Bonnie	Private Citizen	88	273
Hoshal	John	Private Citizen	200	828
Howell	Justin	Supervisor, Stokes Township	127	327
Hufnagle	Mary Lou	Private Citizen	21	84
Hughes	Mike	Private Citizen	22	87
Imax	Laura	Private Citizen	185	434
Jaenicke	Duane	Private Citizen	89	274
Jensen	Patrice	Planner Principal, Environmental Review Unit, Resource Management and Assistance Division, MPCA	183	422
Johnson	James L.	Private Citizen	1	1
Johnson	Linda	Private Citizen	2	3
Johnson	Linda	Private Citizen	44	195
Johnson	Shannon	Manitoba Hydro	51	203
Johnson	Marie	Private Citizen	60	223
Johnson	Shannon	Manitoba Hydro	70	249

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Johnson	Cavour	Private Citizen	90	275
Johnson	Jon	Private Citizen	91	277
Johnson	John E.	Private Citizen	92	278
Johnson	Raymond	Private Citizen	93	280
Johnson	Scott	Chairman, Town of Falun	128	330
Johnson	Jon	Supervisor, Ross Township	129	332
Johnson	Tom	Private Citizen	131	337
Johnson	Gary	Private Citizen	139	367
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	23	90
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	94	281
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	95	282
Keener	Jon	Sterling Lumber	96	284
Kellin	Tony	Private Citizen	97	285
King	Thomas	Private Citizen	98	287
Kirk	Barb	Private Citizen	99	289
Kofstad	Scott	Private Citizen	100	290
Kotch	Stacy	Utility Transmission Route Coordinator, MnDOT	187	509
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	67	237
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	101	293
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	0102	294
Krahn	Gerald	Private Citizen	133	339
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	24	93
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	168	400
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	202	830
Kveen	Terry, Carol, Tim, and Jessica	Private Citizen	3	4
Kveen	Norman and Allayn	Private Citizen	55	213
Kveen	Terry	Private Citizen	137	365
Kveen	Jessica	Private Citizen	0138	366
Kveen	Terry	Private Citizen	198	825
Kveen	Carol	Private Citizen	204	835
Kveen	Tim	Private Citizen	205	836
Lacachick	Karen	Private Citizen	107	302
Latady	Bill	Bois Forte Band	206	837

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Learmont	R.D.	Coordinator, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board	175	410
Lee	Steve	Supervisor, Dieter Township	130	334
Lewis	Lynn	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS	6	6
Lewis	Lynn	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS	188	521
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	25	96
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	169	402
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	177	412
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	178	413
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	179	414
Lindner	Ronald	Private Citizen	26	108
Lisell	Susan	Private Citizen	46	196
Lisell	Joanna and Susan	Private Citizen	47	198
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	103	295
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	104	296
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	105	298
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	106	300
Lofgren	Coleen	Private Citizen	132	338
Lucachick	Karen	Private Citizen	142	371
Lund	Todd	Private Citizen	27	114
Lund	John	Private Citizen	48	200
Lund	Annie and Tom	Private Citizen	108	303
Lund	David	Private Citizen	149	376
Meester	Mark	Private Citizen	170	403
Meester	Mark	Private Citizen	199	826
Micheletti	Tom	Excelsior Energy Inc.	109	304
Midwestern Governors	---	Midwestern Governors Association	379	380
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	190	575
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	191	666
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	192	720
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	193	774
Money	Dan	Two Rivers Watershed District, MN	110	305
Moody	Brian	Private Citizen	111	308
Muirhead	Donna	Private Citizen	112	309
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	28	118

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	29	125
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	30	131
Myers	Richard W.	Private Citizen	56	215
Nelson	Marshall	Private Citizen	31	138
Nystrom	Norman	Private Citizen	171	404
Olson	Charles	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	32	151
Olson	Gale	Private Citizen	53	207
Olson	Gary and Ione	Private Citizen	59	221
Olson	Kari	Private Citizen	113	311
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	9	38
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	10	45
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	11	49
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	12	51
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	13	55
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	14	58
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	186	438
Overland	Carol	Private Citizen	208	915
Pavek	Denny	Private Citizen	35	170
Pearson	Colin	Private Citizen	115	313
Pelowski	Jeff	Coordinator, Roseau County	71	252
Pelowski	Jeff	Coordinator, Roseau County	115	314
Peterson	Kevin	Private Citizen	167	399
Plumer	Joe	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	36	173
Reed	Gerry	Private Citizen	54	209
Rest	Ann	Minnesota State Senator	75	257
Sampson	Bruce	Private Citizen	116	316
Schaffran	James and Patricia	Private Citizen	181	419
Shaw	Douglas	Assistant Chapter Director, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota	160	387
Sigfrid	Daniel	Private Citizen	37	177
Skoe	Rod	Minnesota State Senator	74	256
Slater	Gary	Private Citizen	4	5
Soldier Wolf	Yufna	Director, Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office	182	421
Springer	Brad	Private Citizen	117	317

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Stacy	Richard	Private Citizen	57	217
Stacy	Karen L.	Private Citizen	58	219
Stumpf	LeRoy	Minnesota State Senator	76	258
Sullivan	Larry	Private Citizen	52	205
Todd	Keeley	Private Citizen	49	201
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	38	184
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	118	318
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	119	319
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	121	320
Viere	Chris	Private Citizen	39	187
Viere	Chris	Private Citizen	174	406
Wahlberg	John	Private Citizen	141	370
Weber	Frank	Private Citizen	123	322
Weber	Roger	Private Citizen	124	323
Westlake	Kenneth	Chief of NEPA Implementation, EPA	184	424

Table Y-6 Summary of Agency and Public Comments on the Draft EIS

Subject Area	Comment Summary
EIS Summary	No comments were received on the EIS Summary.
Regulatory Process/Public Involvement	<p>Wind Generating Option. Several comments suggested that the proposed Project may not have any influence on the development of North Dakota wind projects.</p> <p>Record of Decision. One comment noted that the record of decision needed to be coordinated between the federal and state processes. Another comment noted that the release date for the ROD is uncertain.</p> <p>Buy the Farm Option. Several comments noted that landowners affected by the proposed Project have the option to use the "Buy the Farm" law.</p> <p>Route Selection Process. Several comments expressed concern that the routing decision would more likely be influenced by the Applicant rather than an individual and questioned whether their opinions were considered. A comment expressed concern that it was difficult to be included in the Work Group during the Scoping process and therefore their comments were not taken into consideration in that process.</p> <p>Notification of Landowners. Several comments noted that some landowners did not receive any of the public notifications regarding the proposed Project and therefore questioned the notification process.</p> <p>Certificate of Need. One comment noted that the need for the proposed Project may change as a result depending on the economy and changes in fuel sources.</p> <p>Canadian Environmental Review Process. One comment noted that Canada's environmental review process only considers the Applicant's proposed border crossing so the proposed Project will not be built if an alternative border crossing is selected. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Project would have environmental impacts in Canada due to dams.</p> <p>Presidential permit. One comment expressed concern that it is not feasible to resubmit a Presidential permit at this stage in the environmental review if an alternative border crossing were selected, since the revised schedule would not allow for the proposed 2020 in-service date required by the power purchase agreement between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant. One comment questioned the legal criteria for the issuance of a Presidential permit for a border crossing facility and the Applicant's legal burden to demonstrate that a permit should be issued.</p> <p>Assessment of Potential Impacts. One comment expressed concern that the discussion of corridor sharing, based on Minnesota Rules, did not account for the environmental benefits that different corridors may offer and did not feel that the Applicant considered corridor sharing when developing routes.</p> <p>Relative Merits. One comment expressed concern that the relative merit tables did not adequately present the information that the MN PUC would need to make a route decision, and therefore provided a version of the relative merit tables for each variation area.</p> <p>Role of Cooperating Agencies. One comment expressed concern that the description of the USFWS role in the proposed Project was too limited and should include coordination of a special use permit that would be required to cross USFWS Interest Lands.</p>
Applicant's Objectives and Needs	Alternatives. One comment noted that the Roseau Lake WMA variations

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>violate the Applicant's purposes for the proposed Project because they would not have a positive impact on human settlement.</p> <p>Determination of Need. One comment expressed concern that need for the proposed Project should be addressed in the EIS because it should be part of the DOE environmental review. One comment noted that there has not been an EIS for the certificate of need. One comment noted that the need for 250 MW capacity has not been determined and expressed concern that no cost benefit analysis was provided. One comment expressed concern that it is not clear in the EIS that the expected power transfer capacity, power purchase agreement, and the actual capacity of the proposed Project meet the Applicant's stated purpose and need for the proposed Project.</p> <p>System Reliability. One comment expressed concern that system reliability benefits are not clearly stated and it is implied that the existing transmission grid is not reliable.</p> <p>Statement of Purpose and Need. One comment stated that the EIS should cite the Applicant's statement of need verbatim.</p>
Project Description	<p>Electrical System Reliability. One comment noted that the transmission grid has systems built into it that can compensate for loss of transmission lines, bringing in power from other systems, or the ability to isolate areas of the grid. The comment also requested that more information be provided regarding how to make the transmission lines more robust so that it could parallel two other transmission lines.</p> <p>Long-range Planning. One comment stated the need for long-term planning for renewable sources of power by utilities to minimize the need for additional transmission lines. One comment noted that the focus should be on smaller and local energy production such as solar panels on residential and business roof tops.</p> <p>Construction and Maintenance. One comment noted that the location of proposed Project access roads is an important consideration because adverse impacts in remote areas that were not previously accessible to the public could occur. One comment noted that herbicides are used to kill vegetation within the ROW and this could mean that their farm could not be certified as organic.</p> <p>Construction Inspector. One comment noted that a third party independent inspector or monitor should be used during construction of the proposed Project.</p> <p>Capacity. One comment noted that the capacity of the proposed Project as designed should be reported, the capacity of a triple-bundled 500 kV transmission line should be verified, the quantification of the planned use of capacity should be more clearly described, and the capacity of the proposed Project should be consistent with MISO and the Presidential permit.</p> <p>Compensation Station. One comment noted the EIS should identify whether the proposed location of the Series Compensation Station is on state or private land. One comment noted that selecting an alternative other than the Proposed Blue Route or Proposed Orange Route could require selection of a new location for the Series Compensation Station.</p> <p>Transmission Line Separation Distance. One comment noted that there is not a consistent 250-foot separation between the existing 230 kV or 500 kV transmission lines; therefore, the environmental analysis for human settlement is incorrect.</p> <p>Existing Substations. One comment noted that the location of the existing</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>high-voltage transmission line substations would render the Cedar Bend WMA Variation as infeasible.</p> <p>Variation Areas. One comment noted that since the alternatives within the variation areas do not always have a common start and end point, it is not possible to make comparisons with the Proposed Blue Route and Proposed Orange Route.</p> <p>Construction Cost. One comment provided updated construction cost estimates for the alternatives. One comment noted the cost of the proposed Project could increase depending on the alternatives that are selected and this will have an effect on taxpayers.</p> <p>Construction Cost and Electrical System Reliability. One comment provided figures and notes about the alternatives in each variation area regarding starting and ending points, required crossings of existing transmission lines, and construction costs.</p>
Project Design	<p>USFWS Interest Lands. One comment stated that the proposed Project should avoid all USFWS Interest Lands, which includes building structures on USFWS Interest Lands, transmission lines crossing USFWS Interest Lands, any changes to USFWS Interest Lands required to gain access to the proposed Project area, or any land use change that may affect USFWS Interest Lands.</p> <p>Construction. Several comments requested that the location of all proposed Project components (e.g., access roads) be identified and that all adverse impacts from those proposed Project components should be identified in the EIS.</p> <p>Construction Schedule. One comment recommended that surveys be conducted to avoid impacts to nesting birds and to avoid impacts to active nest sites of sensitive species. In addition requested that appropriate construction windows be identified to avoid impacts on species such as bald eagle, goshawk, migratory birds, and bats.</p> <p>Interphase Spacers. One comment noted that if interphase spacers will be used for the proposed Project, the timing of use and locations should be identified in the EIS.</p>
Alternatives	<p>No Action Alternative. Several comments expressed concern that the "No Action" alternative was not adequately discussed based on brevity of the chapter, minimal explanation, and flawed interpretation of Minnesota law.</p> <p>Adequacy. One comment expressed concern that the alternatives were inadequate because they did not present a completely new route, only alternatives to the Applicant's proposed routes. In addition, the comment noted that no alternatives were considered in the case that the Presidential permit was not granted and there were no system alternatives considered.</p> <p>Cost Effective. One comment noted the Balsam Variation is not cost effective compared to the Proposed Blue Route because it zig-zags rather than following a straight line.</p> <p>Border Crossing. One comment noted that the border crossing was selected in Canada after an analysis of routes and all potential border crossings using a process based on the EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology. One comment noted that only the federal government has the authority to select the location of the border crossing so the proposed border crossing alternative should be the only one considered. Several comments noted that Manitoba Hydro completed a thorough environmental evaluation and determined only the proposed border crossing was feasible. Several comments supported the Applicant's proposed border crossing</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>location and opposed the Roseau Lake WMA variations due to potential impacts on agricultural land and human settlement.</p> <p>Case Law. One comment stated that the EIS is inadequate on the federal and state levels based on case law because it does not cover an adequate range of alternatives.</p> <p>Other Alternatives. One comment proposed a new alternative in Itasca County that was not evaluated in the EIS. Several comments expressed concern that the alternatives should have considered paralleling existing highways.</p> <p>Alternatives. One comment expressed concern that the alternatives proposed by state and federal agencies were not vetted by private landowners in Roseau County who are opposed to selection of these alternatives. One comment expressed concern that the Applicant's proposed routes avoided opposition and areas where there would be difficulty meeting the schedule if the proposed Project crossed agricultural lands and that the routing neglected to consider the trees and birds.</p> <p>Aggregate Sources. One comment expressed concern that the Northome Variation in Koochiching County will cross a private gravel pit.</p>
General	<p>Public Hearings. One comment noted that the public hearings were incorrectly called public meetings and requested clarity on the format of the public hearings.</p> <p>NEPA Advisor. One comment expressed concern that the NEPA advisor for the EIS was potentially biased.</p> <p>Maintenance. One comment questioned if the proposed Project would use Canadian or U.S. citizens to conduct maintenance.</p> <p>Energy Demand. One comment requested that more information be provided as to whether the industrial energy demand load is increasing in Minnesota.</p> <p>Presidential permit. One comment requested additional information on how many Presidential permits are processed by DOE, how many permits are granted, and how many permits are denied.</p> <p>Peer Review. One comment requested that the EIS be peer reviewed by parties who are involved in opposing transmission lines and advocating for alternatives.</p> <p>Contested Case Hearings. One comment noted that the contested case hearings would be the next step in the public process.</p> <p>Construction Cost. One comment expressed concern that the alternatives should only be compared on a total cost basis, not a cost-per-mile basis.</p> <p>Wildfire Response Plan. One comment requested that a wildfire response plan be prepared for the proposed Project.</p>
Human Settlement	<p>Private Property: Several comments expressed concern for displacement and impacts to private farmland and homes near proposed routes and variations. Several comments expressed a preference for the proposed Project to utilize public lands instead of private property.</p> <p>Community Spaces: Comments expressed concerns about the proximity of community spaces, such as fire departments, churches, and parks, to proposed routes and variations.</p> <p>Residential Designations: Several comments noted that some residences were incorrectly listed as non-residential structures in the EIS and on maps.</p>
Noise and Vibration	<p>Noise. Several comments expressed concern regarding audible noise from operation of the proposed Project, including noise from corona discharges.</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	Another comment requested that the predicted noise levels for the 500 kV Series Compensation Station be provided in the EIS along with a discussion of infrasound and explanation of whether additional modeling is necessary. One comment provided additional noise modeling for operation of the proposed Project.
Air Quality	Air Quality. A comment requested that the EIS include an estimate of total emissions from construction, operation, maintenance, and emergency repair of the proposed Project and that the Applicant pursue more opportunities to use clean diesel equipment and other emission reduction strategies.
Greenhouse Gases	Greenhouse Gases. A comment requested clarification on the method and time frame for carbon sink calculations. Comments also requested that the EIS address mitigation of the loss of forest as a carbon sink and evaluate carbon sink changes resulting from the clearing of trees for the dam in Canada where the hydropower is generated, in addition to the clearing of trees for the ROW.
Land Transportation and Traffic	Air Navigation. Several comments expressed concern that transmission lines in close proximity to airstrips and public airports could pose potential hazards to take-off and landings. State Transportation Network. MnDOT expressed interest in continued cooperation with the Applicant to ensure that proposed Project would not negatively impact the safety or free flow of the state's transportation system. This includes following policies and procedures in the MnDOT Utility Accommodation and Coordination Manual, obtaining permits from MnDOT for any construction, or maintenance work in a trunk highway right of way, and coordinating vegetation trimming activities accessed from highway ROW. Railroads. One comment requested that the Applicant coordinate with rail companies to avoid negative impacts on railroads.
Public Services and Utilities	Public Services and Utilities. One comment provided information on the Protocol Among Midwestern Governors Regarding the Permitting and Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Lines in the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada.
Environmental Justice	No comments received on Environmental Justice.
Socioeconomics	Property Taxes. One comment requested information about the value of property taxes generated by the proposed Project during operation. Project Cost-sharing. Two comments requested information about cost-sharing between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant. Property Values. Several comments expressed concern about the proposed Project's potential negative impacts on property values and requested more information. Two comments expressed concern about the validity of the property value impact analysis in the EIS. Compensation and Condemnation. One comment expressed concern that compensation of traversed properties would be inadequate and suggested the "Buy the Farm" provision would not lead to fair compensation to landowners. One comment requested that the EIS address compensation for condemned land and for the assumed decrease in value of properties near or adjacent to the proposed Project. Cost-Benefit Analysis. One comment expressed concern that the cost-benefit analysis was not sufficiently specific and that the benefits claimed in

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	the EIS were not truly benefits.
Recreation and Tourism	Recreation and Tourism. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project would negatively impact recreation and tourism activities such as hunting. One comment expressed concerns that if the Cedar Bend WMA Variation is selected, a recreational business could be affected.
Public Safety	<p>Public Safety. One comment expressed concern that the EIS incorrectly assessed the potential for hunters to accidentally shoot the transmission line insulators or conductors. One comment expressed concern for the use of heavy construction equipment near public roadways.</p> <p>Induced and Stray Voltage. Several comments expressed concern regarding the impacts of induced voltage on workers and recreational hunting. One comment expressed concern that the effects of induced voltage were incorrectly reflected in the EIS.</p> <p>Human Health. Several comments expressed concern for high voltage transmission lines and the unknown potential effects on humans. A comment also expressed concern regarding the potential effect of the proposed Project on implantable medical devices. One comment expressed concern if the proposed Project is in proximity to gravel pits, that corona discharges could result in the Henshaw effect, affecting human health. Several comments expressed concern for health impacts due to EMF. One comment provided updated magnetic field calculations for the proposed Project.</p> <p>Radio Interference. A comment expressed concern for the proposed Project distorting radio waves and affecting communication devices.</p>
Environmental Contamination	Environmental Contamination. One comment expressed concern for the use of herbicides for vegetation management within the ROW during construction and operation of the proposed Project. Another comment expressed concern for the potential of contamination to be unexpectedly discovered during construction of the proposed Project.
Aesthetics	Aesthetics. One comment requested viewshed maps be prepared and viewshed analyses be conducted for Bass Lake Park, Larson Lake Campground, Wolf Lake-Wasson Lake Bog, and established campgrounds and trails in these areas. A few comments expressed concern for the adequacy of using the 1,500-foot distance for the buffer for the ROI to assess aesthetic impacts. One comment requested analyses of visual impacts at each proposed crossing of a scenic byway, identification of any specific mitigation to reduce visual impacts, and investigation of any scenic easements in the vicinity of scenic byways.
Land Use and Ownership	<p>Private Land. Comments expressed general concerns about the amount of private land impacted by the proposed Project routes and variations and the evaluation of those impacts. Other comments expressed concern about potential impacts on existing uses and potential future uses of private land. One comment expressed concern that the ROW and access roads would increase the availability of areas for recreational activities that would be a nuisance to property owners (e.g., snowmobiling, four-wheeling).</p> <p>Sensitive Lands. Several comments expressed preference for avoiding conservation lands and USFWS Interest Lands. One comment requested that all impacts to USFWS Interest Lands be avoided or minimized by selecting a route that does not impact USFWS Interest Lands, using other areas within the ROW to avoid USFWS Interest Lands, and alternative routes be investigated to avoid impacts to USFWS Interest Lands, and after a thorough</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	evaluation, if USFWS Interest Lands are impacted, unavoidable impacts to USFWS Interest Lands may require mitigation.
Agricultural Resources and Soil	<p>Farming. Several comments expressed concern regarding potential impacts to agricultural land and farming operations including those outside the ROW. One comment requested that an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) be included as part of the EIS.</p> <p>Aerial spraying. Several comments expressed concern for potential proposed Project impacts to aerial spraying operations.</p> <p>Precision farming. One comment expressed concern that the EIS is contradictory in the conclusion regarding potential impacts to precision farming.</p>
Mining Resources	<p>Mineral resources. One comment expressed concern that the EIS overstates the risk of mineral resource/transmission line co-location in areas having little certainty of mineral occurrence and understates risk of mineral resource/transmission line co-location in areas containing known mineral occurrence. One comment requested several mineral resources terminology changes to be made in the EIS. One comment expressed concern that there are active mine permits in the Balsam Variation ROW, thereby making that alternative infeasible.</p>
Cultural Resources	<p>Cultural Resources and Historic Properties. Comments requested that cultural resources investigations are conducted for all disturbance areas for the proposed Project and that cultural resources and historic properties are evaluated with respect to effects from the proposed project. A copy of the executed Programmatic Agreement prepared for the proposed Project as part of the Section 106 compliance process was also requested to be provided in the EIS.</p> <p>Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Comments requested that DOE considered the perspectives of federally recognized Indian tribes and included traditional cultural properties (TCPs) when conducting cultural resources investigations and involve federally recognized Indian tribes in the identification and evaluation efforts of TCPs, as well as consulting with federally recognized Indian tribes to ensure that visual impacts on visually sensitive lands owned by the tribes are mitigated adequately or measures are taken to reduce those visual impacts. A comment also notified DOE of a recent legal decision returning ceded lands in the vicinity of the proposed Project to a federally recognized Indian tribe, which may require further coordination.</p>
Water Quality and Hydrology	<p>Surface hydrology. A few comments expressed concern that the proposed Project could impact water resources. One comment requested that streams be avoided as well as the buffers that surround them. One comment expressed concern that the presence of flood control impoundments in the vicinity of the Project area could potentially affect the proposed Project. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Blue Route crosses a large amount of the watershed that drains to the chain of lakes.</p> <p>Water quality. A few comments noted the importance of wetlands to improve water quality and therefore expressed concern regarding the adverse effects from the proposed Project if wetlands are impacted.</p>
Wetlands	<p>Wetlands. Several comments requested that the proposed Project avoid wetland impacts and another comment suggest that the proposed Project span wetlands where possible. A few comments requested that the Applicant</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>develop a wetland mitigation plan. One comment noted the presence of a wetland easement on a portion of the proposed Project. One comment expressed concern as to whether a riparian buffer zone would be left around lakes and wetlands during clearing. One comment requested that the EIS identify how many acres of wetland will be directly affected by the discharge of fill material, as well as how many acres will be converted from one wetland type to another. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Project would require conversion of forested wetland into a less valuable type of wetland. One comment expressed concern that the EIS does not discuss access to wetlands using matting and low ground pressure equipment during frozen conditions. One comment noted that the East Bear Lake Variation was developed to avoid the Bear-Wolf Peatland, but expressed concern because the boundaries of the peatland have not been identified and therefore it is unknown if it is avoided.</p>
<p>Biological Resources</p>	<p>Vegetation. Several comments expressed concern that trees may be impacted on their property, including tree plantations and managed woodlands. One comment expressed concern for potential impacts on state or federal forestry programs. Several comments requested additional information on ROW clearing methodology or development of a vegetation management plan. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project could increase the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species. A few comments requested that the EIS discuss issues related to prevention of forest fires in the Project area. One comment requested that the Applicant offer voluntary forest compensation for forest impacts that do not require compensation under existing federal and/or state regulations. One comment expressed concern that the EIS double counts state forest impacts and that state forests are given too much emphasis in the EIS. One commented expressed concern that paralleling an existing corridor does not significantly reduce effects on forests.</p> <p>Wildlife. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, and/or wilderness, including specifically one comment noting that the wetland area between Dead Man's Pond and Crooked Lake provides habitat for wildlife and should be avoided. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project may impact birds and/or that the Applicant should develop an Avian Protection Plan. One comment expressed concern that the presence of high voltage transmission lines may stop certain wildlife species from moving naturally, citing studies conducted in Norway. One comment requested that discussion of avian electrocutions not be included in the EIS because text in Chapter 6 states that avian electrocutions are unlikely. One comment requested that the EIS have additional information on minimizing or mitigating impacts on fish and wildlife. One comment expressed concern for potential impacts to bees while another comment expressed concern that the proposed Project could result in the spread of earthworms.</p> <p>Rare species. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project has the potential to impact rare species (state or federally listed species), migratory birds, eagles, etc. One comment recommended that a Biological Assessment be included in the EIS. One comment requested that the EIS use updated information on presence of rare species if available. One comment requested that the Applicant should continue to work with the MnDNR Endangered Species Review Coordinator regarding surveys for</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>state-listed species.</p> <p>Rare communities. One comment requested that the proposed Project avoid Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance ranked outstanding and high. One comment requested that the proposed Project avoid native plant communities. One comment expressed concern that the Applicant will need to conduct additional field work to determine potential impacts to native plant communities and to ensure compliance with the Wetland Conservation Act. Several comments expressed concern and requested that the selected alternatives avoid adverse and unnecessary impacts to critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities.</p>
Electric System Reliability	<p>Weather. One comment noted that there may be system mitigations that could be used to reduce the adverse effects of tornados, ice storms, or straight line winds such as robust towers, interrupters, and circuit breakers. In addition, spare parts could be stockpiled and ready for use if needed to get the system functional again. The comment also requested additional information on straight line winds and tornados in the proposed Project area and the likelihood of an outage from these types of adverse weather events and questioned if a climatic study had been completed for the proposed Project. One comment noted that no tornados have occurred in the Effie Variation area over the last 50 years based on the Minnesota Tornado History Project website.</p> <p>NERC Standards. One comment noted that an analysis for the proposed Project would be on a case-by-case basis based on the applicable NERC standards as well as the purpose and expected performance of the proposed Project and adjacent transmission line.</p> <p>Other Transmission Lines. One comment expressed concern that the adverse effects of paralleling different types of transmission lines was not adequately discussed in terms of electrical system reliability. One comment expressed concern that crossing the existing Manitoba-U.S. tie transmission lines will increase adverse effects on system reliability. One comment expressed concern that there is an increased risk of outages for the Effie Variation and East Bear Lake Variation which parallel three Manitoba tie transmission lines. One comment expressed concern that routes and variations that increase the parallel distance or number of crossings with the proposed Project and the existing 500 kV line could have a negative impact on electrical system reliability.</p>
Mitigation	<p>Forest Compensation. One comment requested that for forest impacts that do not require compensatory mitigation under existing federal and/or state regulations, the Applicant undertake voluntary forest compensation for permanent and temporary tree losses due to construction and operation of the proposed Project.</p> <p>USFWS Interest Lands. One comment requested that if there are unavoidable impacts to USFWS Interest Lands, there must be mitigation that is separate from mitigation for impacts to listed species, important wildlife resources, and migratory bird resources. The comment also noted that a final ROW permit will be granted after mitigation for impacts to USFWS Interest Lands has been completed and accepted by the USFWS.</p> <p>Temporary Access Roads. One comment expressed concern that temporary access roads need to be identified and plans need to be developed for restoration and possibly mitigation depending on anticipated impacts.</p>
Cumulative Impacts	<p>Cumulative Effects. One comment requested that the EIS not mention the</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	Mesaba Project because it is believed that project is not going to occur.
Project Opinion	<p>Project Opinion. A few comments noted that they are in favor of the proposed Project. Several comments noted that they are not in favor of the proposed Project. One comment noted that people should submit comments since no interveners were present at the public meeting. Several comments noted that they preferred particular alternatives or were against particular alternatives. Several comments noted that they would like the proposed Project to avoid their property. One comment noted that the proposed Project could go over the location of a future home site. One comment noted that power lines going through the forest are a good thing.</p>

Table Y-7 Summary of Substantive Changes to the Draft EIS

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
Front Matter	Update cover sheet and table of contents.
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated mining leases. • Add text to indicate active state mineral leases for the Proposed Orange Route and the East Bear Lake Variation. • Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor. • Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining. • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation (instead of Blackberry Substation, which was used in the Draft EIS).
1. Introduction and Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add information regarding Presidential permit expiration date. • Add discussion of Manitoba Hydro's concerns with alternate border crossings. • Add discussion of when MPCA staff needs to review the project SWPPP. • Add information regarding Minnesota Rule 7850.4700 (Delay in Route or Site Construction). • Add information regarding when MN PUC's Certificate of Need was granted. • Add text to explain purpose and requirements of state conservation easement agreements. • Revise text to indicate USFWS has identified its recommended route. • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.
2. Proposed Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add information to provide additional discussion of public access. • Add date that the Applicant filed required sensitivity studies and other reliability-related reports to DOE. • Add information about refueling equipment and handling of other hazardous materials in wetlands. • Add information regarding MnDOT coordination for highway access. • Add statement clarifying relationship between location of the Series Compensation Station and Applicant-proposed routes. • Add text clarifying that the Applicant operates transmission and distribution systems. • Add text describing the additional power transfers a new 500 kV transmission line could facilitate. • Add text regarding electrical reliability impacts of establishing a parallel transmission corridor. • Add text stating that details of construction methods may change based on field surveys. • Add the Applicant's purpose for the proposed Project. • Add the date the Renewable Optimization Agreement was approved. • Amend discussion of anticipated construction start date. • Clarify text on the applicant's purchase option agreement for the preferred 500 kV Series Compensation Station site. • Clarify text on the applicant's purchase option agreements for other properties. • Incorporate updated construction cost information from the Applicant. • Revise discussion of the overall transmission line midpoint location. • Revise text to change the starting location of the proposed Project from the Riel Substation to the Dorsey Substation.

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise text to refer to the series compensation station as "preferred" rather than "candidate." • Revise text to update total transfer capability amount. • Revise the description for the location of the Applicant's preferred series compensation station site and stated that if alternatives other than the Applicant's proposed routes were selected, a new site for the 500 kV Series Compensation Station may need to be identified. • Revise the text for total capacity for the proposed Project from 750 MW to 883 MW. • Update acreage permanently impacted by the 500 kV Series Compensation Station. • Update acreage that new 500kV substation would be expected to permanently impact. • Update information about the status of the MN PUC's Certificate of Need Process and related written order. • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.
3. No Action Alternative	Add the date the Renewable Optimization Agreement was approved.
4. Route and Alignment Alternatives Proposed During Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise cost estimates per new Applicant-provided information. • Revise text regarding avoiding USFWS land. • Revise text to use terminology "avoidance of non-ferrous mineral area." • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.
5. Affected Environmental and Potential Impacts	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases. • Revise Human Settlement Maps for each Section to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases." • Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor. • Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" mining leases. • Revise maps to include location of residence. • Revise maps with information from the MnDNR to show additional conservation easement parcels. • Revise text to clarify if there are active state mineral leases in the variation areas. • Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers. • Modify text regarding substation perimeter wall. • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.
Human Settlement	No changes are made to this section.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update text with Applicant-provided information related to noise levels from operation of the proposed transmission line and Iron Range 500 kV Substation. • Update Table 5-4 with analysis provided by the Applicant. • Update values in Table 5-5 with analysis provided by the Applicant. • Modify discussion of predicted noise levels from the proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation to nearest sensitive receptors (residences).
Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Climate Change	Add estimates of construction criteria pollutant and CO2 emissions. Revised text to address total loss of carbon sink during construction.
Property Values	No changes are made to this section.

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
Electronic Interference	No changes are made to this section.
Transportation and Public Services	Update text to reflect airstrip located near Roseau Lake WMA Variation Area 1.

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
Environmental Justice	No changes are made to this section.
Socioeconomics	Update text to reflect the source of the labor pool for construction workers.
Recreation and Tourism	No changes are made to this section.
Electric and Magnetic Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise Tables 5-21 and 5-22 per Applicant-provided information. • Revise text related to EMF modeling scenarios and results based on updated modeling results provided by the Applicant. • Modify text describing studies for childhood leukemia and EMF exposure.
Implantable Medical Devices	No changes are made to this section.
Stray Voltage	No changes are made to this section.
Induced Voltage	No changes are made to this section.
Intentional Destructive Acts	No changes are made to this section.
Environmental Contamination	No changes are made to this section.
Worker Health and Safety Considerations	No changes are made to this section.
Aesthetics	No changes are made to this section.
Land Use Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify two North American Wetland Conservation Act federal aid parcels as part of the Roseau Lake WMA. • Identify two federal aid parcels as part of the Silver Creek WMA. • Include discussion of impacts resulting from increased public accessibility as a result of the construction of access roads.
Cultural Values	No changes are made to this section.
Agriculture	Revise footprint area for structures.
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove text describing the potential for harvested forest products by increasing time between line maintenance in forested areas. • Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers.
Mining and Mineral Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update text to provide information regarding geophysical detection of mineral resources. • Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" leases.
Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add discussion of natural and cultural resources as provided by Bois Forte (Nett Lake) Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add discussion of when MPCA staff needs to review the project SWPPP. • Add discussion of Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
Vegetation	No changes are made to this section.
Wildlife	Add text regarding Executive Order 13186 and the MOU between USFWS and DOE.
Rare and Unique Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update tables and text with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database. • Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database. • Revise footprint area for structures.
Corridor Sharing	No changes are made to this section.
Electrical System Reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add discussion regarding relationship between crossing spans and outages. • Changed text regarding offsets between parallel transmission lines. Revise

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
	<p>text to identify that the applicable Category D contingencies are in NERC standard TPL-044.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update text describing unexpected outage contingency.
Costs of Constructing, Operating, and Maintaining the Facility which are Dependent on Design and Route	No changes are made to this section.
6. Comparative Environmental Consequences	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers. • Update text to include information from traditional properties surveys conducted by the Bois Forte Band. • Revise maps with information from the MnDNR to show additional conservation easement parcels. • Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor. • Add discussion of impact minimization to the Nature Conservancy's Black River portfolio site in the C2 Segment Option Variation. • Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.
Aesthetics	Update text and tables to reflect additional residences identified
Land Use Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update tables in Land Use Compatibility Sections with total acres of land in the ROW, along with acres of public and private land in the ROW for each alternative. • Add location of gravel pit to Map 6-46. • Revise Map 6-61 to identify structure as residence.
Agriculture	No changes are made to this section.
Forestry	No changes are made to this section.
Mining and Mineral Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" leases. • Update tables to reference State Mineral Leases (active and/or expired/terminated). • Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases. • Remove reference to expired/terminated leases being "held" by companies. • Add text to indicate active state mineral leases for the Proposed Orange Route and the East Bear Lake Variation. • Add text to address the reduction of geophysical resource detection risk. • Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining.
Archaeology and Historic Architectural Resources	No changes are made to this section.
Water Resources	No changes are made to this section.
Vegetation	No changes are made to this section.
Wildlife	No changes are made to this section.
Rare and Unique Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update tables and text with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database. • Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
Corridor Sharing	Revise text in tables and footnotes in figures to provide clarity.
Costs of Constructing, Operating, and Maintaining the Facility which are Dependent on Design and Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise cost estimates per new Applicant-provided information. • Update cost discussions to clarify these are average costs per mile.
Relative Merits Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update text describing methodology used for developing relative merits tables. • Updated relative merits tables utilizing methodology described in text. • Add explanation of cost differences in relative merits tables.
Alignment Modifications	No changes are made to this section.
Hops	Update acreage that new 500kV substation would be expected to permanently impact.
Associated Facilities	No changes are made to this section.
7. Cumulative and Other Resources	Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining.
8. List of Preparers	Update title of Table 8-1.
9. Reference	Add references for noise, magnetic field, and air quality. Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.
10. Acronyms	No changes are made to this section.
11. Index	Update index to reflect Final EIS.
Appendix A. Tribal Consultations	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix B. Route Permit Generic Template and Example	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix C. Narrative of the Scoping Summary Report	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix D. DOC-ERRA Scoping Decision	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix E. Route Analysis Data Tables	Add total acres of mineral lease lands within the ROW and route width for each alternative.
Appendix F. Rare Species Data Tables	Update tables with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.
Appendix G. Rare Communities Data Tables	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix H. Noise Supplement	Update with analysis provided by the Applicant.
Appendix I. Applicant's Audible Noise and EMF Calculations	Update with analysis provided by the Applicant.
Appendix J. Property Values Supplement	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix K. EMF Supplement	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix L. Stray Voltage Supplement	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix M. MPCA What's in	No changes are made to this section.

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
My Neighborhood Sites	
Appendix N. Photo Simulations	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix O. Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) Example	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix P. Cultural Resources Report	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix Q. USFWS and DOE Section 7 Consultation	Add the DOE letter that initiated formal consultation with the USFWS.
Appendix R. Biological Assessment	Add the Biological Assessment to Appendix R of the Final EIS.
Appendix S. Detailed Map Books	Revise Maps S-30 and S-100 to identify structures as residences.
Appendix T. NEPA Disclosure	No changes are made to this section.
Appendix U. USFWS Information	Add to document the USFWS agency-preferred alternative to Appendix U for the Final EIS.
Appendix V. Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA)	Add the Draft Programmatic Agreement to Appendix V for the Final EIS.
Appendix W. Air Emissions Technical Memorandum	Add construction emission calculations to Appendix W of the Final EIS.
Appendix X. Relative Merits Tables	Add information to introduce relative merits tables. Provided data in Appendix X used to compile summary relative merits tables used in the Final EIS.
Appendix Y. Comments and Responses	Add Appendix Y for Final EIS.
Appendix Z. EIS Distribution List	Add Appendix Z for Final EIS.

Attachment A

GNTL EIS NOA Published in the Federal Register

approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, the performance targets in the grantee's approved application. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shedita Alston, U.S. Department of Education, Model Comprehensive and Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, 1990 K Street NW., Room 6131, Washington, DC 20006-8524. Telephone: (202) 502-7808, or by email: shedita.alston@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD or a TTY, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Delegation of Authority: The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Jamienne S. Studley, Deputy Under Secretary, to perform the functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Dated: June 23, 2015.

Jamienne S. Studley,
Deputy Under Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-15784 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[OE Docket No. PP-398]

Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Announcement of Public Hearings for the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) Project

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the "Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (DOE/EIS-0499) for public review and comment. DOE is also announcing eight public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of DOE's proposed Federal action of issuing a Presidential permit to the Applicant: Minnesota Power, a regulated utility division of ALLETE, Inc., to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada border in northern Minnesota. It also addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the project, and possible mitigation measures, including route, alignment, and site alternatives required for a transmission line route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission under the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act.

The EIS was jointly prepared by DOE with the Minnesota Department of Commerce—Environmental Energy Review and Analysis (MN DOC-EERA) acting as state co-lead in order to avoid duplication, and to comply with the environmental review requirements under both federal and state regulations. Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the St. Paul

District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Twin Cities Ecology Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are cooperating agencies in preparing the GNTL Project EIS.

DATES: DOE invites interested Members of Congress, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, American Indian tribal governments, organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the Draft EIS during the 45-day public comment period. The public comment period starts on June 26, 2015, with the publication in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS, and will continue until August 10, 2015. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight and all comments received or postmarked by that date will be considered by DOE in preparing the Final EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Locations, dates, and start time for the public hearings are listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this NOA.

ADDRESSES: Requests to provide oral comments at the public hearings may be made at the time of the hearing(s).

Written comments on the Draft EIS may be provided on the GNTL EIS Web site at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org/> (preferred) or addressed to Dr. Julie A. Smith, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; by electronic mail to Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov; or by facsimile to 202-318-7761.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Julie A. Smith at the addresses above, or at 202-586-7668.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Joint federal-state public hearings and information meetings will consist of the formal taking of comments with transcription by a court reporter. The hearings will provide interested parties the opportunity to make comments for consideration by DOE and MN DOC-EERA in the preparation of the Final EIS.

The locations, dates, and starting times of the public hearings are listed in the table below:

Location	Date and time	Address
Roseau Civic Center	July 15, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	121 Center Street E., Roseau, MN.
Lake of the Woods School ..	July 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.	236 15th Ave. SW., Baudette, MN.
Littlefork Community Center	July 16, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN.

Location	Date and time	Address
AmericInn	July 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.	1500 Hwy. 71, International Falls, MN.
Kelliher Old School Center ..	July 21, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	243 Clark Ave. N. (Hwy 72), Kelliher, MN.
Bigfork School	July 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.	100 Huskie Blvd., Bigfork, MN.
Timber Lake Lodge	July 22, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	144 SE. 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN.
Timber Lake Lodge	July 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.	144 SE. 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN.

Availability of the Draft EIS Copies of the Draft EIS have been distributed to appropriate members of Congress, state and local government officials, American Indian tribal governments, and other Federal agencies, groups, and interested parties. Printed copies of the document may be obtained by contacting Dr. Smith at the above address. Copies of the Draft EIS and supporting documents are also available for inspection at the following locations:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW., Baudette, MN
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE., Blackduck, MN
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey, MN
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet, MN
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth, MN
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids, MN
- Greenbush Public Library, P.O. Box 9, Greenbush, MN
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls, MN
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble, MN
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome, MN
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E., Suite 100, Roseau, MN
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE., Warroad, MN
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams, MN

The Draft EIS is also available on the EIS Web site at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org/> and on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 18, 2015.

Eli Massey,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Electricity Delivery Division, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

[FR Doc. 2015-15625 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER10-1852-008; ER11-4462-009; ER10-1971-016.

Applicants: Florida Power & Light Company, NextEra Energy Power Marketing, LLC, NEPM II, LLC.

Description: Amendment to June 30, 2014 NextEra Companies' Triennial Market Power Update for the Southeast Region.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5173.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER14-2866-002.

Applicants: Louisville Gas and Electric Company.

Description: Compliance filing; Errata to Compliance Filing Attach O Rate Formula Protocols to be effective 1/1/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5126.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1668-001.

Applicants: Phoenix Energy Group, LLC.

Description: Tariff Amendment: Amended MBR Filing to be effective 6/5/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5081.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1943-000.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing; Missouri River Energy Services Formula Rate to be effective 10/1/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5036.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1944-000.

Applicants: ISO New England Inc.

Description: ISO New England Inc. Resource Termination—Enerwise Global Technologies, Inc.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5058.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1945-000.

Applicants: PacifiCorp.

Description: Tariff Cancellation: Termination of West Valley A&R EIM Participation Construction Agmt Rev 1 to be effective 9/10/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5078.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1946-000.

Applicants: Public Service Company of New Mexico.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing; Certificate of Concurrence to APS Rate Schedule No. 279 to be effective 5/21/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5084.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1947-000.

Applicants: Deseret Generation & Transmission Co-operative, Inc.

Description: Initial rate filing; WestConnect Regional PTP Tariff Filing to be effective 7/1/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5085.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1948-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing; 2015-06-18 SA 2809 ITC Transmission-Deerfield Wind Energy GIA (J327) to be effective 6/19/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5140.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1949-000.

Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Ameren Illinois Company.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing; 2015-06-18 SA 2685

Attachment A Project Specs (Ameren-SIPC UCA) to be effective 5/18/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5170.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1950-000.

Applicants: Southern Power Company.

Description: Section 205(d) Rate Filing; Pawpaw PPA Filing to be effective 8/18/2015.

Filed Date: 6/18/15.

Accession Number: 20150618-5172.

Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

Docket Numbers: ER15-1951-000.

Applicants: New York Power Authority.

Attachment B

GNTL EIS NOA Posted on PUC Docket No. ET015/TL-14-21



Issued: June 19, 2015

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

**PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

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The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through **Monday, August 10, 2015**. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-539-0109 | bill.storm@state.mn.us

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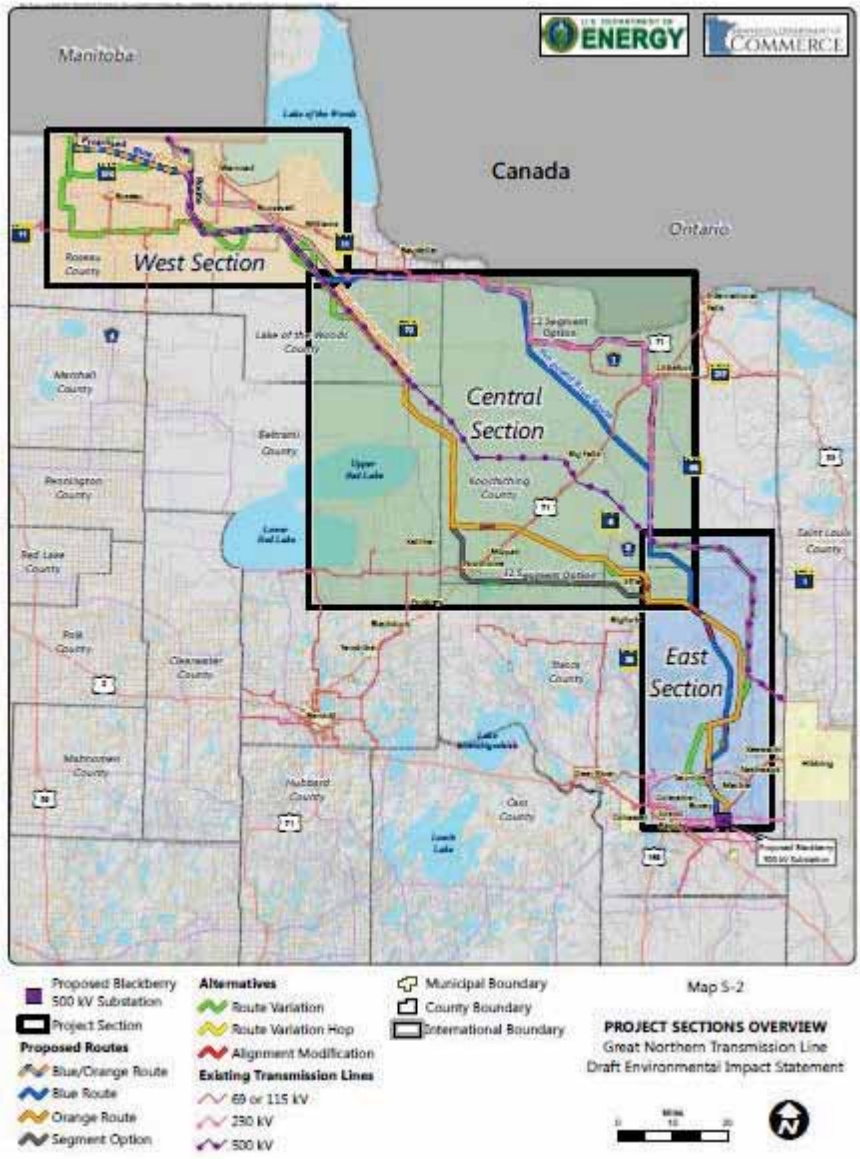
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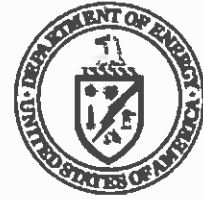
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Attachment C
Example Newspaper NOA

Ex 78



Issued: June 19, 2015

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EXHIBIT
78



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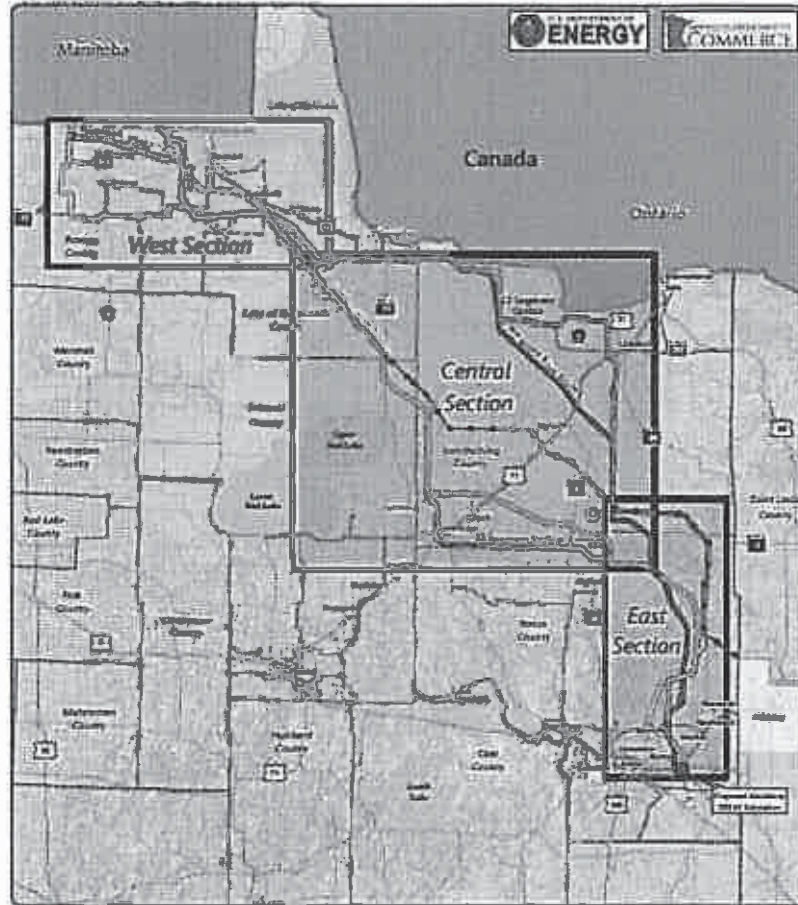


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Map S-2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Blackberry 500 kV Substation Project Section Proposal Route 500 kV Route 330 kV Route 230 kV Route Segment Option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives Route Variation Route Variation Hop Alignment Modification Existing Transmission Lines 6 or 115 kV 230 kV 500 kV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Boundary County Boundary International Boundary
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PROJECT SECTIONS OVERVIEW
Great Northern Transmission Line
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

0 10 20 Miles





STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING
 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

RE: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
 State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings
 for the Great Northern Transmission Line

MPUC Docket No. B-015/TL-14-21

Danny Cosgrove, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by ALLETE and am the Supervisor, Office Services and provided printing services for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project"

In compliance with Minnesota Stat. § 216E.03, subdivision 4 and Minnesota Rules 7850.2100, subdivision 2.C, ALLETE mailed by United States Postal Service on June 24, 2015, a letter to Landowners regarding the Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings for the Great Northern Transmission Line.

Danny Cosgrove

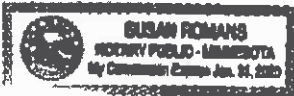
 Danny Cosgrove, Supervisor

Subscribed and sworn before me
 this 7th day of July, 2015.

Susan Romans

 Susan Romans, Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 1/31/2020





Draft DEIS Meetings

Legal Notice

Outlet	Location	Submission Deadline	Run Date
Grand Rapids Herald-Review	Grand Rapids, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 3pm	Wednesday, July 1st
International Falls Journal	International Falls, MN Koochiching County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Saturday, June 27th & Wednesday, July 1st
Roseau Times-Region	Roseau, MN Roseau County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Friday, June 26th Actual: Saturday, July 4th
Scenic Range News Forum	Bovey, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 4pm	Thursday July 2nd
The American	Blackduck, MN Beltrami County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Friday, June 26th Actual: Friday, July 3rd
The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Hibbing, MN St Louis County	Monday, June 29th - 11am	Wednesday, July 1st
The Littlefork Times	Littlefork, MN Koochiching County	Tuesday, June 30th - 2pm	Wednesday, July 1st
Northome Area News	Northome, MN Koochiching County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Anticipated: Thursday July 2nd Actual: N/A
Northern Light Region	Baudette, MN Lake of the Woods County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Wednesday, July 1st
Warroad Pioneer	Warroad, MN Roseau County	Thursday, June 25th - 12pm	Tuesday, June 30
Western Itasca Review	Deer River, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Thursday, July 2nd
Red Lake Nation News (Tribal)	Red Lake, MN Red Lake County	Wednesday, June 24th	Anticipated: Tuesday, June 30 th Actual: N/A
Bois Forte News (Tribal)	Lilydale, MN Dakota County	Monday, June 15 th	Anticipated: Monthly – July Issue Actual: N/A
Anishinaabeg Today - White Earth (Tribal)	White Earth, MN Becker County	Wednesday, June 24th	Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1 st Actual: N/A
The Bemidji Pioneer	Beltrami County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1 st Actual: Friday, July 3rd

Please note these are subject to change a day or two since this is a holiday week.



Legal Notice

Publication: Warroad Pioneer

Location: Warroad, MN, Roseau County

Actual: Tuesday June 30, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Minnesota

County of Roseau

Shelley Galle, being duly sworn, on oath says that she is an authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as THE WARROAD PIONEER and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07 and other applicable laws, as amended.

B) The advertisement, which is either attached as cut from the columns of said newspaper or emailed from the online version of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for 1 successive week(s); it was first published on Tuesday, the 20th day of June, 2015, and was thereafter printed and published on every Tuesday to and including Tuesday, the ___ day of N/A, 2015; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Signature of Shelley Galle, Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 20th day of June, 2015.

Signature of Rebecca A. Calder, Notary Public

Article Title: Notice of availability of env. impact

Client: HDR Engineering

Copy is: attached [checked] emailed #26321





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State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Route Permit.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DRES to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

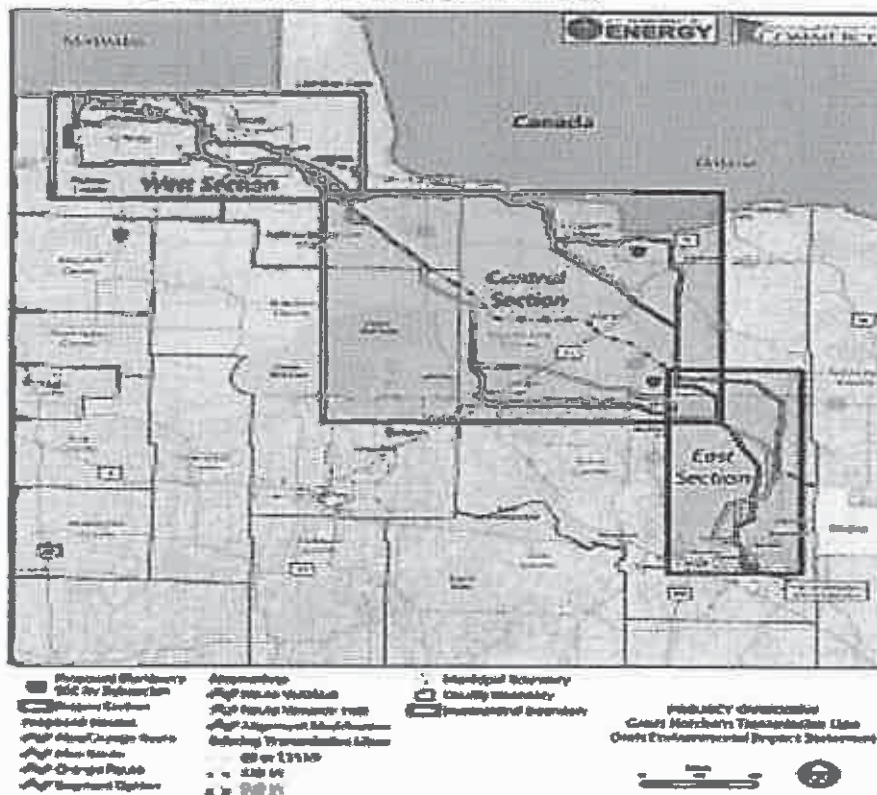
Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket" and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1884 or 1-800-657-3794, bill.storm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, comsupuc@state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; julie.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.





Legal Notice

Publication: Scenic Range News Forum

Location: Bovey, MN Itasca County

Actual: Thursday, July 2, 2015



314 2nd Street, Bovey, MN 55709
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70, Bovey, MN 55709
 Phone: 218-245-1422 • Fax: 218-245-1698
 E-Mail: Copy@ScenicRangeNewsForum.com

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF ITASCA)

Mary Beth Bily or Ronald A. Brochu, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the Scenic Range NewsForum, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.
3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied was published in the newspaper are as follows:

Thursday, July 2, 2015

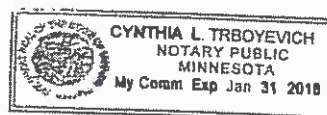
4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$10.00 per column inch.
5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Itasca County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

Mary Beth Bily
 Mary Beth Bily, Publisher or
 Ronald A. Brochu, Business Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this

2nd Day of July, 2015.

Cynthia L. Trbojevich
 (Notary Public)



LEGAL NOTICES

ACCEPTING QUOTES
Quotes are being taken by the City of Nashwauk To buy the property located at the "Bozich Addition" Located 1/2 mile north of the city on the right side of Hwy. 65. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Clerk's office at 301 Central Ave in Nashwauk by July 10th at 3:00 p.m. Proof of liability insurance is required.

NOTICE NASHWAUK CITY RESIDENTS MEETING TIME CHANGE
The Nashwauk City Council will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each Month at 5:30 p.m. at the Nashwauk City Hall.
Pam LaBine, City Clerk
City of Nashwauk

Trout Lake Community Center — Open —
Tuesday • 4-7
Wednesday • 3-6
Thursday • 3-6
For reservation information please call 245-1100.

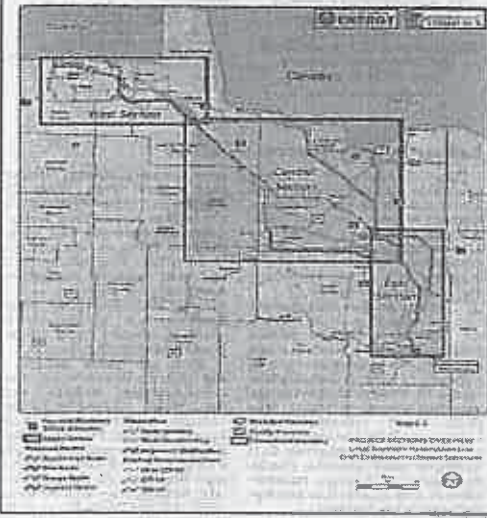
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the House Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Rouseau Counties

PUC Docket No. E1015/TL-14-21
DOE/IS 0499

COUNTY	CITY	Address	Meeting Time
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center, 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School, 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center, 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Asterisk, 1400 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kellogg	Kellogg Old School Center, 341 Clark Street N (Off Highway 72)	Thursday, July 23, 2015, 6:00 am - 9:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School, 100 Waite Blvd	Thursday, July 23, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge, 144-653 7th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge, 144-653 7th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Rouseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for



Comments on the EIS and the DOE Presidential permit application should be made, emailed to: info@mn.gov, P.O. Box 548, St. Paul, MN 55155-0548. Comments on the EIS should be mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to: William Cole, Director, Environmental Review, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place S.W., Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101. Fax: 651-296-1000. bill.stanton@mn.gov

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the EIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number 2015-0499 on all correspondence. Comments on the EIS should be mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to: William Cole, Director, Environmental Review, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place S.W., Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101. Fax: 651-296-1000. bill.stanton@mn.gov

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The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the EIS by the various defined dates. Information only sent to be identified only to assist for some environmental review purposes. The DOE Federal document manager for the project, email, and/or submitted on other website portals.

The EIS can be viewed on the Department's website, www.mn.gov, under the "Environment" section. The EIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website, www.puc.state.mn.us, under "Search" and "Documents" under the year 2015 and the docket number E1015/TL-14-21.

The EIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Roseau Public Library, 180 1st Street SW, Baudette
- International Falls Public Library, 121 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Kellogg Public Library, 922 Clay Street, Kellogg
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 201 Oak Street, Grand Rapids
- Bigfork Public Library, 720 S. Superior Street, Bigfork
- International Falls Public Library, 140 NE 4th Street, International Falls
- Littlefork Public Library, 203 4th Street, Littlefork
- Minnesota Public Library, 13444 Main Street, Northland
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street, Roseau

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- International Falls Public Library, 140 NE 4th Street, International Falls
- Littlefork Public Library, 203 4th Street, Littlefork
- Minnesota Public Library, 13444 Main Street, Northland
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street, Roseau



Legal Notice

Publication: The Bemidji Pioneer

Location: Beltrami County

Actual: Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Actual: Friday, July 3, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION [FORM Rev. 6/15]

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
COUNTY OF BELTRAMI } SS

DENNIS DOEDEN, being duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of THE BEMIDJI PIONEER or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the attached HDR, Inc/Notice of Availability

was published in the newspaper are as follows:

7/3

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: \$10.65. The rate actually charged in this matter: \$8.00

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in BELTRAMI County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT

Handwritten signature of Dennis Doeden

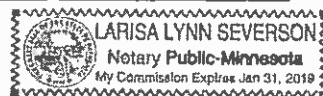
[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

This 6th day of July, 2015

Handwritten signature of Larisa Lynn Severson

Notary Public



LEADS



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Issued: June 18, 2015

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

LEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 235 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 108 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following the meeting, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

57th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

fax: 651-539-0109 | bill.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager

DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

800 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC, 20585

fax: 202-586-1472 | juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> or <http://www.greatnorthernels.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website: <http://www.greatnorthernels.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("1"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Lake Public Library, 302 Alton Avenue, Marble Lake

BUSINESS

Duluth forges ahead with Cirrus facility

City to pay for drawings, even as work on development agreement continues

PETER PASSI

Forum News Service

DULUTH — The city of Duluth is rushing ahead with plans to build a new facility for Cirrus Aircraft in order to meet the needs of the fast-growing company and cash in on its pledge to bring at least another 150 jobs to town on top of the 600-or-so people it already employs locally.

So eager are city officials to land those jobs that they have agreed to open Duluth's wallet even before a development agreement for the project has been inked.

To develop drawings, Duluth has hired the architectural and engineering firm of Burns & McDonnell at a cost not to exceed \$456,500.

Bill King, Cirrus' vice president of business administration, said Cirrus is eager to expand into the proposed 60,000-square-foot facility as the company prepares to launch production of its first jet, the Vision SF50.

Chris Eng, Duluth's director of business and economic development, said he hopes construction of the building will begin by October. He expects the structure, made of precast concrete panels, will go up quickly and be ready for occupancy by April or May.

MECHANICS OF THE DEAL
All told, the city expects

out the new plant.

The building would be owned by the city, but Cirrus is expected to sign a long-term lease that would be used to pay off tax-increment financing bonds issued to finance the project.

Assuming Cirrus gets its new facility, it won't be the first time it has received help growing operations in Duluth. In 2002, it moved into a 63,000-square-foot "aviation incubator" building constructed with the help of \$3.5 million from the federal Economic Development Administration, \$3.1 million from the city of Duluth and \$2 million from the Duluth Economic Development Authority.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Cirrus is now owned by an entity called China Aviation Industry General Aircraft, and 4th District City Councillor Howie Hanson asked whether there was a danger of the company moving production to its owner's home nation in time.

King said such fears are unfounded.

"They did not buy us to move us. If they were going to do that, they would have 3½ to 4 years ago before they invested over \$100 million in additional new funds to bring a jet to market in the U.S.," he said. "This is the single biggest

g, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in St. Louis County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in St. Louis County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities. **Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

To avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with both environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations. EERA evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The DEIS is published and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The DEIS is published in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

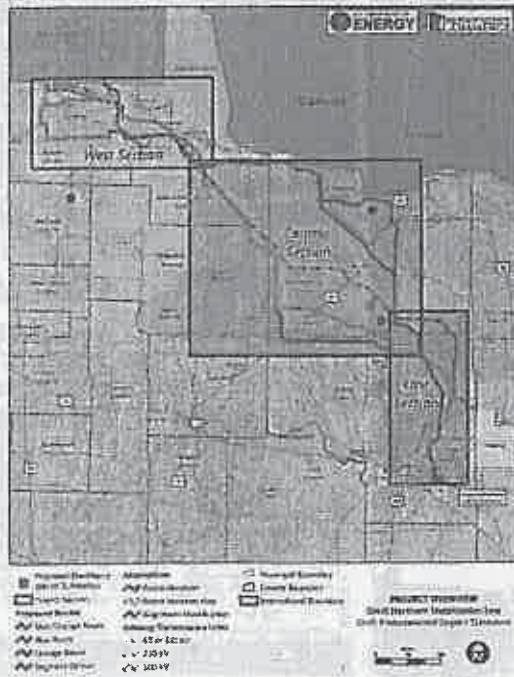
Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015. Hearings will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, submit comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below). Write to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the instructions. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact the environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, bill.storm@mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.state.mn.us).

NEPA Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7666; juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov). Documents can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1630.



The city's match of \$4 million will come from tax-increment financing — a form of subsidy that uses new taxes generated by a project to cover certain development costs.

For its part, Cirrus expects to invest more than \$2.5 million to equip and fit

day opening Chinese manufacturing operations.

"We don't doubt we'll produce airplanes in China someday. I hope we do," King said. "But the air space isn't open there, and there's no one to sell them to if there's no air space open."

Convicted murderer Daniel Hood indicted in N.M. prison killing

SUSAN LUNNEBERG
Forum News Service

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Convicted as a teenager in Minnesota's Kandiyohi County of murdering two people, Daniel Thomas Hood, 34, has been indicted in the killing of another inmate in a New Mexico correctional facility.

Hood is charged with first-degree murder and possession of a deadly weapon or explosive by a prisoner, according to New Mexico court records.

The New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau conducted the investigation into the murder of Frank Pauline, who was found April 27 in a very remote section of the recreation yard at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility in Las Cruces, a news release from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety said.

Hood confessed to the murder and said it was because he thought Pauline was a snitch and walked around like he owned the place, the news release states.

Pauline died on his 42nd birthday, according to several media reports.

Hood was 17 years old when he was sentenced in 1998 in Kandiyohi County District Court to life plus 25 years for first-degree premeditated murder and second-degree murder for the Oct. 27, 1996, shooting deaths of Bruce Johnson, 51, and Grace Christiansen, 81, neighbors from New London.

Hood, formerly of Spicer, was 15 when he was arrested and jailed. Hood had been on

the run from house arrest ordered after he stole his grandmother's car when he spotted Johnson and Christiansen, working in a field at Christiansen's home, according to an archived story in the West Central Tribune of Willmar. He asked them for a ride to Willmar. They agreed to take him to New London. At some point, Johnson realized Hood was a runaway and Hood pulled a gun that he had stolen.

Hood forced the two to drive on back roads until arriving at a cornfield south of Willmar, where Hood told them to walk into the field. Johnson turned and tackled Hood, and Hood fired several shots and killed him. Christiansen knelt on the ground, "praying and begging for mercy," and Hood shot her twice and killed her, the archived story states.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections says only that Hood is currently incarcerated and is housed at a non-DOC facility. The Albuquerque Journal quoted New Mexico Department of Corrections spokeswoman Alex Tomlin saying that Hood has been in the New Mexico prison system under an interstate compact since 2002.

Pauline also was transferred to the New Mexico prison under an interstate compact in December 2012 to serve out his 180-year sentence, Tomlin told the Albuquerque Journal.

Pauline was one of three men convicted in the 1991 Christmas Eve kidnapping, rape and murder of a woman in Hawaii, according to a story in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald.



Legal Notice

Publication: International Falls Journal

Location: International Falls, MN Koochiching County

Actual: Saturday, June 27 and Wednesday, July 1, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING)

Robert Davenport, being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as The Journal, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed Public Notice ~ Minnesota Department of COMMERCE

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for Two consecutive times; It was first published on Wednesday, the 24th day of June, 20 15, and was thereafter printed and published on Saturday, the 27th day of June, 20 15; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: [Signature]
TITLE: Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 29th day of June, 20 15.

[Signature]
Notary Public



RATE INFORMATION

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space \$ _____ (Line, word, or inch rate)
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter \$ _____ (Line, word, or inch rate)
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above Matter \$ _____ (Line, word, or inch rate)

Public Notice



Issued: June 19, 2015



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Litohack	Litohack Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelher	Kelher Old School Center 249 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Sigfork	Sigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment. Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Fax: 651-639-0109 | wcole.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20385

Fax: 202-591-1472 | julie.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernmns.com>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities/Docket.htm?tl-14-21>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnorthernmns.com>

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

• Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette

- Martin Public Library, 302 Nicol Avenue, Madsen
- Northome Public Library, 12254 Main Street, Northport
- Roscoe Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 103, Roscoe
- Wausau Public Library, 207 Main Avenue NE, Wausau
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DERS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220-mile long, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roscoe County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Itasca and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Federal Review Process. Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) (MUC) a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DERA) will be responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single EIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

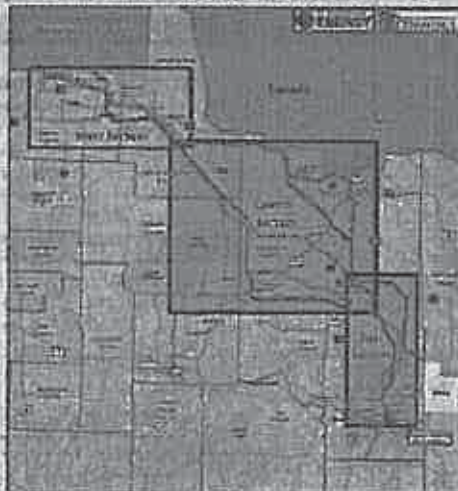
Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Stern (651-639-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, bsstern@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Swanson (651-535-0426 or 1-800-657-3792, consum@puc.state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7688; julie.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-639-1530.





Legal Notice

Publication: The American

Location: Blackduck, MN Beltrami County

Actual: Anticipated: Friday, June 26, 2015 Actual: Friday, July 3, 2015

Classifieds | Community

HELP WANTED TECHNOLOGY

HELP WANTED TECHNOLOGY

Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS
Telecommunications Technician
Grand Rapids, MN Office

Your primary tasks will include:

- Installation and maintenance of residential/business voice, video and internet services.
- Responsible for strong On-Call duties.
- Must be able to work Saturday's and overtime as needed.

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- 2 year Telecommunications, Broadband, Computer, Electrical or related degree.
- Power Lineman Technicians license.
- Knowledge of P. Day and PDK systems.
- Knowledge of fiber optic and copper outside plant.

Paul Bunyan Communications offers a comprehensive salary and benefits package, while working for a stable, reliable employer. To apply, send a written resume, including e-mail address, salary requirements by July 10th to: Human Resources/ Paul Bunyan Communications 1831 Acme St. NW - Suite 100 Grand Rapids, MN 56001 or email a PDF of your resume to employment@paulbunyan.com with the subject line "TECH".

PBC is an equal opportunity employer
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Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS
Tier II Data Services Representative
Bemidji MN office
On-site, full time position located in the heart of Minnesota's woods and lake country

Responsibilities will vary depending upon the qualifications person hired, but may include:

- Providing end user advanced level support to internal and external customers
- Installation, configuration, and administration of a variety of servers and networks
- Technical sales, design, and engineering

Qualifications include:

- High school diploma plus successful completion of post-secondary education or equivalent military training. A valid driver's license with an insurance policy history is also required.
- In addition, any of the following attributes are desirable:
 - Passion for learning new technology
 - Strong work ethic
 - Outstanding communication skills with the ability to interact positively with technical and non-technical people
 - Technical support experience
 - Technical sales skills
 - Basic knowledge of PC and server hardware from Service Technician experience

NOTICES

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
Issued June 18, 2015
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties
PUC Docket No. ETO15/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Access Civil Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Sauvieska	Lake of the Woods School 316 1st Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 320 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Arboretum 1502 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Beltrami	Salisbury	Kulzer One School Center 353 Clark Avenue N (Highway 73)	Friday, July 24, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Ingomar	Ingomar School 200 Humboldt Blvd	Tuesday, July 14, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Winnar Lake Lodge 144 St. Johns Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Winnar Lake Lodge 144 St. Johns Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:
William Cole Starn, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-536-0100 | bill.starn@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:
Julie Ann Smith, P.O. Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1900 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20565
Fax: 202-586-1472 | julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://eia.gov/comm/roa/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernmail.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means indicated above. No comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mva.gov/comm/roa/energy/facilities/Docket.html?do=34151>, as well as on the DOE EIS website: <http://eisen.doe.gov>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 119 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Brony Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Brony
- Calmar Library, 932 Gary Street, Calmar
- Colville Public Library, 205 Cole Street, Colville
- DuRoi Public Library, 680 W Superior Street, DuRoi
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 149 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Medbo Public Library, 302 Alton Avenue, Medbo
- Norhome Public Library, 1204 Main Street, Norhome
- Roseau Public Library, 181 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Winnar Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Winnar
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Wine tasting event held at Blackduck Golf Course

Wise, golf and food. A successful and fun night was enjoyed by all Tuesday at the Women's Wine Tasting Scramble at the Blackduck Golf Course. Watch for another event coming soon.



Participants gather for the meal at Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.



Sampling wine was a popular part of Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.



• Full-time teleworking
• Ability to work independently and as a team member

Paul Bryner Communications offers a comprehensive and an outstanding benefits package, and working for a stable, reliable employer. The company will be primarily business hours but a paid vacation plan for holidays, sickdays, or coverage may be required.

Please send a written resume, including a mail address and salary requirements by July 15th to attention of HR 0518-2, Paul Bryner Communications, 1631 Lake St. NW • Suite 100, Bend, OR 97701.

FBC is an equal opportunity employer.
www.fbc.org/usa

GIGAZONE

LEGAL'S

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT - NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Foot Value, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company (the "Company") commenced the process of dissolving and is in the process of ending up its affairs. The Company filed a Notice of Dissolution with the Minnesota Secretary of State on June 9, 2015. The address of the Company is 1171 Paul Bryner Drive NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601. Any written documentation supporting the claim. All claims against the company must be received on or before September 17, 2015. Claims received after this date will be barred.

4 oz. 6/19, 2E, 7/3, 10

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218-333-9200

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Federal Review Process. Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department of Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The DEIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The DEIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The DEIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Dossier. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit dossier for the project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Dossier," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Smith (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, bill.smith@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, contact.puc@state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-685-7666, julie.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.



Legend:
 - Proposed Transmission Line
 - Existing Transmission Lines
 - Public Property
 - Private Property
 - City Limits
 - State Property
 - Federal Property
 - Other Property



Golfers are set to hit the course at Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.

Applications accepted for special deer hunt

Matthew Liedle
The American

Minnesota's deer archery season doesn't start until September, however, Bemidji city staff wants potential hunters to send in applications this summer to be part of a hunt that manages deer population around town.

The Bemidji Special Archery Deer Hunt, which began in 2005, has become an annual form of wildlife population control after the city received numerous complaints from residents.

"People in Ward 5, near the northeast part of Lake Bemidji had a lot of complaints about the deer," said Teresa Hanson, Bemidji deputy city clerk. "The herd was large, there was a lot of people complaining about deer eating shrubs and there were a lot of hits on the roadway."

In response, a study was done by the city with the aid of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to determine the amount of deer in the local region. Soon after, a deer management committee was formed that included a council member, a DNR representative and citizens.

The city has since created a special permit program that allows archery hunters to shoot deer inside the city limits on both private and public land.

Some of the public land in the hunt is owned by the city and other sections are owned by the state. For the private sections, Hanson said the owners have the option to apply for a permit themselves, have friends or family apply or the city can assign hunters in their location.

In all, there are about seven sites and the public areas are assigned to two hunters. The amount of people able to get permits is limited for public sites, though. Hanson said the number of applicants often exceeds the amount of permits available and therefore, a lottery drawing is done.

The hunt will follow the regular Minnesota deer archery season, which starts Sept. 18 and ends Dec. 31. The state allows a total of 876 deer to be harvested with a limit of one buck per hunter. Additionally all existing hunting and trespassing laws as well as city ordinances will still apply during the Bemidji hunt.

To apply participants will need to acquire the appropriate state hunting license, must be 18 years old as well as pass a criminal background check. They also will need to successfully complete an archery proficiency test.

If a participant has already passed a proficiency test in the past three years, one won't be required, however an application must be done every year.

To schedule an archery proficiency test, potential hunters can call:

- Gender Mountain, (218) 735-6150
- John's Bow Shop, (218) 443-8945
- Bemidji Bow Shop, (218) 293-6251

Applications must be received at Bemidji City Hall by 4 p.m. Aug. 14. A \$5 fee is required when submitting the application. Those who are selected as participants will also have to register all deer harvested with both the city and the state.

Applications can be picked up at Bemidji City Hall, 317 Fourth St. NW.



Legal Notice

Publication: Roseau Times Region

Location: Roseau, MN Roseau County

Actual: Anticipated: Friday, June 26, 2015 Actual: Saturday, July 4, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Minnesota)
Country of Roseau)s

Carrie Johnson being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher of authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as the Roseau Times-Region and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below.

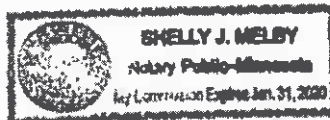
A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07 and other applicable laws, as amended.

B) The printed Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement which is attached as cut from the columns of said newspaper and was printed and published once each week, for one successive weeks; it was first published on Saturday, the 4 day of July, 2015, and was thereafter printed and published on every — to and including — the — day of —, 20—; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY Carrie Johnson
TITLE Ad Sales

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 1st day of July, 2015



Shelly J. Melby
Notary Public

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,
STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Application by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties.

**PUC Docket No. ET015/TL-14-12
DOE/EIS 0499**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau City Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Saluste	Lake of the Woods School 236 18th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Jillbort	Jillbort Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kallher	Kallher Old School Center 243 Oak Avenue N / Highway 72	Friday, July 24, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Friday, July 24, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-12 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
65 7th Place East, Suite 800
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-639-0106 | wc.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20585
Fax: 202-586-1478 | julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/comm/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernels.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document

above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/comm/energy/facilities/DOcket.html#54101>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnorthernels.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available by viewing at the following public libraries:

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- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Boyer Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Boyer
- Colburn Library, 932 Gary Street, Colburn
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 530 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 700 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alton Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12044 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 800 kilovolt (KV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Federal Review Process. Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

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State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 10th and 16th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann O. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings

route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note -- subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3784, bill.storm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smolena (651-299-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1830.

July 4, 2015





Legal Notice

Publication: Hibbing Daily Tribune

Location: Hibbing, MN St. Louis County

Actual: Wednesday, July 1, 2015



HIBBING DAILY TRIBUNE

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

[FORM Rev. 6/15]

State of Minnesota

County of St. Louis

Aimee LaBrosse being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of The Hibbing Daily Tribune, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:

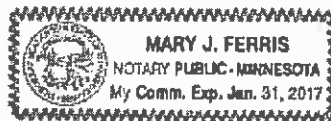
Wednesday, July 1, 2015

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$ 9.85 per

5. [NEW] Mortgage Foreclosure Notices [Effective 7/1/15]. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in St. Louis County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Aimee LaBrosse



Subscribed and sworn to before me

on this 8th day of July

Mary J. Ferris

AS | WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015



Issued: June 19, 2015

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

FUC Docket No. 15015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Roseau, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Itasca counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATES AND TIMES
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Beaumont	Lake of the Woods School 230 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Ameritown 1900 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kaibler	Kaibler Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N Highway 729	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity in concert.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the FUC docket number "TL-14-21" and the DOE number "EIS-0499" on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

William Cole Steens, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Floor East, Suite 502
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Tel: 651-556-5109 | william.steens@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20585
Tel: 202-585-1872 | juliea.smith@doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at <http://www.dhs.gov/eiscommentportal/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthern.com>.

The Department and DOE are stating all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website <http://www.greatnorthern.com/energy-facility-permitting>, <http://www.dhs.gov/eiscommentportal/facilities>, and on the DOE EIS website <http://www.greatnorthern.com>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search documents," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Beaumont Library, 110 1st Street SW, Beaumont
- Blackduck Public Library, 77 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calmar Library, 933 Gary Street, Calmar
- Coleraine Public Library, 205 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 790 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 300 Alton Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 1204 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Woodland Public Library, 303 Main Avenue SE, Woodland

Project Review Process: Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE, which is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for all cross-border transmission facilities.

State of Minnesota Review Process: In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL & Route Permits.

Environmental Review: Minnesota Power's permit applications submitted to the Commission, because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, with a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to build the GNTL, DOE, NEPA and the DOE have prepared a single EIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including reasonable alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that impacts can be improved through public comment.

State Public Hearing Process: The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct public hearings on Minnesota Power's permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the week of August 3rd and 4th, 2009, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and posted on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the project if they believe it is in the public interest.

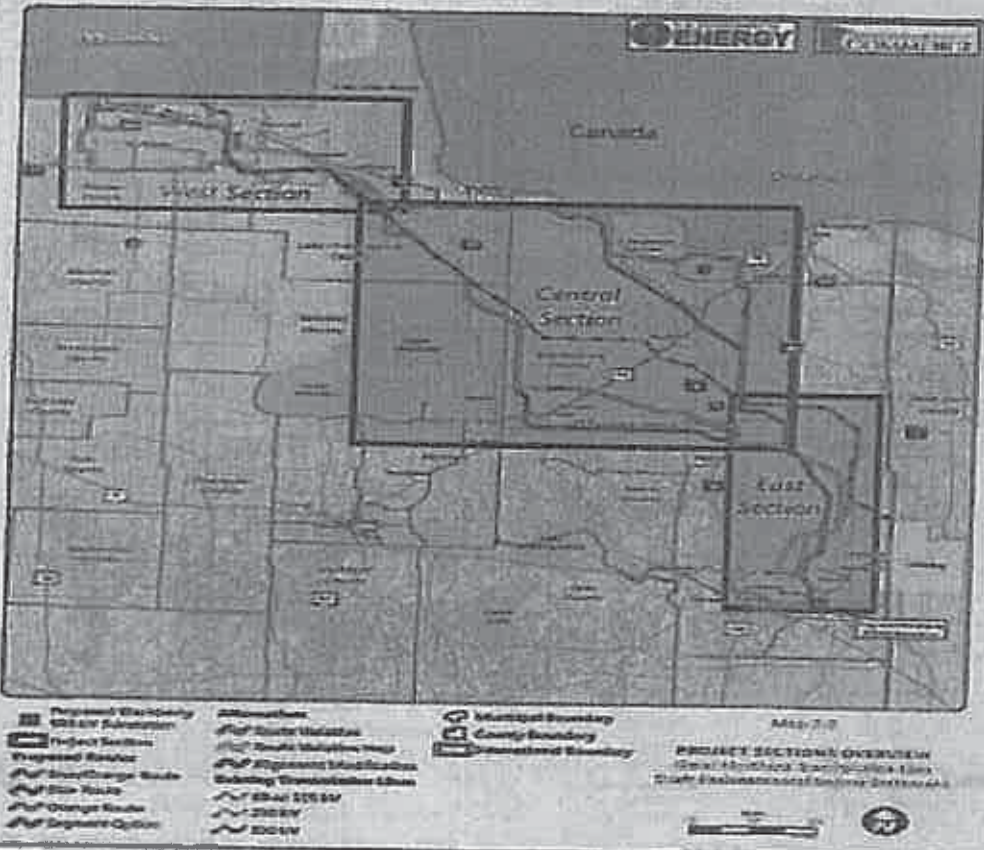
Final EIS: The EIS will include a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, evaluations of pros and cons, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

Project Mailing List: To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public affairs (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket: In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the state permit docket for this project by signing up at www.dockets.dnr.state.mn.us. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts: If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager, The State of Minnesota, 601-224-1264 or 1-800-657-3794. Environmental manager or public affairs, Tracy America (601-224-1264 or 1-800-657-3794).

Federal Project Contact: If you have questions or would like more information about the Federal NEPA process and the DOE Presidential permit process, contact federal document manager, John A. Smith, PhD (202-285-7600, johnsmith@doe.gov). This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e. large print or audio) by calling 202-526-1500.





Legal Notice

Publication: Western Itasca Review

Location: Deer River, MN Itasca County

Actual: Thursday, July 2, 2015



Affidavit of Publication

State of Minnesota)
)ss. HDR Engineering, Inc.
County of Itasca)

Robin Pederson, duly sworn, on oath says that she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as Western Itasca Review, Deer River, Minnesota, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

- A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws.
B) The printed advertisement:

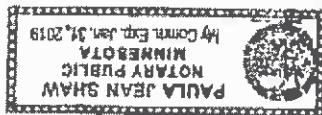
Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings
In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by
Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once on Thursday, the 2nd day of July, 2015

BY: [Signature]
Robin Pederson
TITLE: Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 9th day of July, 2015.

[Signature]
Notary Public
Itasca, Minnesota



WTR, Thursday, July 2, 2015, Page 4

Issued June 19, 2015
**Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings**

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS.

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Isabelle	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Ulfafork	Ulfafork Community Center 320 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Rothier	Rothier Old School Center 249 Clark Avenue N (Rt 63/Highway 71)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Nepark	Nepark School 100 Kestler Way	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number ES-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:
William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-539-0100 | W.C.Storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:
Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20585
Fax: 202-566-1472 | julie.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://trp.gov/commenr/and/or/facilities> and/or <http://www.transmissionline.org>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on other website provided above.

The DEIS will be available at:



Legal Notice

Publication: The Littlefork Times

Location: Littlefork, MN Koochiching County

Actual: Wednesday, July 1, 2015



PAID LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Issued: June 19, 2015



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Hamletts	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Americus 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kaliber	Kaliber Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Gazond Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Gazond Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:
 William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
 Fax: 651-539-0109 | hill.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
 DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
 1000 Independence Avenue SW
 Washington, DC, 20585
 Fax: 202-586-1472 | julia.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernemis.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnorthernemis.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."



The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Bandera Library, 110 1st Street SW, Bandera
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Wairoad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Wairoad
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 0, Greenbush
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Federal Review Process. Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OER), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EHRA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EHRA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

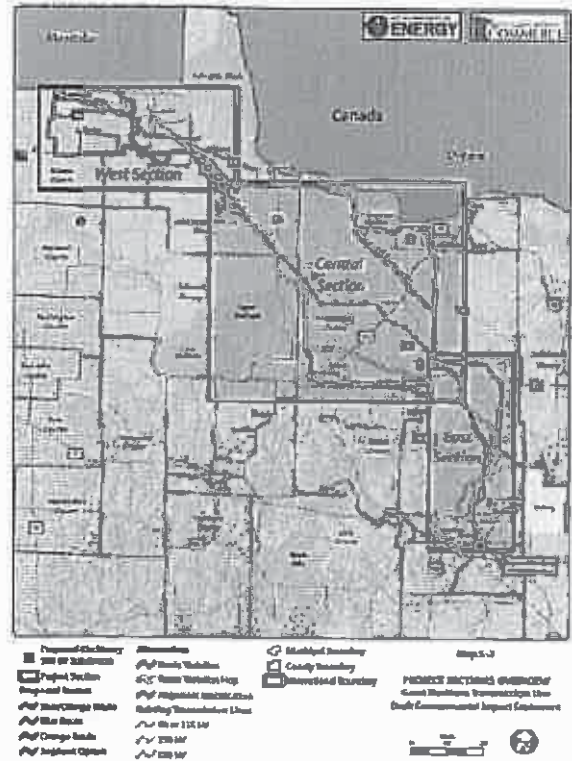
Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Stromm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, bill.stromm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetzova (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, csmetzov@puc.state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julia A Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; julia.a.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.





Legal Notice

Publication: Northome Area News

Location: Northome, MN Koochiching County

Actual: Thursday, July 2, 2015



From: Rahm, Laura
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 8:40 AM
To: nanews@paulbunyan.net
Subject: FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Attachments: Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx; GNTL Project Overview Map.pdf

Melissa,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it this week, July 2nd, if you still run it on Thursdays. I have enclosed a map that will hopefully be more clear for print if need be.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator
D 763.591.5410

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Rahm, Laura
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM
To: today@whiteearth.com; mroberts@gmr.net; mickie@ifallsjournal.com; laurel@ifallsjournal.com; norlight@wiktel.com; nanews@paulbunyan.net; mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com; info@redlakenationnews.com; rtr@mncable.net; cindy@scenicranonewsforum.com; erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com; mferis@hibbingdailytribune.net; littleforktimes@frontiernet.net; advantage007@centurytel.net; dmpub@paulbunyan.net
Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura
Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm
Project Coordinator

HDR
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3636
D 763.591.5410
laura.rahm@hdrinc.com



Legal Notice

Publication: Northern Light Region

Location: Baudette, MN Lake of the Woods County

Actual: Wednesday, July 1, 2015



**LAURA RAHM
HDR ENGINEER
701 XENIA AVE. S 600
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416
MN POWER NOTICE**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
County of Lake of the Woods**

Affidavit of Publication

1) Doris Knutson, being duly sworn on oath says that she is the Managing Editor of the newspaper known as the NORTHERN LIGHT REGION, and has full knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3) The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied to this document was published in the newspaper are as follows: July 1, 22, 2015

4) The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:
\$10.60/column inch

5) Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Lake of the Woods County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

BY: Doris Knutson
Doris Knutson

TITLE: Managing Editor

Subscribed and sworn to me this 30th day of July 2015.

Notary Public:

Lorie Fuller



8/7 Wednesday, July 1, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 600

St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Fax: 651-639-0109 | wilc.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager

DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

1050 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC, 20585

Fax: 202-686-14721 | julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnortherntransmission.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on other website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities/dockets.html?tid=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnortherntransmission.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gay Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alcoa Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 600 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile-long, 500 kilovolt (KV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Rouse County, and depending on final route, would cut across Blackberry, Moorhiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.
Federal Review Process. Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department of Energy Environment & Pesticides (DEEP) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 2nd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe is most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

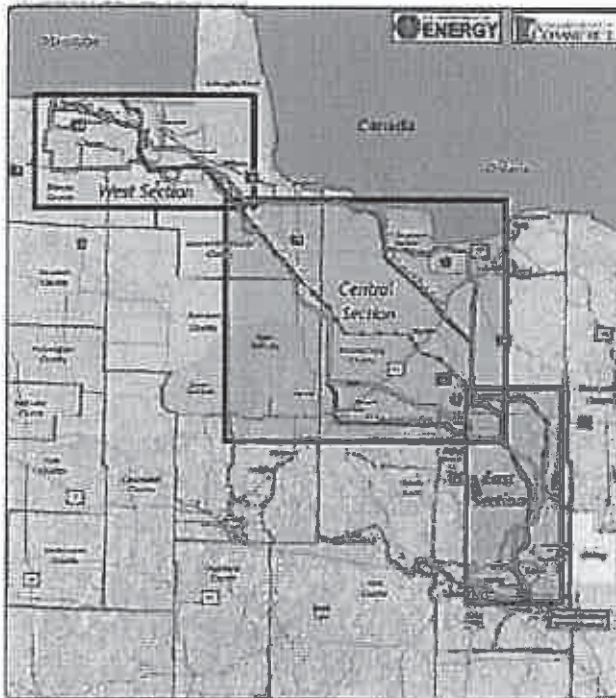
Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Steen (651-529-1844 or bill.steen@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smolens (651-298-0400 or 1-800-657-3202, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).


Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith, PhD (202-586-7868; julie.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-639-1530.



Map 1.3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed HVTL route location Proposed HVTL route location HVTL Design Study HVTL Study HVTL Design Study HVTL Segment Option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attorney State Naturalist State Wildlife Map Approved HVTL/CDL route (Minnesota) HVTL 100' Buffer HVTL 200' Buffer HVTL 500' Buffer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Boundary County Boundary Unincorporated Boundary 	<p>PROJECT EXISTING OR PLANNED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Northern Transmission Line CDL (Unincorporated) Project Subarea
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Legal Notice

Publication: Grand Rapids Herald Review

Location: Grand Rapids, MN Itasca County

Actual: Wednesday, July 1, 2015



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF ITASCA)

Mark Roy, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald Review, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:
Wednesday, July 1, 2015

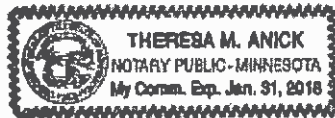
4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$2.00 per 1-col line.

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Itasca County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

[Handwritten signature] [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 22nd day of July 2015.



[Handwritten signature: Theresa M Anick]
Notary Public



6C LEGALS

HeraldReview | www.grandrapidsmn.com | Wednesday, July 1, 2015



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS
 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC Docket Nos. E7015/TL-14-21
 DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comments on the DEIS.

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Haywards	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Lititzburg	Lititzburg Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	International Falls 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kellyher	Kellyher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Itaska	Itaska School 300 Husky Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager
 Minnesota Department of Commerce
 83 7th Place East, Suite 300
 St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
 Fax: 651-339-0109 | bill.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
 DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
 1000 Independence Avenue SW
 Washington, DC, 20368
 Fax: 202-386-1472 | julie.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthern.org>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

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The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

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- Blackduck Public Library, 71 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 401 2nd Street, Bovey
- Coleraine Library, 931 Gary Street, Coleraine
- Coleraine Public Library, 301 Cook Street, Coleraine
- Duduth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duduth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 148 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids Public Library, PO Box 9, Grand Rapids
- International Falls Public Library, 250 4th Street, International Falls
- Itaska Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Itaska
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 131 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

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State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL & Route Permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

State Route Permit Public Hearings. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

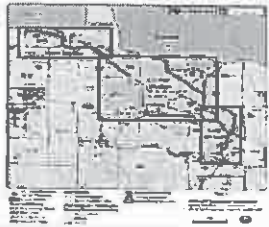
Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note: subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

State Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-339-1844 or 1-800-437-3794, bill.storm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Semetana (651-396-0406 or 1-800-637-3782, conserve@puc.state.mn.us).

Federal Project Contact. If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith (202-386-7668, julie.smith@hq.doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-339-1930.





Legal Notice

Publication: Red Lake Nation News (Tribal)

Location: Red Lake, Red Lake County

Actual: Anticipated: Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Actual: N/A



AN ALLETE COMPANY



From: Rahm, Laura
 Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 1:56 PM
 To: mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com; info@redlakenationnews.com
 Subject: FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 Attachments: Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx; GNTL Project Overview Map.pdf

Hello,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it next week, not this week so June 30th would be great, if you still run it on Tuesdays. I have enclosed a map that will hopefully be more clear for print if need be.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator
D 763.591.5410

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Rahm, Laura
 Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM
 To: today@whiteearth.com; mroberts@qrhr.net; mickie@fallsjournal.com; laurek@fallsjournal.com; norlight@wiktel.com; nanews@paulbunyan.net; mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com; info@redlakenationnews.com; rtr@mncable.net; cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com; eronstad@bemidjipioneer.com; mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net; littleforktimes@frontiernet.net; advantage007@centurytel.net; dmpub@paulbunyan.net
 Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura
 Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm
Project Coordinator

HDR
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3838
D 763.591.5410
laura.rahm@hdrinc.com



Legal Notice

Publication: Anishinaabeg Today – White Earth (Tribal)

Location: White Earth, MN Becker County

Actual: Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1, 2015 Actual: N/A



From: Rahm, Laura
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Gary Padrta
Subject: FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Attachments: Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx

Gary,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it next week, not this week so July 1st would be great, if you still run it on Wednesdays.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator
D 783.591.5410

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Rahm, Laura
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM
To: today@whiteearth.com; mroberts@grhr.net; mickie@fallsjournal.com; laurel@fallsjournal.com; nortight@wiktel.com; nanews@paulbunyan.net; mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com; info@redlakenationnews.com; rtr@mncable.net; cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com; erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com; mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net; littleforktimes@frontiernet.net; advantage007@centurytel.net; drpub@paulbunyan.net
Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura
Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm
Project Coordinator

HDR
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3638
D 783.591.5410
laura.rahm@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us



Legal Notice

Publication: Bois Forte News (Tribal)

Location: Lilydale, MN Becker County

Actual: Anticipated: July 2015 Issue - Monthly Actual: N/A



AN ALLETE COMPANY



From: Rahm, Laura
 Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:56 AM
 To: Helen Wilkie
 Subject: RE: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Helen,

I wanted to follow up and confirm you received the notice and if you will be able to run it?

Thanks so much.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator
D 763.591.5410

hdinc.com/follow-us

From: Rahm, Laura
 Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 7:40 AM
 To: 'Helen Wilkie'
 Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE)
 Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Helen,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm
Project Coordinator

HDR
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3636
D 763.591.5410
laura.rahm@hdinc.com

hdinc.com/follow-us

<Legal Notice text start>

Attachment D

Response to All Comments on the Draft EIS

0001-1

The scoping process provided the opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to residences and land use for each alternative.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0001-2

DOE and DOC-EERA determined that the DEIS covered a range of reasonable alternatives and none of the alternatives presented warranted expanding that range. Non-transmission alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis because they are outside the scope of the purpose of and need for DOE's federal action, which is to decide whether to issue a Presidential permit. Non-transmission alternatives that are out of scope for this EIS were handled under the state's certificate of need process.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0001-1

0001-2

29054 680th Ave.
Roosevelt, MN 56673
7/6/15

Julie Ann Smith
Federal Document Manager
U.S. Dept. of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Docket Number: TL-14-21

Dear Ms. Smith:

This letter is regarding the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN of which I strongly oppose. I live in the rural Roosevelt area, and there are already two other manmade/synthetic structures (transmission/power lines) running east/west and south of Roosevelt within three miles of each other through beautiful wilderness including the Beltrami Island State Forest. In addition, I own 160 acres of land in the Beltrami Island State Forest in addition to my residence (homestead) in close proximity of this area. However, I have a couple suggestions/requests and "reasons why" regarding the proposed power line, and they are as follows:

- One suggestion/request is to run the proposed power line north of our 160 acres paralleling the existing power line running east/west, and it would not run through our private property, which is surrounded by state land. Therefore, the proposed power line would run through state land 100%, and the state of MN would get the money for the easement of our property's width of 1/2 mile. My brother, Jeff Johnson, and I have planted 100s of jack pine, white pine, and white cedar trees on the north side of our property that would be destroyed by the power line going to the south of the existing power line. In addition, permanent deer stands would be affected by the power line going to the south of the existing power line.
- Another suggestion/request if the power line goes to the south of the existing power line running east/west is to do a "land trade" with the state of MN. My request would be to acquire the width of the easement of the new power line on the south side of our 160 acres of perhaps 200-300 feet by 1/2 mile or whatever land would be affected by the new power line being installed. This option would give the state of MN the easement money and keep our 160 acres of private property intact as it is historical regarding the fact that it is an "original homestead" of 160 acres in Beltrami Island State Forest, which there are few today that are still intact and without a manmade/synthetic structure running through it.

The legal description of the 160 acres and my residence in this area are as follows, respectively:

- 160 Acres – Roosevelt, MN (**Jeffrey N. Johnson and James L. Johnson**) The Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Fifteen (15) in Township One Hundred Sixty-one (161) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof.
- 29054 680th Ave., Roosevelt, MN (**James L. Johnson**) All that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred Sixty-two (162) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof, LYING AND BEING South of the South right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway NO. 11, as now located and established.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and my suggestions/requests to the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN. Please call me at (218) 242-2462 or e-mail at jimjohnson767@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James L. Johnson

0002-1
Potential impacts to wildlife are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Linda Johnson [linda.johnson888@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 8:25 PM
To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
Subject: TL-14-21 The Great Northern Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am Linda Johnson, a property owner on Napoleon Lake in Itasca County. It is located in the heart of your proposed and favored transmission line route - referred to as the "Blue Route". Public opposition to lines tends to focus on their visual and environmental impacts. In 1993 Priestly and Craik conducted a survey regarding public concerns with overhead powerlines (median percentage of respondents perceiving impacts) and here are those findings:

- 54% aesthetics
- 50% property values
- 45% health
- 24% safety
- 15% noise
- 8% TV radio reception

Objectives and benefits of using new transmission technologies that are available today:

- * Increase power-carrying capacity within existing (constrained) ROWs.
- * Reduce/minimize impacts of transmission lines: environmental, visual, footprint, etc.

I am opposed to the Blue Route. The Blue Route would create an undesirable footprint in a heavily hunted / hiked / ATV accessible wilderness area. It would displace wildlife. The men in my family hunt that area; we have hiked and picked berries and enjoyed the wildlife native to that area. The Blue Route will change that dramatically and forever.

I oppose the Orange Route for the same reasons as the Blue route. Why create another negative footprint?

Using the Red Route would make sense as you would piggyback on land that currently has overhead powerlines. The footprint would be much smaller. It would conserve the wilderness that all of us who live in and recreate in have come to appreciate and enjoy.

This is curious to me: I learned that the new lines would serve corporations / industry and you don't even have committed customers for this approved project.

I urge you to consider the overall environmental impact to this area and choose the Orange Route.

Sincerely,
Linda Johnson
8614 Brant St NE
Circle Pines, MN 55014

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0002-1

0003-1

Potential impacts to human settlement and agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0003-1

From: Timothy Kveen [mailto:timothykveen@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Smith, Julie A (OE)
Subject: TL-14-21

Terry & Carol Kveen
N69 W20473 Orchard Ct
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

262-255-3599

Tim & Jessica Kveen
1920 Sunkist Ave
Waukesha, WI 53188

262-751-0320

Dear Julie Ann Smith,

We are landowners located inside of the West Section, Scoping decision route running west to east between highway 89 near Dieter township and 310 in Roseau. The property we own is near CR-123 and 28 including farmland, homes, drying and storage warehouses and an active use quonset. The current proposed route would affect several of our farming properties including the other structures I have just mentioned and future planned building sites. Please remove this route from consideration as this would greatly effect the operations of our farming including the lives of the people living in the homes at CR-123 and 28.

Thank you,
Terry Kveen
Carol Kveen
Tim Kveen
Jessica Kveen

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July 19, 2015

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MIN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Beltrami WMA Route Alternative Scoping Decision Route

Mr. Storm;

I have expressed my request to remove land I own and rent in Spruce Valley Township, Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 29 from the Beltrami WMA Route.

My livelihood is Slater Spraying Service Inc. in Roseau and I aerial spray all of the land mentioned above AND all of the land in these sections that I do not own or rent. This powerline will prevent me from aerial spraying this land and will basically shut down a major part of my business, both as a farmer and spray operator.

As you are probably aware, peat ground must be burned and must be sprayed by air.

The negative impact for landowners in the above sections is monumental and therefore I request that an alternate route be strongly considered.

For minimal impact I would ask that using DNR land and not privately owned land be considered for this powerline.

Sincerely,
Gary Slater
P.O. Box 245
Roseau, MN 56751
218.469.2533

0004

0004-1

Impacts to to agriculture and aerial spraying are discussed in Chapter 5 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property, including minimizing any impacts to aerial spraying and agricultural operations.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0004-1



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 22 2015

FWS/ES/ER-14-0396

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Smith,

These comments address the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit MN (ER14-0396). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepared comments on that project and submitted them to the Department of Interior (Department) for distribution on August 11, 2014, but those comments were never forwarded. We apologize for the error, and submit the comments below. We have also attached a cover memo from the Service that accompanied the original comments to the Department. The comments below this paragraph are unchanged, and do not reflect the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) currently available for comment. Comments on the DEIS will be forthcoming. Due to the advanced progress of the project, we strongly suggest that Minnesota Power contact the Service to discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to Service interest lands, listed species, and migratory birds.

The Department of the Interior (Department) has received the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit MN (ER14-0396). The Department offers the following comments and recommendations to be used in consideration of the development of the EIS.

General Comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides the following comments for the environmental review process for the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project, as well as recommendations for environmental impacts to be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

0006-1

Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS discuss potential impacts and avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures to USFWS interest lands, rare species, wildlife, and wetlands. In addition, the Biological Assessment in Appendix R assesses potential impacts to federally listed species and designated critical habitat. DOE and DOC-EERA continue to work with USFWS as a cooperating agency in the development of this EIS.

0006-1

The GNTL (both construction and long-term use) has the potential to impact Service interest lands, threatened, endangered, or species of concern, migratory birds, bald and golden eagles, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. The Service recommends the EIS examine the impact of the GNTL to these aforementioned resources, and examine ways avoid, minimize, and mitigate for potential impacts. The Service makes these recommendations pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act (NWRA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Executive Order (E.O.) 13186, Department of Energy's Migratory Bird Program Partnership Agreement, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

While outlined in detail in the attached two letters, the Service wishes to summarize the following main concerns:

Service Interest Lands:

The Service administers numerous tracts within the proposed GNTL routing options as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Service administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service requests that the construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service interest lands. This includes building GNTL structures on Service lands, wires spanning above Service lands, and any land changes (habitat or hydrology alteration, etc.) implemented to gain access to GNTL operations, or any land use changes (which may occur off Service interest lands) that may impact Service lands. The Service recommends consideration of the following alternatives to avoid and/or minimize impacts to Service interest lands:

- o In areas where multiple route alternatives exist, the Service recommends alternative with no Service-area land impacts be chosen.
- o In areas where the proposed right-of-way (ROW) corridor does not completely bisect refuge lands, the Service recommends the EIS explore the possibility and impacts of utilizing other areas within the proposed ROW to avoid Service lands.
- o Where no proposed alternative routes are provided to avoid refuge interest lands, the Service requests that alternative routes be investigated to avoid impacting Service interest lands.
- o Finally, the EIS should examine the impact of all proposed routes on Service lands should a route and ROW be chosen that may impact Service lands. Unavoidable impacts to Service lands may require mitigation, which should be reflected in the EIS and the overall project timeline.

In accordance with the NWRA, ROW requests on Service lands will need to be analyzed to determine if such requests are compatible with the mission and purpose of the NWRS. Before the Service considers the possibility of impacts of the GNTL to refuge lands, an application request will

0006-2

0006-2

The Applicant is currently working with USFWS to avoid and/or minimize impacts to USFWS interest lands, including those lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System that are governed by the National Wildlife System Administration Act. The MnDNR has reviewed their land records for all parcels along the alternatives to identify federal aid parcels. Four federal aid parcels are identified for the proposed Project. Section 5.3.1.2 of the EIS is updated to identify the two North American Wetland Conservation Act federal aid parcels as part of the Roseau Lake WMA to Section 5.3.1.2. The two federal aid parcels that are part of the Silver Creek WMA are identified in Section 5.4.1.2.

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

3

need to include the final route determination and the exact location of the proposed ROW. The Service recommends this process be reflected in the EIS.

The Service letter dated July 1, 2014 detailed specific areas of concern where the proposed GNTL line bisects Service interest lands. The Service will provide additional recommendations to DOE and Minnesota Power regarding specific route alternative suggestions so that refuge interests may be avoided. These recommendations will be provided under a separate letter and will be sent before the end of the comment period so that they may be considered in the scoping for the EIS.

The Service has similar concerns for any Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) wildlife areas with Federal Assistance interests that may be impacted by this project. A comprehensive review should be conducted to determine if any MN DNR wildlife areas will be potentially impacted and, if so, if they have Federal Assistance interests. These lands should also be avoided as discussed above for NWRS lands. Impacts for either group must be fully analyzed within the EIS to the Service's satisfaction or a subsequent NEPA document will be needed by the Service which will increase costs and delay reviews.

Threatened and Endangered Species:

The Service is tasked with the protection and recovery of species listed under the ESA. The following are listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring in one or more counties where the GNTL is proposed:

Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praecleara*), Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*), Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dactylos*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). Because the decision to list the Northern long-eared bat will be decided by April 2, 2015, the Service recommends incorporating conferencing and/or early consultation into the EIS timeline in order to avoid delays.

The Service recommends the degree of impact to each species be evaluated in the EIS, including impact of construction, long-term project operation, habitat loss, disturbance, indirect impacts, and impacts of all route options. The EIS should also explore all potential avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impact to these species. Pending the determination of consequences to each listed species, the Service may request compensatory mitigation to offset impacts.

Migratory Birds and Eagles:

The Migratory Treaty Act prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). The Service recommends the EIS examine the impacts to eagles (bald and golden) and all migratory birds. These impacts may include, but are not limited to: habitat alteration and destruction, take and disturbance, indirect impacts and collisions and electrocution. The EIS should examine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, and examine the degree of impacts each route decision may cause. Additionally, (and not addressed in

0006-2
Continued

0006-3

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat.

0006-4

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS discusses potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

0006-3

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-4

0006-4 cont'd

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

the attached letters) pursuant to Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, 2001, the Service may request compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to migratory bird habitat as a result of construction and/or long-term use of the GNTL. Early consultation with the Service can help to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory bird habitat, reduce the amount of compensatory mitigation sought, and speed the overall review process. The degree of mitigation depends upon the type, age, and quality of habitat impacted. Permits are available for disturbance and nest removal of bald eagles; however, bald eagle nest removal may require mitigation. No permits are currently available for take of golden eagles east of the 100th meridian, however, the EIS should still examine the impacts to both species of eagles and address the need for development of an eagle management plan.

Wetland Resources:

The Service recommends the EIS examine the impact of all route alternatives wetland resources. In refining and selecting project alternatives, efforts should be made to select an alternative that does not adversely impact wetlands. If no other alternative is feasible and it is clearly demonstrated that project construction resulting in wetland disturbance or loss cannot be avoided, a wetland mitigation plan should be developed that identifies measures proposed to minimize adverse impacts and replace lost wetland habitat values and other wetland functions.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the scope of the EIS for the Great Northern Transmission Line. For issues concerning Service comments, we ask that you contact Lisa Mandell, Deputy Field Supervisor, Twin Cities Field Office, 4101 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55425; telephone, 612-725-3548, extension 2201; email lisa_mandell@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Lynn Lewis
Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services
Midwest Region

Enclosures (3): Memo: Comments provided for Notice of Intent (August 11, 2014)
TCFO Comment Letter (March 14, 2014)
TCFO Comment Letter (July 1, 2014)

0006-4
Continued

0006-5

Once a project alignment is selected, detailed project design will begin. Wetland impacts will be quantified and an associated mitigation plan will be developed for permitting based on the project design. At this time, specific quantities of wetland impact for all alternatives cannot be calculated as there is no associated detailed project design. A mitigation plan for unavoidable wetland impacts is not available at this time. Once DOE and MN PUC issue permits for the Project, a wetland mitigation plan will be developed by the Applicant in coordination with USACE, BWSR, and appropriate local units of government as part of the environmental permitting process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-5

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

5

cc: Stephanie Nash, FWS-BCPA: stephanie_nash@fws.gov
 Jeff Gosse, FWS-RO: jeff_gosse@fws.gov
 Elizabeth Rigby, FWS-RO: elizabeth_rigby@fws.gov
 Lisa Mandell, FWS-TCFO: lisa_mandell@fws.gov
 Margaret Rheude, FWS-TCFO: margaret_rheude@fws.gov
 Rick Speer, FWS-Refuges: richard_speer@fws.gov
 Neil Powers, FWS-Refuges: neil_powers@fws.gov
 Craig Mowry, FWS-Refuges: craig_mowry@fws.gov
 Jim Leach, FWS-Refuges: jim_leach@fws.gov
 Bill Storm, MN Department of Commerce: bill.storm@state.mn.us
 Brian Mills, DOE: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov
 David Moeller, Minnesota Power: dmoeller@allete.com
 Cheryl Feigum, Barr Engineering: CFeigum@barr.com
 Lydia Nelson, HDR: lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com
 Michelle Bissonnette, HDR: Michelle.Bissonnette@hdrinc.com
 Jim Atkinson, Allete Inc.: jbatkinson@allete.com



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Ecological Services
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665
Phone: (612) 725-3548 Fax: (612) 725-3609

August 11, 2014

FWS/R3/TCFO

ER- 14-0396

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Attention: Lisa Chetnik Treichel

From: Deputy Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Twin Cities Field Office, MN
Lisa Mandell

Subject: Comments provided for Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE), for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit, MN (ER14-0396).

Lisa Chetnik Treichel's electric memorandum of June 27, 2014, requested the U.S. Fish-and Wildlife Service to review and prepare Department of Interior comments on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE), for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit, MN (ER14-0396). Accordingly, a letter to Julie Smith (Department of Energy) is attached for your signature.

No comments were received from any other Department of the Interior offices with regard to comments on preparation of the EIS. Copies of previous letters the Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared are enclosed as attachments.

If you have questions concerning these comments, please contact Mags Rheude of my staff at (612)725-3548 extension 2202.

Attachments

cc: FWS-BCPA (Nash)
FWS/R3/RO (Jeff Gosse and David Larson)
(via e-mailed electronic file)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

March 14, 2014

Mr. Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul Minnesota 55101

Re: Great Northern Transmission Line Project
Kitson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching,
Beltrami, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota
PUC Docket 12-1163
FWS Tails # 03E19000-2013-CPA-0045

Dear Mr. Storm:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping process of the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project (GNTL). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) would like to provide early comments on the alignment of this route in areas that it may affect Service interest lands, threatened, endangered, or species of concern, migratory birds, and bald eagles. The following comments are being provided pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

Fish and Wildlife Service Interest Lands

The Service administers numerous tracts within the proposed routing options as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These tracts are comprised of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) conservation easements and fee-title parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area associated with the Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project. A listing of tracts by county, along with associated descriptions, is enclosed.

Service-administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of important wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service requests that the construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service interest lands. This includes building GNTL structures on Service lands, wires spanning Service lands, any land changes (e.g., habitat or hydrology alteration) implemented to gain access to GNTL operations, or any land use changes that may impact Service lands. The Service has provided shape files of these areas to project developers to assist in avoiding these sensitive areas, and will continue to work with project developers.

0006-7

Specific wetland impacts will be quantified upon selection of a project alignment and project design. A mitigation plan for unavoidable wetland impacts is not available at this time. Once DOE and MN PUC issue permits for the Project, a wetland mitigation plan will be developed by the Applicant in coordination with USACE, BWSR, and appropriate local units of government as part of the environmental permitting process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-8

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat. Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS also discusses potential impacts to migratory birds. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

0006-7

Wetland Resources

The Service recommends that impacts to streams and wetlands be avoided, and buffers surrounding these systems be preserved. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and the filtering capacity of wetlands helps to improve water quality. Naturally-vegetated buffers surrounding these systems are also important in preserving their wildlife habitat and water quality-enhancement properties. Furthermore, forested riparian systems provide important stopover habitat for birds migrating through the region. In refining and selecting project alternatives, efforts should be made to select an alternative that does not adversely impact wetlands. If no other alternative is feasible, and it is clearly demonstrated that project construction resulting in wetland disturbance or loss cannot be avoided, a wetland mitigation plan should be developed that identifies measures proposed to minimize adverse impacts and replace lost wetland habitat values and other wetland functions. The Service will continue to work with GNTL to help identify and minimize impacts to wetland resources.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Species of Concern

The proposed GNTL project spans Kintson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties. The enclosed table shows listed, proposed or candidate species occurring in one or more of the listed counties.

Information on all of the species listed in the table, including Service recommendations for avoiding impact to these species, can be found at the above listed links. Additionally, records of the following species have been confirmed either within the proposed route or within a 1-mile buffer: Poweshiek skipperling, Sprague's pipit, colonial nesting water bird sites, native plant communities (prairie), and bald eagle nests. The Service recommends on-going coordination with the project proponent to determine if further surveys are needed to assess presence of these species of concern, as well as avoidance and minimization measures to avoid impacting these species.

Northern Long-Eared Bat

The entire state of Minnesota is within the range of the Northern long-eared bat (NLEB), and it is likely this bat will be on site during some parts of the year. NLEB experienced significant population declines recently primarily due to the fungal bat disease, white-nose syndrome. In part due to this dramatic decline, the NLEB was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) on October 2, 2013. No critical habitat has been proposed at this time. Species proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the ESA. However as soon as a listing becomes effective, the prohibition against jeopardizing its continued existence and "take" applies regardless of an action's stage of completion.

A final decision will be made within 12 months of the date that the proposal to list was published. Activities in the development of this project that could impact NLEB may include tree clearing, which would remove summer roosting, maternity, and foraging habitat. The Service recommends that these activities be conducted outside of the summer maternity season,

¹ "Take" is defined in Section 3 of the ESA as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

which runs April 1 – September 30. Guidance and recommendations from the Service on this listing are on-going. Therefore, we recommend continued coordination with our office on this issue.

Migratory Bird Trust Resources

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA) implements four treaties that provide for international protection of migratory birds. The MBTA prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

Unlike the Endangered Species Act, neither the MBTA nor its implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 21, provide for permitting of "incidental take" of migratory birds. The GNTL project may impact migratory birds in several ways: by removal of active nests and by posing as a collision and electrocution risk. In order to avoid taking active nests of migratory birds, the Service recommends that tree clearing be conducted outside of the migratory bird breeding season. This season is generally April –August, but may be earlier for some species (including raptors). Eagles may begin nesting as early as February. However, eagle nests may not be removed without a permit regardless of whether the nest is inactive. The Service also recommends adherence to APLIC guidelines (Avian Powerline Interaction Committee)², to minimize impact to migratory bird species. This may include avoiding sensitive areas (such as known migration routes and colonial bird nesting areas) and the use of bird flight diverters where lines cross areas of frequent bird use.

The Service recommends continued coordination to identify these areas and implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. The Service also recommends designing lines in as few places as possible (to reduce collision risk) and to use transmission structures designed to reduce for electrocution risk and nesting opportunities. Additional information on bald eagles can be found below.

Bald Eagle

Although bald and golden eagles were delisted from the Endangered Species Act on August 8, 2007, they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act (1940) defines "disturb" as, "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior." The Service

² Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC), 2006. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines – the state of the art in 1996. Edison Electric Institute and Raptor Research Foundation, Washington DC, USA.

³ Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC), 2012. *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012*. Edison Electric Institute and APLIC, Washington, D.C.


developed the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS 2007), which are intended to help landowners minimize disturbance to bald eagles.

Records indicate at least seven bald eagle nests may be located either within the proposed project corridor or within a mile buffer. Data of known bald eagle nests in Minnesota is not current; however, new nests may have been built and old nests may no longer be present. Once a route is selected, the Service recommends eagle nest surveys within 660 feet of the proposed line corridor. If eagle nests are found within the proposed right-of-way, or within areas proposed for clearing, the Service recommends the transmission line be altered to avoid these nests. Bald eagle nests may not be removed without a permit, and the applicant must first demonstrate avoidance and minimization to the fullest extent practicable. If eagle nests are found within 660 feet of the right-of-way (even if the trees are not slated for removal) an eagle disturbance permit may be recommended if disturbance to nesting eagles is anticipated.

In addition, the bald eagle is a trust resource to Native American communities and early coordination with tribal interests regarding impacts to eagles may be warranted. Due to the abundance of eagle nests within the northern portion of Minnesota, it is likely that all route alternatives will have similar impacts to bald eagles. Bald eagles may be susceptible to both collision and electrocution by transmission lines. In order to minimize these risks, the Service recommends GNTL adhere to recommendations outlined by the APLIC guidance. The Service will continue to work with GNTL project proponents to help identify risks to eagles, establish protocol for surveying eagle resource areas (nests, roosts, and foraging areas), determine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, and to determine if eagle take permits are recommended.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this early stage of development of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. The Service anticipates providing more detailed recommendations to the developer as the project proceeds regarding the above matters of concern. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mags Rheude at 612-725-3548, extension 2202. You may also email her at margaret_rheude@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa Mandell
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Neil Powers, FWS Tamarac NWR
Craig Mowry, FWS Agassiz NWR
Richard Speer, FWS Assistant Refuge Supervisor, Regional Office

0006-8
Continued

Species	Status	Habitat	Guidance Documents
Canada lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	Threatened	Northern forest	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/index.html
Canada lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	Critical Habitat	Map of lynx critical habitat in Minnesota	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/lynxMNmapCh.html
Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) Northern Great Plains Breeding Population	Threatened; and Critical Habitat	Sandy beaches, islands	http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/pipingplover/
Western prairie fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera praecox</i>)	Threatened	Wet prairies and sedge meadows	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/index.html#westernprairiefringedorchid
Poweshiek skipperling (<i>Clarissa poweshiek</i>)	Proposed as Endangered and Proposed Critical Habitat	Native prairie habitat	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/powsk/index.html
Dakota skipper (<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>)	Proposed as Threatened Proposed Critical Habitat - Maps	Native prairie habitat	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/dask/index.html
Northern long-eared bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Proposed as Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html
Sprague's pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	Candidate	Large (>250 acre) patches of grassland - prefer native grassland, but also use non-native planted grasslands.	http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/candidate.html#Spragues

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interests within the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Corridor (All tracts are associated with the Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project unless otherwise noted).

County	Township/ Range	Section	Description	FWS Wildlife Refuge Oversight
Lake of the Woods	159/23	2	W1/2, SE1/4, S1/2NE	Agassiz
		3	E1/2E1/2, W1/2NW1/4	Agassiz
		4	E1/2NE1/4	Agassiz
		23	SE1/4	Agassiz
		24	NW1/4	Agassiz
	160/30	22	~277ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz
		27	~160ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz
	160/34	1	N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz
		2	N1/2SE1/4	Agassiz
		3	W1/2	Agassiz
		4	NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz
		11	SE1/4	Agassiz
		12	NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4, S1/2S1/2	Agassiz
		13	E1/2E1/2, W1/2NW1/4	Agassiz
		14	S1/2, NW1/4NW1/4	Agassiz
		24	SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4	Agassiz
	161/34	34	SW1/4SE1/4, SE1/4SW1/4	Agassiz
Roseau	161/36	19	SE1/4SE1/4SE1/4	Agassiz
		20	NE1/4, SE1/4	Agassiz
		21	NW1/4, SE1/4	Agassiz
		13	SE1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4	Agassiz
		14	SE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4	Agassiz
		17	N1/2, N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz
		18	NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4	Agassiz
		19	NE1/4SE1/4	Agassiz
		20	E1/2SW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4	Agassiz
		22	N1/2NE1/4	Agassiz
		23	NW1/4NW1/4	Agassiz
		24	SW1/4	Agassiz
		29	S1/2SW1/4, E1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4	Agassiz
Koochiching	151/28	26	W1/2 and SE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac
		27	SE1/4 and E1/2NE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac
		34	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac
		35	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665
July 1, 2014

Mr. David Moeller
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Re: Great Northern Transmission Line Project
Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota
PUC Docket 12-1163
FWS Tails # 03E19000-2013-CPA-0045

Dear Mr. Moeller:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) wishes to comment on the most recent route alternatives that have been provided for the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project (GNTL). The GNTL is proposed to span Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties in Minnesota. The Service previously provided comments to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (March 14, 2014) on the alignment of these route alternatives with regard to Service-interest lands, migratory birds, bald eagles, and threatened, endangered, or species of concern. That letter recommended the GNTL be designed, constructed, and maintained in such a manner as to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory bird species, such as collision and electrocution.

The Service recommended that impacts to wetland resources be avoided and minimized, and mitigated where necessary. The Service also provided information on species of concern, including (but not limited to) the Northern Long-eared bat and Poweshieck skipperling (proposed for listing) as well as the bald eagle (protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act). These species may be impacted by the construction and/or long-term use of this project. Avoidance and minimization measures can be implemented to reduce impact to these species. Therefore, we recommend early coordination with the Service. A complete description of listed and proposed species (by county) that may be impacted by the GNTL was included in the March 14 letter.

In our previous letter, the Service requested that construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service-interest lands. A legal description of these Service-interest lands was included in that letter. We would like to provide additional recommendations regarding these land interests and work cooperatively with you to identify alternatives that avoid service land interests. Right-of-way (ROW) requests on Service lands will need to be analyzed to determine if such requests are compatible with the mission and purpose of Service-area lands. An application request will need to include the final route determination and the exact location of the intended ROW before an application will be considered.

0006-9

Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS discuss potential impacts to wetland resources, along with avoidance and minimization measures. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-10

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat. Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS also discusses potential impacts to migratory birds. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

0006-9

0006-10

0006-11

Alternatives that avoid impacts to USFWS Interest Lands are analyzed in this EIS. The MN PUC will consider the analysis of these alternatives in this EIS as they select the route and issue the Route Permit to the Applicant. In addition, the Applicant is currently working with USFWS to avoid and/or minimize impacts to USFWS interest lands.

The Silver Creek Alignment Modification was proposed during the Scoping Process, which would avoid impacts to the Service/FmHA easement located in T160, R30, S27. This alignment modification is discussed in Sections S.10.2.9, 4.3.2.1, 6.3.9.1, and 6.5.2.1 of this EIS.

There were 4 alternatives proposed in the Beltrami North Central Variation Area during the Scoping Process, which would avoid impacts to the Service lands in T160, R34, Sections 12 and 13. These alternatives are discussed in Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of this EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-11

In reviewing the recently submitted route alternatives, multiple Service interest lands would still be impacted, including Agassiz and Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, managed Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) conservation easements, and multiple parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area (WMA). A legal description of these parcels and an overview map are included with this letter.

Some of these parcels are located in the northwestern portion of the proposed line, where no proposed alternatives exist. Service-administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of important wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service wishes to reiterate its position that all Service land interests should be avoided.

The Service requests the following actions be implemented as the planning of this project goes forward.

1. In areas where multiple route alternatives exist, the alternative with no Service-area land impacts should be chosen.
2. In areas where the proposed right-of-way corridor does not completely bisect refuge lands, the project proponent should utilize other areas of the ROW to avoid Service lands. Minnesota Power has indicated to the Service that the proposed ROW is a approximately 3,000-foot wide corridor, whereas the final ROW will be approximately 300 feet wide. This should provide sufficient area to avoid FWS lands. A Service/FmHA easement located in T160, R30, S27 is currently bisected by an existing ROW, but there is room for avoidance within the proposed ROW.
3. The proposed plan includes several parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area in Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties that are completely bisected by the proposed ROW. No other proposed alternatives were given for this area (T160, R34, S12 and 13), and it does not appear possible to avoid these parcels while staying within the proposed ROW. Therefore, the Service requests that alternative routes be considered/investigated for these areas to avoid impacting these lands.

The Service recognizes that considerable work has been completed in developing these route alternatives, but believes the early nature of this project will allow for flexibility to revise the proposed ROW.

Thank you for considering these concerns and recommendations by the Service. We are willing to meet and discuss our concerns with the proposed ROW routes and the potential impacts to Service interest lands, as well as provide recommendations for ROW alternatives. Also, we have included an excerpt from Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 29.21 and 29.22, which includes the description of the application process for ROW requests on Service lands.

Please contact Margaret Rheude at the Twin Cities Field Office (*margaret_rheude@fws.gov* or 612-725-3548, extension 2202) for additional information or to coordinate discussions concerning the proposed ROW.

Sincerely,

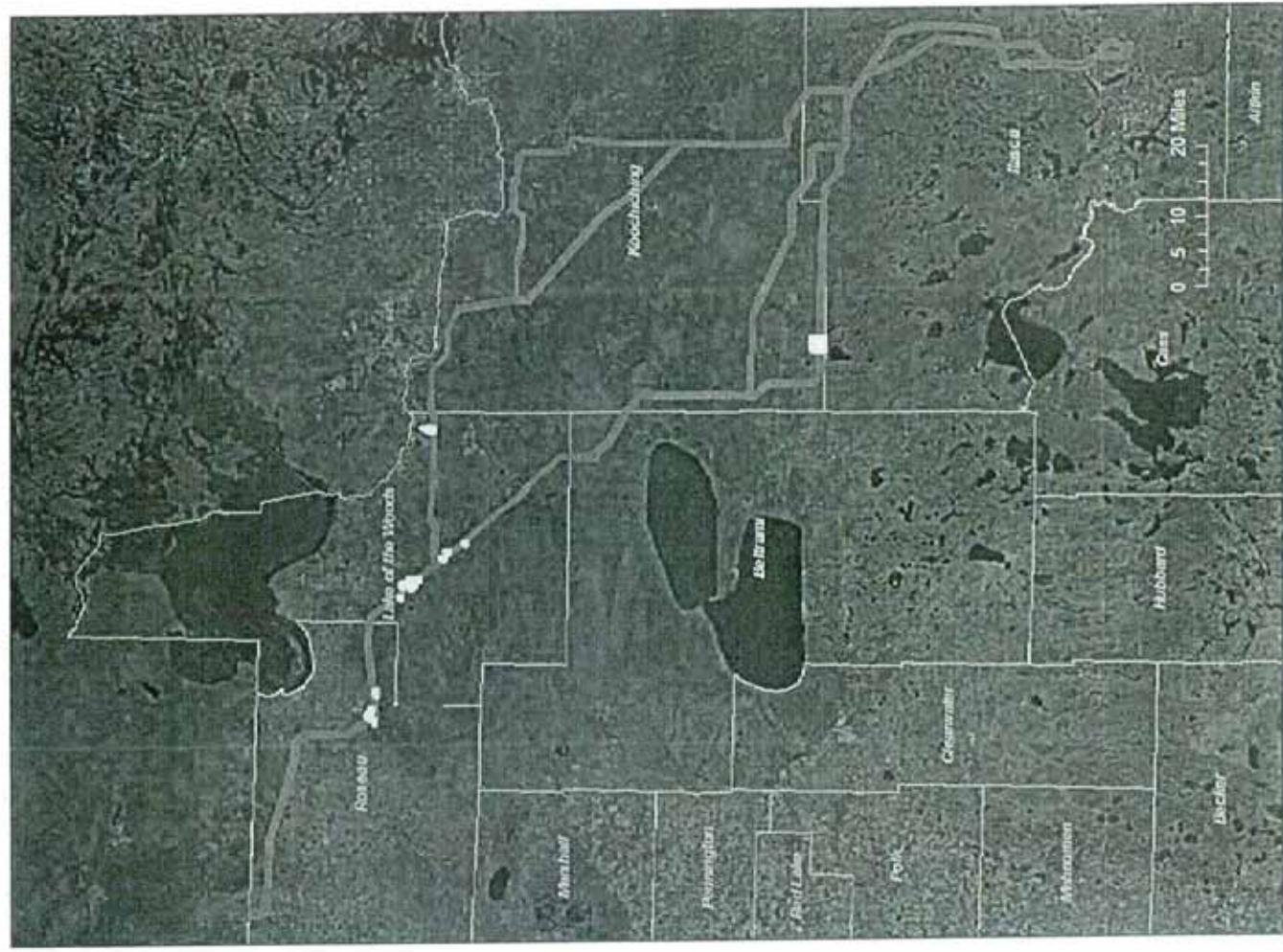


Peter J. Fashender
Field Supervisor

Encl. Service-interest Area Map
Legal Description of Service-interest Parcels
50 CFR 29.21-22

cc: Julie A Smith, U.S. Department of Energy
Brian Mills, U.S. Department of Energy
Rick Speer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Powers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Craig Mowry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

GNTL Proposed Line and FWS Interest Property Intersect



July 1, 2014

= FWS Interest Property
 = Proposed GNTL Route

Legal Description of Service Interest Lands – GNTL/FWS Intersection

County	Land Type	Township / Range	SEC	Description	FWS Refuge Oversight	Bisected by ROW?
Koochiching	FmHA Easement	151/28	26	w1/2 and SE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		27	SE1/4 and E1/2NE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		34	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		35	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	Beltrami WMA	159/33	2	w1/2, se1/4,s1/2ne e1/2e1/2,w1/2n w1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible Bisects (several parcels), but alternative ROW available
	Beltrami WMA		3		Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		4	E1/2ne1/4	Agassiz	Bisects, but alternative ROW available
	Beltrami WMA		23	se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		24	nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	FmHA Easement	160/30	22	~27ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement adm	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	FmHA Easement		27	~160ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz	Bisected by existing ROW, but room for avoidance available within proposed ROW
Beltrami WMA	Beltrami WMA	160/34	1	N1/2sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		2	N1/2se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance
	Beltrami WMA		3	w1/2	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		11	Se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible

County	Land Type	Township / Range	SE. C	Description	FWS Refuge Oversight	Bisected by ROW?
Lake of the Woods	Beltrami WMA	160/34	12	Ne1/4,ne1/4se1/4,s1/2s1/2	Agassiz	Bisects, alternative ROW needed
	Beltrami WMA		13	E1/2e1/2,w1/2nw1/4	Agassiz	Bisects, alternative ROW needed
Roseau	Beltrami WMA	161/36	20	Ne1/4,se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		21	nw1/4,se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA	161/37	13	Se1/4,sw1/4nw1/4,nw1/4sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		14	Se1/4ne1/4,ne1/4se1/4,w1/2ne1/4,e1/2nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		22	N1/2ne1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		23	Nw1/4nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		24	Sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
e-CFR Data is current as of June 27, 2014

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries
 PART 29—LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Subpart B—Rights-of-Way General Regulations

Contents

- §29.21 What do these terms mean?
 §29.21-1 Purpose and scope.
 §29.21-2 Application procedures.
 §29.21-3 Nature of interests granted.
 §29.21-4 Terms and conditions.
 §29.21-5 Construction.
 §29.21-6 Disposal, transfer or termination of interest.
 §29.21-7 What payment do we require for use and occupancy of national wildlife refuge lands?
 §29.21-8 Electric power transmission line rights-of-way.
 §29.21-9 Rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom.
 §29.22 Hearing and appeals procedures.

§29.21 What do these terms mean?

Compatible use means a proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a national wildlife refuge that, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. The term "inconsistent" in section 28(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185) means a use that is not compatible.

Department means U.S. Department of the Interior unless otherwise specified.

National Wildlife Refuge System land means lands and waters, or interests therein, administered by the Secretary as wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, or waterfowl production areas.

Other lands means all other lands, or interests therein, and waters administered by the Secretary through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which are not included in National Wildlife Refuge System lands, e.g., administrative sites, research stations, fish hatcheries, and fishery research stations.

Project Manager means the officer in charge of the land under administration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[34 FR 19907, Dec. 19, 1969, as amended at 39 FR 5490, Feb. 13, 1974; 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983; 51 FR 7575, Mar. 5, 1986; 65 FR 62483, Oct. 18, 2000]

§29.21-1 Purpose and scope.

The regulations in this subpart prescribe the procedures for filing applications and the terms and conditions under which rights-of-way over and across the lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be granted.

(a) *National Wildlife Refuge System lands.* Applications for all forms of rights-of-way on or over such lands shall be submitted under authority of Pub. L. 89-669, (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668dd) as amended, or for oil and gas pipelines under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185) as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, following application procedures set out in §29.21-2. No right-of-way will be approved unless it is determined by the Regional Director to be compatible. See §29.21-8 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for electric power transmission lines and §29.21-9 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom.

(b) *National Wildlife Refuge System lands—easement interest.* Applications for all forms of rights-of-way across lands in which the United States owns only an easement interest may be submitted to the Regional Director in letter form. No map exhibit is required, however, the affected land should be described in the letter or shown on a map sketch. If the requested right-of-way will not adversely affect the United States' interest, the Regional Director may issue a letter stating that the interest of the United States to the right-of-way easement would not be affected provided there would be no objection to a right-of-way by the fee owner. If the interest of the United States will be affected, application for the right-of-way must be submitted in accordance with procedures set out in §29.21-2.

(c) *Other lands outside the National Wildlife Refuge System.* Rights-of-way on or over other lands will be granted in accordance with controlling authorities cited in 43 CFR part 2800, or for oil and gas pipelines under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185) as amended by Pub. L. 93-153. See §29.21-8 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for electric power transmission lines and §29.21-9 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any other refined product produced therefrom. Applications will be submitted in accordance with procedures set out in §29.21-2.

[34 FR 19907, Dec. 19, 1969, as amended at 36 FR 2402, Feb. 4, 1971; 39 FR 5490, Feb. 13, 1974; 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983]

§29.21-2 Application procedures.

(a) *Application.* (1) No special form of application is required. The application should state the purpose for which the right-of-way is being requested together with the length, width on each side of the centerline, and the estimated acreage. Applications, including exhibits, must be filed in triplicate with the Regional Director for the region in which the State is located. A list of States in each region and the addresses of the regional offices are provided at 50 CFR 2.2.

(2)(i) All applications filed pursuant to this subpart in the name of individuals, corporations, or associations must be accompanied by a nonreturnable application fee. No application fee will be required of (A) State of local governments or agencies or instrumentalities thereof except as to rights-of-way, easements or permits under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, or (B) Federal Government agencies.

(ii) Application fees will be in accordance with the following schedule:

(A) For linear facilities (e.g., powerlines, pipelines, roads, etc.):

Length	Payment
Less than 5 miles	\$50 per mile or fraction thereof.
5 to 20 miles	\$500.
20 miles and over	\$500 for each 20 miles or fraction thereof.

(B) For nonlinear facilities, \$250 for each 40 acres or fraction thereof.

(C) Where an application includes both linear and nonlinear facilities, payment will be the aggregate of amounts under paragraphs (a)(2)(ii)(A) and (B) of this section.

(D) When an application is received, the Regional Director will estimate the costs expected to be incurred in processing the application. If the estimated costs exceed the payments under paragraph (a)(2)(ii) (A), (B), or (C) of this section by an amount greater than the cost of maintaining actual cost records, the Regional Director shall require the applicant to make periodic payments in advance of the incurrence of such costs by the United States except for the last payment which will reflect final reimbursement for actual costs of the United States in processing the application. Overpayments may be refunded or adjusted by the Regional Director as appropriate.

(E) The Regional Director shall, on request by an applicant or prospective applicant, give an estimate based on the best available cost information, of the costs which would be incurred by the United States in processing an application. However, reimbursement will not be limited to the estimate of the Regional Director if the actual costs exceed the estimate. Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the Regional Director in advance of filing an application in regard to probable costs and other requirements.

(3)(i) By accepting an easement or permit under this subpart, the holder agrees to reimburse the United States for reasonable costs incurred by the Fish and Wildlife Service in monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of facilities within or adjacent to the easement or permit area. No reimbursement of monitoring costs will be required of (A) State or local governments or agencies or instrumentalities thereof except as to right-of-way, easements, or permits granted under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, or (B) Federal Government agencies.

(ii) Within 60 days of the issuance of an easement or permit the holder must submit a non-refundable payment in accordance with the following:

(A) For linear facilities e.g., powerlines, pipelines, roads, etc.).

Length	Payment
Less than 5 miles	\$20 per mile or fraction thereof.
5 to 20 miles	\$200.
20 miles and over	\$200 for each 20 miles or fraction thereof.

(B) For nonlinear facilities, \$100 for each 40 acres or fraction thereof.

(C) Where an easement or permit includes both linear and nonlinear facilities, payment will be the aggregate amounts under paragraph (e)(3)(2)(ii) (A) and (B) of this section.

(D) When an easement or permit is granted the Regional Director shall estimate the costs, based on the best available cost information, expected to be incurred by the United States in monitoring holder activity. If the estimated costs exceed the payments under paragraph (a)(3)(2) (i), (A), (B), or (C) of this section by an amount which is greater than the cost of maintaining actual cost records for the monitoring process, the Regional Director shall require the holder to make periodic payments of the estimated reimbursable costs prior to the incurrence of such costs by the United States. Overpayments may be refunded or adjusted by the Regional Director as appropriate.

(E) Following the termination of an easement or permit, the former holder will be required to pay additional amounts to the extent the actual costs to the United States have exceeded the payments required by paragraphs (e)(3)(i)(A), (B), and (C) of this section.

(4) All applications filed pursuant to this subpart must include a detailed environmental analysis which shall include information concerning the impact of the proposed use of the environment including the impact on air and water quality; scenic and esthetic features; historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural features; wildlife, fish and marine life, etc. The analysis shall include sufficient data so as to enable the Service to prepare an environmental assessment and/or impact statement in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and comply with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*), Executive Order 11593 "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" of May 13, 1971 (36 FR 8921), and "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR, part 800). Concerning the National Environmental Policy Act, the Regional Director may, at his discretion, rely on an environmental assessment or impact statement prepared by a "lead agency."

(b) *Maps.* A map or plat must accompany each copy of the application and must show the right-of-way in such detail that the right-of-way can be accurately located on the ground. Ties to Service land boundary corner monuments or some prominent cultural features which can be readily recognized and recovered should be shown where the right-of-way enters and leaves Service project land together with courses and distances of the centerline. The width of the right-of-way on each side of the centerline together with the acreage included within the right-of-way or site must also be shown. If the right-of-way or site is located wholly within Service project land, a tie to a Government corner or prominent cultural feature which can be readily recognized and recovered should be shown.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1956, as amended at 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42576, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31665, July 11, 1983; 77 FR 5715, Feb. 6, 2012; 78 FR 35152, June 12, 2013]

§29.21-3 Nature of interest granted.

(a) Where the land administered by the Secretary is owned in fee by the United States and the right-of-way is compatible with the objectives of the area, permit or easement may be approved and granted by the Regional Director. Generally an easement or permit will be issued for a term of 50 years or so long as it is used for the purpose granted, or for a lesser term when considered appropriate. For rights-of-way granted under authority of section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom, the grant may be for a term not to exceed 30 years and the right-of-way may not exceed 50 feet, plus the area occupied by the pipeline and its related facilities unless the Regional Director finds, and records the reasons for his finding, that, in his judgment, a wider right-of-way is necessary for operation and maintenance after construction, or to protect the environment or public safety. Related facilities include but are not limited to valves, pump stations, supporting structures, bridges, monitoring and communication devices, surge and storage tanks, terminals, etc. However, a temporary permit supplementing a right-of-way may be granted for additional land needed during construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the pipeline, or to protect the natural environment or public safety.

(b) Unless otherwise provided, no interest granted shall give the grantee any right whatever to remove any material, earth, or stone for construction or other purpose, except that stone or earth necessarily removed from the right-of-way in the construction of a project may be used elsewhere along the same right-of-way in the construction of the same project.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1956, as amended at 42 FR 43918, Aug. 31, 1977]

§29.21-4 Terms and conditions.

(a) Any right-of-way easement or permit granted will be subject to outstanding rights, if any, in third parties.

(b) An applicant, by accepting an easement or permit agrees to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Regional Director in the granting document. Such terms and conditions shall include the following, unless waived in part by the Regional Director, and may include additional special stipulations at his discretion. See §29.21-8 for special requirements for electric powerlines and §29.21-9 for special requirements for oil and gas pipelines.

(1) To comply with State and Federal laws applicable to the project within which the easement or permit is granted, and to the lands which are included in the right-of-way, and lawful existing regulations thereunder.

(2) To clear and keep clear the lands within the easement or permit area to the extent and in the manner directed by the project manager in charge, and to dispose of all vegetative and other material cut, uprooted, or otherwise accumulated during the construction and maintenance of the project in such a manner as to decrease the fire hazard and also in accordance with such instructions as the project manager may specify.

(3) To prevent the disturbance or removal of any public land survey monument or project boundary monument unless and until the applicant has requested and received from the Regional Director approval of measures the applicant will take to perpetuate the location of aforesaid monument.

(4) To take such soil and resource conservation and protection measures, including weed control on the land covered by the easement or permit as the project manager in charge may request.

(5) To do everything reasonably within his power, both independently and on request of any duly authorized representative of the United States, to prevent and suppress fires on or near, lands to be occupied under the easement or permit area, including making available such construction and maintenance forces as may be reasonably obtainable for the suppression of such fires.

(6) To rebuild and repair such roads, fences, structures, and trails, as may be destroyed or injured by construction work and upon request by the Regional Director, to build and maintain necessary and suitable crossings for all roads and trails that intersect the works constructed, maintained, or operated under the right-of-way.

(7) To pay the United States the full value for all damages to the lands or other property of the United States caused by him or by his employees, contractors, or employees of the contractors, and to indemnify the United States against any liability for damages to life, person or property arising from the occupancy or use of the lands under the easement or permit, except where the easement or permit is granted hereunder to a State or other governmental agency which has no legal power to assume such a liability with respect to damages caused by it to lands or property, such agency in lieu thereof agrees to repair all such damages. Where the easement of permit involves lands which are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, the holder or his employees, contractors, or agents of the contractors, shall be liable to third parties for injuries incurred in connection with the easement or permit area. Grants of easements or permits involving special hazards will impose liability without fault for injury and damage to the land and property of the United States up to a specified maximum limit commensurate with the foreseeable risks or hazards presented. The amount of no-fault liability for each occurrence is hereby limited to no more than \$1,000,000.

(8) To notify promptly the project manager in charge of the amount of merchantable timber, if any, which will be cut, removed, or destroyed in the construction and maintenance of the project, and to pay the United States in advance of construction such sum of money as the project manager may determine to be the full stumpage value of the timber to be so cut, removed, or destroyed.

(9) That all or any part of the easement or permit granted may be terminated by the Regional Director, for failure to comply with any or all of the terms or conditions of the grant, or for abandonment. A rebuttable presumption of abandonment is raised by deliberate failure of the holder to use for any continuous 2-year period the easement or permit for the purpose for which it was granted or renewed. In the event of noncompliance of abandonment, the Regional Director will notify in writing the holder of the easement or permit of his intention to suspend or terminate such grant 60 days from the date of the notice, stating the reasons therefor, unless prior to that time the holder completes such corrective actions as are specified in the notice. The Regional Director may grant an extension of time within which to complete corrective actions when, in his judgment, extenuating circumstances not within the holder's control such as adverse weather conditions, disturbance to wildlife during breeding periods or periods of peak concentration, or other compelling reasons warrant. Should the holder of a right-of-way issued under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, fail to take corrective action within the 60-day period, the Regional Director will provide for an administrative proceeding pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 554, prior to a final Departmental decision to suspend or terminate the easement or permit. In the case of all other right-of-way holders, failure to take corrective action within the 60-day period will result in a determination by the Regional Director to suspend or terminate the easement or permit. No administrative proceeding shall be required where the easement or permit terminates under its terms.

(10) To restore the land to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Regional Director so far as it is reasonably possible to do so upon revocation and/or termination of the easement or permit, unless this requirement is waived in writing by the Regional Director. Termination also includes permits or easements that terminate under the terms of the grant.

(11) To keep the project manager informed at all times of his address, and, in case of corporations, of the address of its principal place of business and the names and addresses of its principal officers.

(12) That in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, he shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, or national origin and shall require an identical provision to be included in all subcontracts.

(13) That the grant of the easement or permit shall be subject to the express condition that the exercise thereof will not unduly interfere with the management, administration, or disposal by the United States of the land affected thereby. The applicant agrees and consents to the occupancy and use by the United States, its grantees, permittees, or lessees of any part of the easement of permit area not actually occupied for the purpose of the granted rights to the extent that it does not interfere with the full and safe utilization thereof by the holder. The holder of an easement or permit also agrees that authorized representatives of the United States shall have the right of access to the easement or permit area for the purpose of making inspections and monitoring the construction, operation and maintenance of facilities.

(14) That the easement or permit herein granted shall be subject to the express covenant that any facility constructed thereon will be modified or adapted, if such is found by the Regional Director to be necessary, without liability or expense to the United States, so that such facility will not conflict with the use and occupancy of the land for any authorized works which may hereafter be constructed thereon under the authority of the United States. Any such modification will be planned and scheduled so as not to interfere unduly with or to have minimal effect upon continuity of energy and delivery requirements.

(15) That the easement or permit herein granted shall be for the specific use described and may not be construed to include the further right to authorize any other use within the easement or permit area unless approved in writing by the Regional Director.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43918, Aug. 31, 1977]

§29.21-5 Construction.

(a) If construction is not commenced within two (2) years after date of right-of-way grant, the right-of-way may be canceled by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at his discretion.

(b) Proof of construction: Upon completion of construction, the applicant shall file a certification of completion with the Regional Director.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977]

§29.21-6 Disposal, transfer or termination of interest.

(a) *Change in jurisdiction over and disposal of lands.* The final disposal by the United States of any tract of land traversed by a right-of-way shall not be construed to be a revocation of the right-of-way in whole or in part, but such final disposition shall be deemed and taken to be subject to such right-of-way unless it has been specifically canceled.

(b) *Transfer of easement or permit.* Any proposed transfer, by assignment, lease, operating agreement or otherwise, of an easement or permit must be filed in triplicate with the Regional Director and must be supported by a stipulation that the transferee agrees to comply with and be bound by the terms and conditions of the original grant. A \$25 nonreturnable service fee must accompany the proposal. No transfer will be recognized unless and until approved in writing by the Regional Director.

(c) *Disposal of property on termination of right-of-way.* In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the holder of the right-of-way will be allowed 6 months after termination to remove all property or improvements other than a road and useable improvements to a road, placed thereon by him; otherwise, all such property and improvements shall become the property of the United States. Extensions of time may be granted at the discretion of the Regional Director.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977]

§29.21-7 What payment do we require for use and occupancy of national wildlife refuge lands?

(a) Payment for use and occupancy of lands under the regulations of this subpart will be required and will be for fair market value as determined by appraisal by the Regional Director. At the discretion of the Regional Director, the payment may be a lump sum payment or an annual fair market rental payment, to be made in advance. If any Federal, State or local agency is exempted from such payment by and any other provision of Federal law, such agency shall otherwise compensate the Service by any other means agreeable to the Regional Director, including, but not limited to, making other land available or the loan of equipment or personnel, except that any such compensation shall relate to, and be consistent with the objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Regional Director may waive such requirement for compensation if he finds such requirement impracticable or unnecessary.

(b) When annual rental payments are used, such rates shall be reviewed by the Regional Director at any time not less than 5 years after the grant of the permit, right-of-way, or easement or the last revision of charges thereunder. The Regional Director will furnish a notice in writing to the holder of an easement or permit of intent to impose new charges to reflect fair market value commencing with the ensuing charge year. The revised charges will be effective unless the holder files an appeal in accordance with §29.22.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 65 FR 62483, Oct. 18, 2000]

§29.21-8 Electric power transmission line rights-of-way.

By accepting a right-of-way for a power transmission line, the applicant thereby agrees and consents to comply with and be bound by the following terms and conditions, except those which the Secretary may waive in a particular case, in addition to those specified in §29.21-4(b).

(a) To protect in a workmanlike manner, at crossings and at places in proximity to his transmission lines on the right-of-way authorized, in accordance with the rules prescribed in the National Electric Safety Code, all Government and other telephone, telegraph and power transmission lines from contact and all highways and railroads from obstruction and to maintain his transmission lines in such manner as not to menace life or property.

(b) Neither the privilege nor the right to occupy or use the lands for the purpose authorized shall relieve him of any legal liability for causing inductive or conductive interference between any project transmission line or other project works constructed, operated, or maintained by him on the servient lands, and any radio installation, telephone line, or other communication facilities now or hereafter constructed and operated by the United States or any agency thereof.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 46 FR 31655, July 11, 1983]

§29.21-9 Rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom.

(a) *Application procedure.* Applications for pipelines and related facilities under this section are to be filed in accordance with §29.21-2 of these regulations with the following exception:

When the right-of-way or proposed facility will occupy Federal land under the control of more than one Federal Agency and/or more than one bureau or office of the Department of the Interior, a single application shall be filed with the appropriate State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in accordance with regulations in 43 CFR part 2800.

Any portion of the facility occupying land of the National Wildlife Refuge System will be subject to the provisions of these regulations.

(b) *Right-of-way grants* under this section will be subject to the special requirements of section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended, as set forth below. Gathering lines and associated structures used solely in the production of oil and gas under valid leases on the lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service are excepted from the provisions of this section.

(1) *Pipeline safety.* Rights-of-way or permits granted under this section will include requirements that will protect the safety of workers and protect the public from sudden ruptures and slow degradation of the pipeline. An applicant must agree to design, construct, and operate all proposed facilities in accordance with the provisions of parts 192 and/or 195 of title 49 of the CFR and in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Pub. L. 91-598, including any amendments thereto.

(2) *Environmental protection.* An application for a right-of-way must contain environmental information required by §29.21-2(a)(4) of this subpart. If the Regional Director determines that a proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment, there must also be furnished a plan of construction, operations, and rehabilitation of the proposed facilities. In addition to terms and conditions imposed under §29.21-4, the Regional Director will impose such stipulations as may be required to assure: (i) Restoration, revegetation and curtailment of erosion of the surface, (ii) that activities in connection with the right-of-way or permit will not violate applicable air and water quality standards in related facilities siting standards established by law; (iii) control or prevention of damage to the environment including damage to fish and wildlife habitat, public or private property, and public health and safety; and (iv) protection of the interests of individuals living in the general area of the right-of-way or permit who rely on the fish, wildlife, and biotic resources of the area for subsistence purposes.

(c) *Disclosure.* If the applicant is a partnership, corporation, association, or other business entity it must disclose the identity of the participants in the entity. Such disclosure shall include where applicable (1) the name and address of each partner, (2) the name and address of each shareholder owning 3 percentum or more of the shares, together with the number and percentage of any class of voting shares of the entity which such shareholder is authorized to vote, and (3) the name and address of each affiliate of the entity together with, in the case of an affiliate controlled by the entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that affiliate owned, directly or indirectly, by that entity, and in the case of an affiliate which controls that entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that entity owned, directly or indirectly, by the affiliate.

(d) *Technical and financial capability.* The Regional Director may grant or renew a right-of-way or permit under this section only when he is satisfied that the applicant has the technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain and terminate the facility. At the discretion of the Regional Director, a financial statement may be required.

(e) *Reimbursement of costs.* In accordance with §29.21-2(a)(3) of this subpart, the holder of a right-of-way or permit must reimburse the Service for the cost incurred in monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of any pipeline or related facilities as determined by the Regional Director.

(f) *Public hearing.* The Regional Director shall give notice to Federal, State, and local government agencies, and the public, and afford them the opportunity to comment on right-of-way applications under this section. A notice will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and a public hearing may be held where appropriate.

(g) *Bonding.* Where appropriate the Regional Director may require the holder of a right-of-way or permit to furnish a bond, or other security satisfactory to him, to secure all or any of the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the right-of-way or permit or by any rule or regulation, not to exceed the period of construction plus one year or a longer period if necessary for the pipeline to stabilize.

(h) *Suspension of right-of-way.* If the Project Manager determines that an immediate temporary suspension of activities within a right-of-way or permit area is necessary to protect public health and safety or the environment, he may issue an emergency suspension order to abate such activities prior to an administrative proceeding. The Regional Director must make a determination and notify the holder in writing within 15 days from the date of suspension as to whether the suspension should continue and list actions needed to terminate the suspension. Such suspension shall remain in effect for only so long as an emergency condition continues.

(i) *Joint use of rights-of-way.* Each right-of-way or permit shall reserve to the Regional Director the right to grant additional rights-of-way or permits for compatible uses on or adjacent to rights-of-way or permit areas granted under this section after giving notice to the holder and an opportunity to comment.

(j) *Common carriers.* (1) Pipelines and related facilities used for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom shall be constructed, operated, and maintained as common carriers.

(2)(i) The owners or operators of pipelines subject to this subpart shall accept, convey, transport, or purchase without discrimination all oil or gas delivered to the pipeline without regard to whether such oil or gas was produced on Federal or non-Federal lands.

(ii) In the case of oil or gas produced from Federal lands or from the resources on the Federal lands in the vicinity of the pipelines, the Secretary may, after a full hearing with due notice thereof to the

interested parties and a proper finding of facts, determine the proportionate amounts to be accepted, conveyed, transported or purchased.

(3)(i) The common carrier provisions of this section shall not apply to any natural gas pipeline operated by any person subject to regulation under the Natural Gas Act or by any public utility subject to regulation by a State or municipal regulatory agency having jurisdiction to regulate the rates and charges for the sale of natural gas to consumers within the State or municipality.

(ii) Where natural gas not subject to state regulatory or conservation laws governing its purchase by pipelines is offered for sale, each such pipeline shall purchase, without discrimination, any such natural gas produced in the vicinity of the pipeline.

(4) The Regional Director shall require, prior to granting or renewing a right-of-way, that the applicant submit and disclose all plans, contracts, agreements, or other information or material which he deems necessary to determine whether a right-of-way shall be granted or renewed and the terms and conditions which should be included in the right-of-way. Such information may include, but is not limited to: (i) Conditions for, and agreements among owners or operators, regarding the addition of pumping facilities, looping, or otherwise increasing the pipeline or terminal's throughput capacity in response to actual or anticipated increases in demand; (ii) conditions for adding or abandoning intake, offtake, or storage points or facilities; and (iii) minimum shipment or purchase tenders.

(k) *Limitations on export.* Any domestically produced crude oil transported by pipeline over rights-of-way granted pursuant to section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, except such crude oil which is either exchanged in similar quantity for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation with persons or the government of an adjacent foreign state, or which is temporarily exported for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation across parts of an adjacent foreign state and reenters the United States, shall be subject to all of the limitation and licensing requirements of the Export Administration Act of 1963.

(l) *State standards.* The Regional Director shall take into consideration, and to the extent practical comply with, applicable State standards for right-of-way construction, operation, and maintenance.

(m) *Congressional notification.* The Secretary shall promptly notify the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate upon receipt of an application for a right-of-way for pipeline 24 inches or more in diameter, and no right-of-way for such a pipeline shall be granted until 60 days (not including days on which the House or Senate has adjourned for more than three days) after a notice of intention to grant the right-of-way, together with the Secretary's detailed findings as to the terms and conditions he proposes to impose, has been submitted to such committees.

[42 FR 43921, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 77 FR 5716, Feb. 6, 2012]

§29.22 Hearing and appeals procedures.

An appeal may be taken from any final disposition of the Regional Director to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, except in the case of a denial of a right-of-way application, from the latter's decision to the Secretary of the Interior. Appeals to the Secretary shall be taken pursuant to 43 CFR part 4, subpart G.

[44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979]

Cheryl D. Feigum

0007-1
Thank you for your review.

From: Andrew.Brunner@dot.gov
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 6:37 AM
To: Cheryl D. Feigum
Cc: Gerald.Solomon@dot.gov
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft EIS released for public review and comment

Thank you Dr. Cheryl D. Feigum,

Under normal circumstances the Department of Energy would be the Federal Agency requesting comments on one of its Environmental Impact Statements where the leadership there thought that the Department of Transportation and, specifically, the Federal Highway Administration was an affected stakeholder. However, you provided the document as a private citizen. We have nonetheless reviewed the document to see if the federal transportation interests are impacted by the proposed action and if we had any comments to provide to the DOE. We have concluded, as expected, that the Federal Highway Administration has no comments on the document or the documentation it contains.

Thank you for sharing the information.

Andrew M. Brunner
Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Specialist
FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590
(202)-366-4651
Andrew.Brunner@dot.gov



please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Cheryl D. Feigum [<mailto:CFeigum@barr.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 3:01 PM
To: 'westlake.kenneth@epa.gov'; 'rhonda.solomon@faa.gov'; 'jcarbone/wo@fs.fed.us'; 'andree.duvarney@wdc.usda.gov'; 'mark.plank@wdc.usda.gov'; 'john.c.furry@usace.army.mil'; 'willie.taylor@ios.doi.gov'; 'larry_bright@fws.gov'; 'margaret_rheude@fws.gov'; 'hassellimd@state.gov'; Solomon, Gerald (OST); Mittelholtz, Camille (OST); 'jeff.wright@ferc.gov'; 'will.seuffert@state.mn.us'; 'info.dnr@state.mn.us'; 'dterry@naseo.org'; 'bambi@nathpo.org'; 'hein@ncshpo.org'; 'dschroeder@abcbirds.org'; 'brown@electricity.ca'; 'ksiegei@biologicaldiversity.org'; 'sball@eei.org'; 'blyran@epri.com'; 'mncwa@cleanwater.org'; 'ien@igc.org'; 'dgleenn@mnpjproject.org'; 'khal@audubon.org'; 'rae.cronmiller@nrca.org'; 'dgoldstein@nrdc.org'; 'lyon@nwf.org'; 'minnesota@tnc.org'; 'mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org'; 'tbarkley@prairierivers.org'; 'kschrader@ducks.org'; 'trountree.marthea@epa.gov'; 'smoyer@tu.org'; 'jditto@publicpower.org'; 'jloichinger@achp.gov'; 'sarah.beimers@mnhs.org'; 'mnshpo@mnhs.org'
Cc: 'Smith, Julie A (OE)'
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft EIS released for public review and comment

0007-1

Dear Interested Stakeholder,

The purpose of this email is to make you aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) has issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project (GNTL Project). You are invited to comment on the Draft EIS for the GNTL Project for a 45-day public comment period ending Monday, August 10, 2015. You have been identified as a potentially interested stakeholder in this action by the Department of Energy (DOE) and are therefore being notified of the draft EIS availability at the DOE GNTL Project EIS website at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>.

As you may recall, the proposed GNTL Project consists of an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota-Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

Minnesota Power, a regulated utility division of ALLETE, Inc. applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit on April 15, 2014. The DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is responsible for reviewing Presidential permit applications and determining whether to grant a permit for electrical transmission facilities that cross the United States' international border. The DOE determines whether issuing a Presidential permit would be consistent with the public interest and assesses the environmental effects of the proposed project, the effect of the proposed project on electric reliability, and other factors that the DOE considers relevant to the public interest. The DOE determined that issuance of a Presidential permit would constitute a major federal action and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate level of environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

Under the state's Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must also determine the route for the proposed line and any conditions it will require for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed GNTL Project through its Route Permit process. Minnesota Power filed its Route Permit application for the proposed GNTL Project concurrently with the DOE Presidential permit application on April 15, 2014. As part of the MN PUC Route Permit decision-making process, an environmental impact statement must be prepared. In order to avoid duplication with state environmental review procedures, DOE and the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) are acting as co-lead agencies and have prepared a single EIS to comply with environmental review requirements under NEPA and the PPSA.

The United States (US) Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Twin Cities Ecological Field Office, and US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5 (Chicago) are all cooperating agencies in the preparation of the draft GNTL Project EIS.

DOE has posted the Draft EIS on the <http://www.greatnortherneis.org> in a format that can be downloaded to a personal computer. In addition, DOE and DOC-EERA are placing a hard copy and a CD-Rom copy of the Draft EIS at the following public libraries along the proposed GNTL Project route:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls

- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

If you would like to request a hardcopy or an electronic copy on a CD of the Draft EIS, please respond to this email and indicate what format you would like, along with your full name and physical address. If you plan to download the document from the project website, you do not need to respond to this email.

DOE and DOC-EERA will also conduct public hearings commencing at the times identified below to receive comments on the Draft EIS at the following locations:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Americinn 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally during public hearings or in writing to Dr. Julie A. Smith at: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; via e-mail to Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov; by facsimile to (202) 586-8008; or through the project website at <http://www.greatnorthandrnelis.org>. Please mark envelopes and electronic mail subject lines as "GNTL Draft EIS Comments." Written comments must be received by August 11, 2015. Comments submitted after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Cheryl D. Feigum, PhD
 Vice President
 Senior Environmental Scientist
 Minneapolis office: 952.832.2680
 cell: 701.412.1301
cfeigum@barr.com
www.barr.com



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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Lake of the Woods School
236 15th Avenue SW
Baudette, Minnesota

July 15, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 be, whatever route you may want. But I won't stop
2 you from saying anything like that tonight, but I'm
3 encouraging you to focus on the draft environmental
4 impact statement if you can.

5 And written comments, as I said, you've
6 got until August 10th. You can send them to either
7 me or Jules. You can use my form, you can snail
8 mail me, e-mail me, fax me your comments. Same
9 thing with Jules. You don't need to copy us both,
10 but you can if you want, we are going to share the
11 comments. And you can also comment electronically
12 if our website is working. So you have our website
13 and you have the Fed's website that you can go to
14 and you can put a comment in electronically. I
15 think that's it.

16 Okay. So that's the state process, Jules
17 did the federal process. No one gave me a card so
18 I'll just go by a show of hands. If somebody wants
19 to speak, I know, Carol, you would like to speak, if
20 you wouldn't mind coming up front to the mic and
21 stating and spelling your name.

22 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: First, where is the
23 application? I mean, the EIS.

24 MR. BILL STORM: It's right there where
25 the mic is.

0009-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

27

1 UNIDENTIFIED: I've got part of it here.

2 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I wonder if I could
3 use it.

4 MR. BILL STORM: There's a second copy
5 over on that table over there. Mike's got it for
6 you. You're all right. You're all right.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you. There we
8 go.

9 Carol Overland, 1110 West Avenue,
10 Red Wing, Minnesota.

11 And you can also get more information at
12 the Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line, at
13 www.Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line.org.

14 I started waking up because I started to
15 read this. So it was useful.

16 First, let's see. Looking at page 45,
17 also the no action alternative, which is addressed
18 on page S-6 and then also on page 45. I wanted to
19 encourage a correction in the flip notes, and maybe,
20 you know, in the text, too, because it talks about,
21 first of all, the last paragraph on page 45, where
22 it talks about under the Power Plant Siting Act,
23 need is not to be evaluated in the environmental
24 impact statement, and that's not correct. Under
25 216E.02, subdivision 2, there it talks about

0009-1

0009-1 cont'd

0009-1
Continued

0009-2
The purpose and need for DOE's action and decision is described in Section 1.2.2 and the MN PUC certificate of need process is discussed in Section 1.3.2 of the EIS. The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163 (Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-3

The Mesaba Project has not been formally withdrawn and it has an existing permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-2

0009-3

1 questions of need, including size, type, and timing,
2 alternative system configuration and voltage must
3 not be included in the scope of environmental review
4 conducted under this Chapter. That would be, then,
5 the Power Plant Siting Act environmental review, but
6 that doesn't address the DOE environmental review
7 here. So I think maybe quoting that part instead of
8 just putting the citation there would be useful.

9 And then further down it says -- let's
10 see. Oh, it also quotes from 216E.03, subdivision
11 5, which there it says the Commissioner shall not
12 consider whether or not the project is needed. And
13 that addresses the commissioner of Commerce, I would
14 imagine, which we're changing the rulemaking, I
15 thank the Public Utilities Commission, but that's
16 technical. But that's, again, not related to the
17 DOE. And in this proceeding there has not been an
18 environmental impact statement for the certificate
19 of need, this is the first environmental impact
20 statement, and so I think, you know, for NEPA
21 compliance that should talk about need. And so it's
22 something you should address.

23 What really got my dander up, though, I
24 was reading through this and I saw some references
25 to the Mesaba Project. And the one that was most

0009-3
Continued

29

1 concerning to me, I mean, it's mentioned 22 times,
 2 if you do a search on Mesaba you come up with 22
 3 times where it talks about the Mesaba Energy
 4 Project. And on page 663 -- I'll check for sure,
 5 just a minute. The Mesaba Project, I've been
 6 dealing with that since 2001 when they first
 7 proposed it before the legislature and it just won't
 8 go away, but it's not being built. On page 663 it
 9 says, flip note 88, the Mesaba Energy Project is now
 10 expected to be a combined-cycle natural gas plant.
 11 No. And so I think the credibility of the EIS is
 12 really harmed by any reference to the Mesaba
 13 Project, which is not happening. They were issued a
 14 permit, but it's not happening.

15 And I believe that the interconnection
 16 agreement has been at MISO, has been revoked or
 17 cancelled or withdrawn. So check that out, because
 18 the Mesaba Project is not happening. Julie
 19 Jorgensen is now on to some solar in my community of
 20 Red Wing with our illustrative mayor who was the
 21 lobbyist for Sand Company. Anyway, there's
 22 questionable parts of them all doing something else
 23 now. So I think any reference to the Mesaba Project
 24 really should be reconsidered, it doesn't have any
 25 relevance to this.

0009-4
The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project and its 250 MW capacity is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163 (Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-5

The reliability benefits of the proposed Project were studied extensively as part of the Applicant's certificate of need process. The MN PUC concluded that the line would improve reliability for the transmission grid in the area.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-4

0009-5

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1 Another issue is, looking at that no
2 action alternative, page 45, which is a short
3 version on S-6, I'm back there again. First, it
4 talks about not taking delivery of the 250 to 133
5 megawatts, that would be an impact, and there's no
6 substantiation of that and so I'd like to know, you
7 know, where that comes from. And also cost benefit.
8 And, granted, Michigan versus EPA was about
9 rulemaking, it's not -- this is not rulemaking. But
10 the importance of specifying cost benefits is really
11 important here. And I see a lot of conclusory
12 statements, but I don't see real statements of what
13 the benefits are.

14 The second paragraph there, that it would
15 not be available during a contingency on the
16 existing 500 kV transmission line to reduce loading
17 and improve performance. So system reliability
18 would be adversely impacted. The electrical system
19 has to be able to function if something goes out.
20 And we can presume that the system is reliable right
21 now and that it can function if something goes out.
22 So that needs substantiation, because that would
23 imply that the system isn't reliable as it is, but
24 it is. So a cite to the electrical studies, put
25 links in there, if there's something that does

0009-5 cont'd

0009-5
Continued 0009-6

Section 2.2.3 discusses the North Dakota Wind Energy Renewable Optimization Strategy.

0009-6

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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1 relate to this, but I just don't think that's an
2 accurate description.

3 Fourth -- or third, the future North
4 Dakota wind generating option would be adversely
5 impacted. How does this project affect the
6 impact -- what impact does North Dakota wind
7 generation have on this project, what impact does
8 this project have on North Dakota wind? It's not
9 connected to North Dakota. Is it related to the
10 line that Minnesota Power bought and will be
11 bringing over and using for wind, you know,
12 dedicating that to wind? Or, you know, what's the
13 connection here because I don't see it. And
14 benefits should be really clearly laid out.

15 I think that would be it for now, and
16 I'll have some more later, but not all that much. I
17 mean, in writing. Or next time.

18 Thank you.

19 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Carol.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Thanks, Carol.

21 Okay. A show of hands, since nobody
22 filled out my card. Alan, do you want -- okay. If
23 you would please move over to the mic or have the
24 mic -- just bring the mic over to yourself, whatever
25 way you want to do it.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Lake of the Woods School
20 236 15th Avenue SW
21 Baudette, Minnesota
22
23 July 15, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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The response to the comment is provided in the transcript following this comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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1 farmers journal or from an academic study, from a
2 Canada university or a United States university
3 somewhere, some kind of documentation that shows me
4 some more of that, that may cause us to beef that
5 section up if we need to.

6 Okay. Are you fine? You can make some
7 more comments, if you'd like.

8 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: No, I don't have
9 time to do that, but I will send something.

10 MR. BILL STORM: And did I give you a CD
11 copy?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I don't need a CD
13 copy, I can get it online.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Oh, you can get it
15 online? Some people, depending on what kind of
16 online system you have, it's a big document to pull
17 it all down.

18 Okay. Anybody else want to speak on the
19 record?

20 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I have a procedural
21 question.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Carol, go ahead.

23 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: This is fairly
24 quick. Given that there's a federal aspect of this,
25 do you do the -- like record of decision process in

0010-1

49

1 this as far as the federal part of it, how does that
2 get into the state?

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay. Well, it's a
4 separate decision from the state decision. And as I
5 said in my opening remarks, that we would issue the
6 final EIS and we would have to wait a minimum of 30
7 days before we issue the record of decision. That
8 does not mean that on day 31 DOE will issue it, it
9 just means that's a cooling off period that's
10 required.

11 Right after you do the environmental
12 review, you get it out in the public, and then the
13 agency sort of sits back and takes some time to
14 deliberate and think, right. Then we may issue a
15 record of decision. The timing of the record of
16 decision issuance is based on a couple of different
17 factors. Yes, the final EIS, as well as making sure
18 that we have fully complied with our consultation
19 responsibilities under Section 106, the National
20 Historic Preservation Act, that was mentioned, as
21 well as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. So
22 there are other things that need to happen. We
23 typically get those things done before we issue our
24 record of decision and we talk about those
25 consultations in the record as well as the decision.

1 So there will be a record of decision,
 2 it's required as part of the process, as you know,
 3 but the exact timing of that, you know, it depends,
 4 right, as this process moves forward, but it would
 5 not be sooner than 30 days after the final is
 6 issued.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And then for you,
 8 Mr. Storm, then, how does that fit with the state's
 9 process and the ALJ's recommendation going to the
 10 PUC? Will there be an ALJ recommendation and/or a
 11 PUC determination prior to the record of decision by
 12 the feds?

13 MR. BILL STORM: The way the process is
 14 working is the state and fed joint efforts are only
 15 surrounding the environmental review. Once the
 16 environmental review is completed, the processes are
 17 again separated.

18 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Once that final is
 19 issued, the final EIS.

20 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: The final EIS?

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yes. Right.

22 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Are you okay, Carol?

24 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Well, yes. That's
 25 clear, yes.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - ROSEAU
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Roseau Civic Center
20 121 Center Street East
21 Roseau, Minnesota
22
23 July 15, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

24

1 that failed. So what I'll do is if anybody wants to
2 speak tonight, please raise your hands if you want
3 to speak.

4 Okay. We'll start out with Carol. Carol
5 Overland, please state and spell your name. Turn
6 your mic on.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

8 Carol Overland, I'm an attorney, and my
9 address is 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing, Minnesota.

10 And I'm not representing anyone at this
11 point in the certificate of need process. I want to
12 make sure that everyone knows that the buy the farm
13 option is an option here. That if they do want to
14 take your land, they can take -- you can require
15 that they take the entire parcel, not just a small
16 piece of it. And I'll have more comments later on
17 if I have a chance to look at the EIS.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

20 Anyone else want to speak on the record
21 tonight -- today, this morning?

22 MR. TODD LUND: I would.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Please step up to
24 the mic and state and spell your name, please.

25 MR. TODD LUND: My name is Todd H. Lund,

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2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
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19 AmericInn
20 1500 Highway 71
21 International Falls, Minnesota
22
23 July 16, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

25

has passed, is there anybody who would like to speak tonight on the record about the draft environmental impact statement?

Carol, we will go to you first then, and then when Carol is done we will call for another show of hands.

MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

Carol Overland, 1110 West Avenue,

Red Wing. You can also check out the Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line. Just Google that and information will appear there and the EIS is also available there.

On the way over, something I noticed, and I did a search of the EIS and I couldn't find anything about it. There are bees everywhere.

Everywhere you go up here, I'm shocked, I've never seen so many. We have a lot of honey places down near Red Wing, but all along 11, beehives everywhere, up and down 72, up and down 46. So I don't see anything in here on the impact of transmission on bees, and I think that that should be in here. That's the easy part.

Oh, and also on Mesaba, it's mentioned 22 times, there's a 23rd mention of Mesaba but that's not related to the Mesaba Energy Project. And as I

0012-1

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property. Where it is not possible or reasonable to re-route the proposed transmission line to avoid existing bee colonies, the hives would have to be relocated.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0012-2

The Mesaba Project has not been formally withdrawn and it has an existing permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0012-1

0012-2

0012-2 cont'd

0012-2
Continued 0012-3

In accordance with 40 CFR §1506.5(c), a disclosure statement to avoid conflict of interest was executed by Ms. Azar and is available in Appendix T of the EIS. No changes have been made to the EIS in response to this comment.

26

1 understand it, thanks to David Moeller, he just
2 mentioned that the generation interconnection
3 agreement, or the MISO queue position is gone. It's
4 gone, history. That's an indication there's nothing
5 happening there. And for those of us who have been
6 involved with it for the last 10 years, 12 years, 13
7 and 14 years, it was 2001 for me, no, nothing is
8 happening on the Mesaba Project. So any reference
9 to that should be taken out to increase the
10 credibility of the EIS.

11 The other thing that really struck me was
12 I saw that Lauren Azar is listed as the NEPA
13 advisor. My first dealings with her were in 1999,
14 2000, on the Arrowhead project, where she was
15 representing American Transmission Company, which
16 came into being during the Arrowhead project while
17 we were at the Wisconsin PUC about it.

18 My next dealing with her was at the
19 Wisconsin PSC when she was a PSC commissioner. Then
20 the next dealing after that, she was appointed by
21 Obama to be one of the co-chairs of the RRTT, I
22 think it was called, the Rapid Response Transmission
23 Team, I think it was, to help promote transmission
24 and make sure transmission projects that are applied
25 for get approved. And I see her listed here as one

0012-3

27

1 of the people working on this. It's in section 8.

2 It says she has 21 years of experience,
3 but as I understand it, it's 21 years of
4 transmission promotion. And so I don't think that
5 she would pass a conflict of interest scrutiny. I
6 think that's something that should be looked at. I
7 wonder, here it is, page 674, it was her as the NEPA
8 advisor. And I know she's had experience in
9 promoting transmission, but as far as NEPA
10 experience, I'm not so sure. And I've had three
11 projects that she's been involved in. So I think
12 that that's something that's a problem. She's not
13 unbiassed in any sense, she's had a career of
14 promotion of transmission.

15 So that is it for today. And, again, I
16 urge people to check out Not-So-Great-Northern-
17 Transmission-Line. Google that, and you'll find out
18 more information on this project.

19 Thank you.

20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Carol.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

22 Okay. Anyone else want to speak on the
23 record?

24 Okay. Ma'am, would you please come
25 forward and state and spell your name for the court

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING

DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

AmericInn
1500 Highway 71
International Falls, Minnesota

July 16, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 help facilitate your search.

2 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Could I address
3 something about the gravel pit?

4 MR. BILL STORM: Come forward, Carol, and
5 have another go at it.

6 Please state and spell your name. I'm
7 just making you do that because --

8 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Carol Overland. I
9 do believe our court reporter knows it too well.

10 Gravel pits, it's important that the
11 DEIS, and I haven't done a search of it for this,
12 the Henshaw effect has an impact on gravel pits
13 where you have dust and then you have the corona
14 from the transmission lines, and then the corona
15 means that it attaches to the dust, and the dust,
16 when you breathe it in, attaches to your lungs, and
17 it is carcinogenic and then you can end up very
18 easily with lung cancer. It's a very serious
19 problem. It's called the Henshaw effect, it's been
20 known for -- well, since, like, the Arrowhead
21 project 20 years ago. It's long-standing, a lot of
22 information about that, and it should be covered in
23 here. A transmission line shouldn't be going
24 through gravel pits or areas where there's a lot of
25 dust. Mining of any sort can be a problem around a

0013-1

In 2004, the National Radiological Protection Board of the UK published an independent review on particle deposition in the vicinity of power lines and their potential effects on health (http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140629102627/http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947415038). This review concluded that although most the physical processes of ionization of air do happen, "it seems unlikely that corona ions would have more than a small effect on the long-term health risks associated with particulate air pollutants, even in the individuals who are most affected. In public health terms, the proportionate impact will be even lower because only a small fraction of the general population live or work close to sources of corona ions."

Further, the World Health Organization published in 2007 a similar statement in Monograph No 238 on Extremely Low Frequency Fields (http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/eif_ehc/en/), indicating that high-voltage power lines "produce clouds of electrically charged ions as a consequence of corona discharge. It is suggested that they could increase the deposition of airborne pollutants on the skin and on airways inside the body, possibly adversely affecting health. However, it seems unlikely that corona ions will have more than a small effect, if any, on long-term health risks, even in the individuals who are most exposed."

Section 7.2.2.4 of the EIS identifies the presence of currently active areas of so-called "scram" mining located approximately four to six miles west of the proposed routes and variations. The anticipated alignment for all other proposed routes and variations are located more than 2,000 feet from existing or proposed scam mining facilities in the area. Although corona ions can be dispersed by wind and some can transfer charge to aerosols and air pollutants, only those individuals living or working in the immediate vicinity of particulate air pollutants.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0013-1

1 transmission line, or transmission can be a problem
2 near a mine of any sort.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

5 Okay. Coming back to the general room.

6 Does anyone want to make a comment?

7 Would you please come forward, ma'am?

8 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Could I ask a
9 question?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can ask a question,
11 but it may not be answered tonight, it will be in
12 the final.

13 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: It's a
14 question of whether I can find information in here,
15 so it might be a comment relative to the
16 accessibility of information. Would that be
17 acceptable?

18 MR. BILL STORM: Sure. Just state and
19 spell your name and go for it.

20 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: My name is
21 Anne Marguerite Coyle, professor of biology is my
22 presence today. A-N-N-E, M-A-R-G-U-E-R-I-T-E,
23 C-O-Y-L-E.

24 And my question is in reference to -- I
25 will be honest, I have not read the entire thing at

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Timberlake Lodge
20 144 SE 17th Street
21 Grand Rapids, Minnesota
22
23 July 22, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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1 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Good morning. Carol
2 Overland, 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing.

3 And you can also find more information at
4 Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line. Google
5 that and things will show up.

6 That last comment was interesting
7 because, yes, people can have an impact. I don't
8 think there are any intervenors in this, are there?

9 MR. BILL STORM: There are no intervenors
10 on this other than Minnesota Power. Not
11 intervenors, the only party is Minnesota Power.

12 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. So there's no
13 intervenors, and that's the main way that people can
14 have an impact, is to intervene in a proceeding.
15 And so all that's left, because there are no
16 intervenors, is making comments now. So it is
17 really important to do that and to be as specific as
18 you possibly can. And to have your neighbors write
19 comments in, put letters in the paper to get it in
20 the news, that would help too.

21 But, you know, it does concern me that
22 there are no intervenors here, so really the
23 contested case isn't really contested. Also, during
24 the contested case, which is that the week of
25 August 5th, was it like the 5th and the 6th?

1 MR. BILL STORM: It begins the week of
2 August 5th and goes on to the next week, the August
3 12th week.

4 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And is that public,
5 is the notice out?

6 MR. BILL STORM: Mike's indicating that,
7 yes, they released a notice.

8 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. And I will
9 look that up and I will publish that on the
10 Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line. At that
11 you have the option of questioning the utility
12 witnesses, so it's important to do that if you're
13 interested. And to do that you need to, you know,
14 look at the application, look at these materials,
15 see what's going on and question them very
16 specifically. But you do have that right and so if
17 you do want to do that, you're welcome to do it,
18 it's very important.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

21 Okay. Anyone else want to make a
22 comment?

23 Richard, do you want to make a comment?

24 Richard, please step to the mic, state and spell
25 your name.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 AmericInn
20 1500 Highway 71
21 International Falls, Minnesota
22
23 July 16, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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Potential impacts to aggregate resources are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

0015-1 No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

28

1 reporter and make your comment?

2 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: My name is Carol
3 Avelsgaard, A-V-E-L-S-G-A-A-R-D. And I am from
4 Northome, I own the lumber gravel pit, which is
5 smack dab in the middle of one of the proposed
6 routes.

7 I mean, do I have to wait until the
8 August comments, or can I say now that I am
9 concerned about this?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can say now what you
11 feel like saying, Carol. What we're here for
12 tonight is to collect information on the draft
13 environmental impact statement. If you feel a need
14 to go above and beyond that charge and make a
15 statement, that's fine with me.

16 What I would encourage you to do, though,
17 is recognize that that statement is probably not so
18 relative to the document itself, so I would
19 encourage you to then again come to the contested
20 case hearings, speak to the judge, and provide the
21 judge with the information of how personally,
22 professionally, this project affects you.

23 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I assume I can do
24 that by providing written comments? Because I do
25 not live here.

1 MR. BILL STORM: You can certainly do
2 that by written comment. Did you get notice of this
3 meeting in the mail?

4 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Yes.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Then that means
6 you're on our list.

7 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I own the
8 property. I operate the gravel pit.

9 MR. BILL STORM: You will then get notice
10 of the hearing. That notice should be coming out
11 any day, right, Mike?

12 MR. MIKE KALUZNIAK: Yes.

13 MR. BILL STORM: So you'll get notice of
14 the contested case hearing for August and in that
15 will be how to submit written comments. So just
16 follow those instructions and your comments will be
17 accepted and will carry as much weight as if you
18 were at the hearing yourself.

19 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Yes. In your
20 experience, are other people impacted by having a
21 line go through their place of business?

22 MR. BILL STORM: Again, this is not a
23 session for us to go back and forth. But if you
24 want to finish your comment, you're more than
25 welcome to.

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Continued

1 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: That's all I can
2 say.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Okay, Carol. What I
4 recommend you do is, for sure, if you don't think
5 the draft environmental impact statement identifies
6 your property --

7 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Let me look.

8 MR. BILL STORM: You don't have to do it
9 tonight, you've got until August 10th.

10 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I'd like to know.

11 MR. BILL STORM: I'll give you a CD copy
12 before you leave, make sure you check with me, and
13 look at the section of that document that talks
14 about where your property is and whatever the
15 variation is that goes across your property --

16 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I'm going to.

17 MR. BILL STORM: -- and if you don't
18 think this adequately describes it, please submit
19 that in writing to us so that we can correct that in
20 the final.

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Also, ma'am, the
22 gentleman back at the maps, his name is Mike, he
23 knows this document very well, as well as the maps,
24 and can help you identify where your property is at
25 and the location in the document and so that will

1

DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING

DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 22, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - GRAND RAPIDS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Timberlake Lodge
144 SE 17th Street
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

July 22, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix ELLING, RPR

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1 You want to speak.

2 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: I have a question.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Sir, please come to the
4 mic, state and spell your name for the court
5 reporter.

6 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Robert Burbie,
7 B-U-R-B-I-E.

8 My question is the permits haven't been
9 issued yet, right? That comes after your hearing,
10 right? On all of this proposed environmental stuff?

11 MR. BILL STORM: If you're referring to
12 the downstream permits from the other agencies,
13 MnDOT, DNR --

14 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: I mean the big
15 permits from the states, from the state, the main
16 one you're trying to get on what you do on the
17 routing and all that. And crossing the state line,
18 into Canada from the United States, is there a
19 permit for that?

20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The Presidential
21 permit has not been issued.

22 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Now, once it's
23 issued, how long is that good for?

24 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: How long is it good
25 for?

0016-1

Information is added to Section 1.3.1.3 regarding Minnesota Rule 7850.4700 (Delay In Route or Site Construction) states: If construction and improvement of a route or site have not commenced four years after the permit has been issued by the commission, the commission shall suspend the permit. If at that time, or at a time subsequent, the permittee decides to construct the proposed large electric power generating facility or high voltage transmission line, the permittee shall certify to the commission that there have been no significant changes in any material aspects of the conditions or circumstances existing when the permit was issued.

Information is added to Section 1.2.2 regarding the Presidential permit, which does not have an expiration date.

24

1 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Once you get the
2 permit, you got so long before you get the line in,
3 right?

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: We can address that
5 in the document, yeah.

6 MR. BILL STORM: We'll answer that in the
7 final.

8 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Okay. I was kind of
9 curious because I know they put deadlines on these
10 permits. If they run out you got to go through this
11 whole system again, don't you?

12 MR. BILL STORM: We'll discuss that issue
13 in the final, we'll answer that question in the
14 final.

15 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Okay. I was kind of
16 wondering about that.

17 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

18 MR. BILL STORM: Yeah. We don't want to
19 give you inaccurate information tonight so let us
20 look at it and then we'll answer in the final.

21 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Yeah, and I don't
22 want you to give me the wrong answer.

23 MR. BILL STORM: I understand. Thank
24 you.

25 Anyone else want to speak?

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Bigfork School
20 100 Huskie Boulevard
21 Bigfork, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0017-1

The EIS discusses major watersheds for each project section. Deer Creek is a sub-part of the East Section major watersheds described in Section 5.5.4.1. General impacts to surface waters in the East Section are described in Section 5.5.4.1.4.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0017-1

28

1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay, sir, please.

2 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: My name is David
3 Christenson, C-H-R-I-S-T-E-N-S-O-N.

4 I live over on Deer Lake year round, have
5 for 20 years. And I don't know if there's any other
6 Deer Lake folks here, so I might be the unauthorized
7 spokesperson for the Deer Lake Association. I have
8 discussed this line since it was proposed a couple
9 of years ago with several of my neighbors, and a lot
10 of them are part-time out-of-staters. And I can
11 overwhelmingly say that very few are for the blue
12 proposed route because it goes right along our Deer
13 Lake western border, within roughly a mile through
14 pristine land and habitat and crosses the Deer Creek
15 that feeds our watershed. The watershed is about
16 25,000 acres.

17 And I haven't read the EIS report yet,
18 but I'm going to. I have commented before at other
19 meetings about my disapproval of the proposed blue
20 route through that area around Deer Lake. And I do
21 see that there was what they call a variation that
22 was done in the last year. Is that right? That
23 that was done in last year, Bill?

24 MR. BILL STORM: It came through scoping.
25 The scoping decision was released on January 8th of

29

1 this year.

2 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: Okay. So I guess
3 my comment is from the EIS standpoint is the blue
4 proposed route to me makes a huge impact on our
5 environment, especially in that watershed, which
6 there's three main lakes and hundreds of smaller
7 lakes around that area. And it crosses a lot of
8 different water area shed, and including, like I
9 said, our lead watershed area that feeds the chain
10 of lakes around there.

11 The Effie variation, to me anyway, and
12 several of my neighbors, is a lot better route.
13 Because if you look at the maps, it doesn't really
14 come close to a lot of major waterways or
15 watersheds, to my knowledge.

16 So that would be my comment. And I guess
17 I'll just say that, you know, I appreciate this
18 forum, and being able to speak in the United States
19 still, and for our opinions, but wherever you put
20 the line, I'm sure you're going to upset some folks.
21 And from an environmental standpoint, the proposed
22 route, at least in that section in that Deer Lake
23 watershed is, in my view, going to be a disaster.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you very much for

0017-2

The EIS discussed impacts to surface waters, including lakes, in Section 5 and 6. Impacts to Deer Lake specifically are discussed in Section 6.4.1.4.1.

0017-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 AmericInn
20 1500 Highway 71
21 International Falls, Minnesota
22
23 July 16, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 transmission line, or transmission can be a problem
2 near a mine of any sort.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

5 Okay. Coming back to the general room.

6 Does anyone want to make a comment?

7 Would you please come forward, ma'am?

8 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Could I ask a
9 question?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can ask a question,
11 but it may not be answered tonight, it will be in
12 the final.

13 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: It's a
14 question of whether I can find information in here,
15 so it might be a comment relative to the
16 accessibility of information. Would that be
17 acceptable?

18 MR. BILL STORM: Sure. Just state and
19 spell your name and go for it.

20 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: My name is
21 Anne Marguerite Coyle, professor of biology is my
22 presence today. A-N-N-E, M-A-R-G-U-E-R-I-T-E,
23 C-O-Y-L-E.

24 And my question is in reference to -- I
25 will be honest, I have not read the entire thing at

33

1 all, in fact, I just looked at it tonight, I'm new
2 to this whole issue and I'm new to Minnesota, in
3 fact, so I'm familiar with issues in North Dakota.

4 But one of my concerns is that at a quick
5 glance I'm having difficulty finding information
6 concerning a number of wildlife issues that are of
7 great concern to Minnesota, one of which are cedar
8 areas that are critical habitat to deer, deer
9 populations across the state. So those locations of
10 known cedar areas, as well as their relevance to the
11 gray wolf population and other animals that feed on
12 deer. So that would be something of concern that I
13 would ask.

14 Also, with respect to the Northern
15 Goshawk, I don't see that specifically listed, and
16 it could be because I couldn't find it in all the
17 details. I did see the Great Owl mentioned, but the
18 Northern Goshawk is obviously a Minnesota species of
19 concern. In addition to that, just the general
20 raptors of concern, the Bald and Golden Eagle Act,
21 which is definitely something to be taken into
22 consideration, and raptors in general with the
23 raptor friendly development and construction of
24 these lines, has that been considered and addressed
25 in your EIS, and to what extent. And I just

0018-1
Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS discusses potential impacts to wildlife and rare species. In addition, the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discusses potential impacts to federally listed species, including the gray wolf and designated critical habitat.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0018-1

0018-2
Potential impacts to rare species are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. In addition, these chapters of the EIS generally discuss potential impacts to migratory birds (such as the northern goshawk) and eagles. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0018-2

34

1 couldn't find it and I would like to be able to see
2 that more readily accessible, those issues.

3 That's what I have just at a glance, and
4 I think those should be accessible within the 30
5 minutes that I had to access them and so I guess
6 I'll make the rest of the comments in written form.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And I'll address
10 just one thing with that. That's okay, and they are
11 geographically, since some of the resources --

12 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: That's
13 typical. I would also think from a briefing on
14 environmental issues, to have that consolidated so
15 those issues you wouldn't have to piece through
16 every section.

17 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Maybe what helps is
18 up front there is a summary, and that kind of helps.
19 But just so you know, in terms of process, and I
20 mentioned this in my opening comments, we are
21 undergoing consultation under section 7 of the EIS
22 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And they
23 are a cooperating agency and so they had review and
24 input into this and so those issues are ongoing and
25 the proper addressing of those issues is ongoing as

1 well.
2 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Right. Thank
3 you.
4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
5 comment. I encourage you -- I did give you a CD,
6 correct?
7 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Yes.
8 MR. BILL STORM: I encourage you to go
9 through the CD. You have until August 10th to
10 formulate it. And is the document searchable?
11 Yeah, the document is searchable on the CD, yes, it
12 is.
13 Okay. Coming back to the general room.
14 Anyone want to make a comment on the record about
15 the draft EIS?
16 Okay. Alan, sure, do you want to come
17 up, please state and spell your name and have at it.
18 Is that my wet copy?
19 MR. ALAN MULLER: That's your wet copy.
20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Reading in the
21 rain, right?
22 MR. ALAN MULLER: Actually, the dampness
23 of this can be attributed to my dog.
24 My name is Alan Muller, M-U-L-L-E-R, I'm
25 a resident of Red Wing, Minnesota. And I offered

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 16, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - LITTLEFORK
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Littlefork Community Center
20 220 Main Street
21 Littlefork, Minnesota
22
23 July 16, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 Written comments, August 10th, submit
2 your written comments. (Phone ringing) That's me,
3 that's pretty inappropriate. My information is
4 there, Julie's information is there. You can fax
5 it, e-mail it to us. You don't have to send it to
6 both of us, we're going to share comments, but you
7 can send it to both of us if you want. You can also
8 submit your written comments electronically. You
9 can do it through the DOE's website and you can do
10 it through our website. So you can also comment
11 electronically, if you want.

12 That's it. So that's basically the
13 process in a nutshell. I did have someone fill out
14 a card, yay, so after I call this gentleman up, when
15 I call you up, please state your name and spell it
16 for the record so the court reporter can get it
17 down. Speak slower than I do. I sort of race, but
18 Janet knows me so she can keep up. But for her
19 sake, maybe speak a little slower than I do.

20 So the first person is William Gary.

21 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Gray.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Gray, sorry. Please
23 come to the mic and state and spell your name.

24 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: William Gray, spelled
25 W-I-L-L-I-A-M, G-R-A-Y.

0019-1

Section 5.2.1.6 of the EIS provides a discussion of the airstrips and potential impacts. Please note that within the C2 Segment Option Variation Area, the Airstrip Alignment Modification is included as a means to minimize impacts to the airstrip south of Littlefork (described in Section 4.3.2.5).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

27

0019-1

1 My concern is the C2 segment that runs
 2 south of Littlefork. I have an air strip there.
 3 I'm a flight instructor, instrument flight
 4 instructor, also a mechanic and mechanical
 5 inspector. I have student pilots, I have sport
 6 pilots. I have regular pilots. I have people
 7 coming in and out for maintenance. I have
 8 ex-students come in and visit with me occasionally.
 9 And I have a problem with the safety of having that
 10 line, if chosen. The placement of it is real bad.
 11 If you're downwind to the land you have reduced
 12 power and you're descending and you are descending
 13 into wires and that does not sound like a healthy
 14 setup to me.

15 That's all I guess I need to say at this
 16 point in time. I'll probably be talking to you
 17 again.

18 MR. BILL STORM: If I may, William, your
 19 air strip, where you're located, are you located
 20 along the blue or the orange, or do you know what
 21 variation route you're located next to?

22 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Well, it's that
 23 alternate segment that runs south of Littlefork,
 24 they call it C2.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. C2 alternative.

1 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: If they want to have
2 the blue line, that's fine, that's several miles
3 away from me and I don't consider that to be a
4 problem. But I really have a problem with power
5 lines when you're on a takeoff or landing. The most
6 likely spot for you to have an engine failure or
7 power reduction is on takeoff. And then also when
8 you reduce power, and when you hit the power when
9 you go out and I'm doing that over wires, to me
10 that's not cool.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, William. I
13 appreciate your comment. I encourage you to come in
14 August when the ALJ is here so you can tell her your
15 personal story and how C2 would impact you so that
16 can get on her record and then she can consider that
17 for not only her findings of fact but her
18 recommendation going forward.

19 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Okay. I will be here.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. That was the only
22 card I had. I'm batting like zero on these cards.
23 Anybody want to speak on the record, have
24 a question? Anybody interested in looking at the
25 maps, want to take a few minutes to look at the maps

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Kelliher Old School Center
20 243 Clark Avenue North
21 Kelliher, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0020-1

Impacts to forests as a result of clearing are addressed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

30

1 had. But I will certainly go with the show of hands
2 if somebody wants to speak.

3 Come on up, sir, and state and spell your
4 name for the court reporter. And speak into the mic
5 over there. Thank you, Mike.

6 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Mike Handzus,
7 H-A-N-D-Z-U-S. And I'll just try to keep it brief
8 and to the EIS statement. But we have property in
9 section -- or township 155, range 29, section 28 and
10 33.

11 Regarding this power line, I guess, for
12 us we just first found out about it April 25th of
13 this year so we're trying to play catchup here. But
14 that's one of the proposed routes, right through the
15 line, or through the center of the property.

16 I tried to cover the EIS as best we
17 could. But one area I didn't think that it touched
18 on was, like, through our property there will be 24
19 acres of forest that would have to be cleared, and
20 what kind of impact that would have on the area.
21 And, also, we were planning on a cabin, which would
22 amount to right down the center of the property
23 where this power line is scheduled and I think that
24 would need to be addressed also.

25 Just a couple other things that I had

0020-1

0020-2

Potential impacts and avoidance and minimization measures regarding wetlands (soil) and wildlife are discussed in Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS. Avoidance measures will be further developed through the permitting process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0020-2

31

1 concerns on as it relates to the EIS. The -- I
2 don't think it covers the fact -- or I didn't see
3 anything to the effect that once they clear the 200
4 feet, that they have to go in with a chemical to
5 kill the vegetation and what that effect would have
6 on the property. You couldn't do anything organic,
7 you know, under those circumstances.

8 And maybe just touch on the fact that in
9 that area is a real fragile ecosystem, and most of
10 the year is pretty much standing water, and the
11 effect of having large equipment going in there,
12 what effect that would have. It's, like I say, the
13 soil is so fragile there. And, I don't know, they
14 kind of touch on the different types of wildlife
15 that are in there, but what effect that would have
16 on them also.

17 And, let's see. I guess that's pretty
18 much it. I'm just concerned of the effect it would
19 have on the area being as fragile of a system as it
20 is in that area.

21 Thanks.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Mike. Mike,
23 do you want to submit anything in writing today or
24 do you want to follow up during the comment period?

25 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yeah, I'll put

1 something together here a little later.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get a disk?

3 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yes.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

5 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Just now.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else?

7 Yes, ma'am, please step to the mic and
8 state and spell your name and say your piece.

9 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Mary Lou
10 Hufnagle, M-A-R-Y, L-O-U, H-U-F-N-A-G-L-E. We live
11 in Koochiching County.

12 I'm a little ways from the line, but my
13 one concern, too, was the spraying of herbicides to
14 keep the vegetation down around this line. And some
15 of that stuff is pretty wicked, it gets into the
16 water and it's there forever. And, also, you know,
17 other things it could kill, too, you know.

18 But I had -- one question I have was the
19 maintenance of the lines, is this done by U.S.
20 citizens and that, or do they have Canadian people
21 that come down and maintain the lines in case there
22 should be a problem or something like that?

23 MR. BILL STORM: Mary, we will address
24 your question in the final EIS, but we will take up
25 that question and we will address that.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER
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6 AND
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19 Kelliher Old School Center
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21 Kelliher, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 something together here a little later.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get a disk?

3 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yes.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

5 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Just now.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else?

7 Yes, ma'am, please step to the mic and
8 state and spell your name and say your piece.

9 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Mary Lou

10 Hufnagle, M-A-R-Y, L-O-U, H-U-F-N-A-G-L-E. We live
11 in Koochiching County.

12 I'm a little ways from the line, but my
13 one concern, too, was the spraying of herbicides to
14 keep the vegetation down around this line. And some
15 of that stuff is pretty wicked, it gets into the
16 water and it's there forever. And, also, you know,
17 other things it could kill, too, you know.

18 But I had -- one question I have was the
19 maintenance of the lines, is this done by U.S.
20 citizens and that, or do they have Canadian people
21 that come down and maintain the lines in case there
22 should be a problem or something like that?

23 MR. BILL STORM: Mary, we will address
24 your question in the final EIS, but we will take up
25 that question and we will address that.

0021-1

Section 2.11.1.4 of the EIS specifies that an approved herbicide would be used for vegetation clearing during construction, only with the approval of the landowner or land manager. Similarly, Section 2.12.1 of the EIS refers that during Project maintenance and operation, vegetation may be cleared using a combination of mechanical and hand clearing and herbicides, where allowed and approved by the landowner. Prior to maintaining vegetation in a particular area, the Applicant would make an effort to notify affected landowners.

With respect to the potential contamination of water associated with herbicide spraying, Section 2.11.1.6 of the EIS states that "no petroleum, herbicides, or pesticides, or hazardous chemicals of any kind should be mixed or otherwise handled in wetland areas." The Applicant would be required to implement best management practices to avoid any potential spill of herbicides near water sources.

The Applicant states in the Route Permit Application that the proposed Project would be maintained by the Applicant and its contractors.

0021-1

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0021-2

As mentioned in Section 5.2.1.8 of the EIS, maintenance and emergency repairs would be performed by existing firms and contractors. No new full-time or part-time workers are expected to be hired to operate, maintain, or perform emergency repairs on the proposed Project.

0021-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: I was just
 2 curious. But that was my one concern, was that
 3 spray of herbicides around the line.

4 MR. BILL STORM: I understand.

5 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Thank you.

6 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you,
 7 Mary Lou.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. I had to get
 9 somebody else. Anybody want to speak?

10 Okay. I do want to remind you that the
 11 written comment period is open until August 10th.
 12 Please submit your comments to either me or Jules on
 13 the draft EIS.

14 I do want to encourage and remind
 15 everybody that we will be back up here, or I will be
 16 back up here with the administrative law judge,
 17 Judge O'Reilly, in August for the contested case
 18 hearing. And, like I said, that is an opportunity
 19 for you to not only comment on the environmental
 20 issues, but to step up and address specific issues
 21 that you may have concerning any of the routes or
 22 the impacts of the routes.

23 It also is an opportunity for you to
 24 cross or question Minnesota Power's experts who put
 25 their application together and get some direct

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Timberlake Lodge
20 144 SE 17th Street
21 Grand Rapids, Minnesota
22
23 July 22, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 get it there, but if you go back three slides you
2 gave two numbers that should be on the
3 correspondence and I only had one of them and I sent
4 it to you guys so I want to make sure I had the
5 other one.

6 MR. BILL STORM: That would be the docket
7 number, it's TL-14-21 --

8 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: And EIS-0499.

9 MR. BILL STORM: That's the DOE number.

10 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. I
11 believe. But for this point, as long as we sent it
12 to you, that's as much as we can do here until the
13 contested hearings would be in place?

14 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct.

15 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you.

18 Anyone else want to speak on the record?
19 Okay, sir, please step to the mic, state
20 and spell your name.

21 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Mike Hughes,
22 H-U-G-H-E-S.

23 When I first went to the meeting before,
24 I looked at all the evidence, and I still feel like
25 I'm David trying to fight Goliath. You know, do

0022-1

The response to the comment is provided in the transcript after the comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

29

1 these comments as an individual make a difference?
 2 And, if so, have you seen that happen? Where a
 3 comment has made a change in the statement and a
 4 change on a direct route that were taken that were
 5 other than those applied for by the utility company
 6 itself? In other words, we're trying to fight a big
 7 utility company and what do I as an individual have
 8 to say that would change everything?

9 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. The short answer,
 10 and we try not to have a dialogue here, but I can't
 11 help myself.

12 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: No, it's a process
 13 question.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Yes. In the 14 years
 15 I've been doing this, I've seen many dockets where
 16 routes that were proposed by citizens were
 17 ultimately picked by the Commission.

18 MR. MIKE HUGHES: So what we do or say or
 19 what we do write down is taken seriously?

20 MR. BILL STORM: I would agree with that
 21 statement.

22 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Okay.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, sir.
 24 Okay. Ms. Overland, please step to the
 25 mic, state and spell your name.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
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16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Bigfork School
20 100 Huskie Boulevard
21 Bigfork, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0023-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

31

1 variation.

2 MR. DENNY PAVEK: It is the red route,
3 and there are a few people that live there
4 year-round. So that's where we as the cabin owners
5 association would like to see it go.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9 Does that spur anybody? Anybody else
10 want to speak?

11 MR. JOHN KANNAS: I will.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yes, sir. State and
13 spell your name, please.

14 MR. JOHN KANNAS: Sure. My name is John
15 Kannas, K-A-N-A-S.

16 I'm a supervisor in Balsam Township and
17 there are three routes that cross Balsam Township.
18 We understand the line is going through, and the
19 town board is in support, and all the residents,
20 that we want the blue route through Balsam, not the
21 alternative route, which is the green route or the
22 yellow or orange route, which slices the township
23 right in the middle, right through the main populous
24 area. And the other is the abandoned Minnesota
25 Power line, but, again, we don't want that, we want

0023-1

1 to see it as far east of the township as possible.
2 So that's all I have to say. But thank
3 you for letting us talk.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
5 comment.

6 Anyone else?

7 Okay. Yes, sir. Please state and spell
8 your name.

9 MR. CHRIS VIERE: Chris Viere, V-I-E-R-E.
10 And I'm commenting on the environmental review.

11 One of the things that you do, is you
12 aggregate the overall view is some of the micro, you
13 know, easements that happen along different routes.
14 And those, you know, aren't necessarily reflected in
15 detail in certain areas.

16 So one of the things I want to kind of
17 highlight here, on the orange route that comes
18 through Effie and it passes through County Road 27,
19 we go through and if you go you'll see this various
20 important cultural artifacts.

21 Everybody here is familiar with the
22 Knights, I have property next to them, I got to know
23 them, very good people. James Knight was an
24 environmentalist and a historian. And the route
25 would pass right through that country. And so

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 2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
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 5 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS
 6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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 10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
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 25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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Section 6.4.3.1 and Map 6-61 of the Final EIS are updated to denote your cabin as a residence.

26

1 is the deadline for written comments. You can
 2 submit them either to me or Jules or to both of us.
 3 E-mail, U.S. mail, fax, and then there are
 4 electronic ways to do it, too. You can also submit
 5 your comments electronically through the DOE website
 6 and through the DOC website. Again, you only have
 7 to submit your comments in one spot, if you want,
 8 you can do it multiple times, if you want, but we
 9 are going to share the comments. So that's how you
 10 do it.

11 So that's the state process, the fed
 12 process, and now I'd like to turn it over to why
 13 we're here, which is to get your comments on the
 14 draft environmental impact statement.

15 So I did have one person fill out a card,
 16 so I will call on that person first. Kathy Kook?
 17 Kroom. I didn't want to call you a crook.

18 MS. KATHY KROOK: I'm an honest crook,
 19 though.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. The best kind.

21 MS. KATHY KROOK: My name is Kathy Kroom,
 22 Kathy with a K, K-R-O-O-K.

23 And I just want to state that I will be
 24 sending in a correction to one of the buildings on
 25 our property that is in one of the proposed routes.

0024-1

1 It's listed as a nonresidential. It's a cabin that
2 we use on a weekly basis. In fact, we use it
3 year-round. So I will be sending in that comment.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kathy.

6 Okay. Next? Anyone else?

7 Sir, please step to the mic and state and
8 spell your name.

9 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Rodney Charles
10 Toomi, T-O-O-M-I.

11 If I understood everything both of you
12 said, that right now if we already sent an e-mail to
13 both of you with our concerns, that is as much as we
14 can do at this time, and the contested hearings will
15 be coming up in August and that will be the next
16 step, correct?

17 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct, sir.

18 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: I'm also
19 guessing everything that was shared on the slides is
20 also on the website, or is there information that
21 you presented that would not be in the website?

22 MR. BILL STORM: I don't think -- I'll
23 put the slides on the website.

24 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. My last
25 question is, and if you put it on the website I can

1
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The EIS addresses weather-related issues in Section 2.5.8 and Section 2.8.3 addresses the weather study and BMPs. In addition, Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather study that the Applicant would conduct to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. This weather study is available on edocket 14-21, document 20158-113594-06 (Exhibit 83). Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted by the Applicant to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-1

32

MR. RICHARD LIBBEY: I'm Richard Libbey, R-I-C-H-A-R-D, L-I-B-B-E-Y, Grand Rapids.

And originally I thought this was going to be an argument over which route we preferred, but we're supposed to discuss the EIS and I didn't study the EIS. And I have a few comments on the main route area that I'm interested in, the Effie variation, it is the orange and the blue route that are the shortest routes that go across country from point A to point B. And the Effie variation is the route that was proposed by the citizens advisory committee that was made up of the county and township people and an environmental group.

But, well, following the transmission line is the longer route, apparently will have less environmental impact, but one of the main concerns of Minnesota Power is that having three large power lines in one corridor affects system reliability due to possible storm damage. Some possibilities are a tornado, ice storms, or straight line winds. And in their application, part of it, they mentioned that there are mitigations that they can do that would make it possible for them to follow the line more and reduce the possibility of the storm events affecting the system reliability. In fact, they are

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

0025-1 cont'd

0025-1
Continued 0025-2

Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS discusses the additional measures the Applicant has proposed to maintain system reliability where the proposed Project would be constructed in parallel with existing 500 kV or 230 kV transmission lines.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

33

1 going to parallel a 500 kV line north of this and
 2 that's where the section mentions what they can do
 3 to parallel a line. And if you have a 230 alongside
 4 of it, they say that three lines is too risky, but
 5 if they can follow a 500 kV line and use mitigation,
 6 I would think they could do the same thing on the
 7 Effie alternative. Some of the mitigation they've
 8 mentioned is more robust towers. You can also put
 9 in an interrupter that can break the circuit if they
 10 go down so it doesn't disrupt the grid as much.
 11 They mention having circuit breakers, and then they
 12 also mentioned that if there is an event that takes
 13 down the lines, even if it's one of them, they could
 14 have spare parts stockpiled in the area that would
 15 be ready and available to get the system up and
 16 running again.

0025-2

17 I was a control operator for Minnesota
 18 Power for many years and I understand built into the
 19 system is that all power plants have to have reserve
 20 capacity and they have to prove that they can add a
 21 certain amount of power in a certain amount of time
 22 and maintain it for up to four hours. So if it does
 23 go down, there's things built into the grid that can
 24 compensate for the loss of these lines, or bring in
 25 power from other systems, and if it's a cascading

0025-2 cont'd

0025-2
Continued 0025-3

Induced voltage is discussed in Section 5.2.2.4 of the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-3

34

1 event they can isolate different areas. But I was
2 wondering if the EIS could perhaps get some more
3 detail on what it would take to make the line more
4 robust and make it so that it could parallel the
5 other two lines.

6 Another issue they have is in used
7 voltage, where the fear of one line is out and the
8 workers are working on that line, there's a
9 possibility of the voltage being transmitted through
10 the air and induced into that line endangered
11 workers. But I know out east there are power line
12 situations where there are five lines this size in a
13 corridor and they can do it out there, I would think
14 we could do it here.

15 You know, there's people that work on the
16 lines, they do the proper scoping and grounding that
17 makes it safe, I'd like to know if these are, you
18 know, significant issues or to what extent is this
19 really a problem. We know they go cross-country,
20 I'm 100 percent there's going to be forest
21 fragmentation, invasive species brought in, and the
22 impact from that. I think the issue is going to be
23 the environment versus the grid sustainability. I'd
24 like to get a little better handle on what the
25 issues are there and what can be done.

35

1 It also appears on what the cost sharing
 2 is on this. I believe Minnesota Power is less than
 3 50 percent on this and so Manitoba Hydro would be
 4 picking up a sizeable part of the bill. And also
 5 I'd like an estimate about what the property taxes
 6 are that the county will receive from this line.
 7 I'd like an idea of how many dollars per mile they
 8 will get out of it, they get paid for the line
 9 impacting the environment.

10 And then when it comes to clearing the
 11 lines, I'd like a little more detail on how it's
 12 going to be done and when it's going to be done.
 13 When you go through, you're going to have to remove
 14 trees, and I'm wondering if you're going to just cut
 15 the trees off and leave some undisturbed in certain
 16 areas and have access roads or are they going to
 17 bulldoze the entire line so you have bare soil that
 18 opens it up to invasive species. And, if so, how
 19 they're going to prevent carrying seeds and so forth
 20 along in all their gear and their cribbing that they
 21 put across so it doesn't spread up the line.

22 Probably not as important if they're
 23 paralleling the existing power line because there's
 24 already two lines there where that has already been
 25 done. The orange and blue routes go across country

0025-4

0025-4

Based upon recent estimates of the proposed Project's total cost and property taxes, the Applicant estimates that the transmission line would generate annual property taxes of approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 per mile. The two substations would generate approximately \$1.7 in annual property taxes. The Applicant estimates that the proposed Project's total annual property tax would be \$11.1 million for the Project overall. Based upon current state and local taxing district rates, approximately 1/3 of property taxes would go to the state's general fund. The remainder would be distributed among the county and other local taxing jurisdictions traversed by the proposed Project.

Cost sharing between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant is outside the scope of this EIS. The MN PUC certificate of need process is the mechanism for evaluating and addressing this issue.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-5

0025-5

Chapter 6 of the EIS identifies that the MN PUC Route Permit could also require the development of a Vegetation Management Plan as a permit condition, which could include plant surveys along the permitted ROW, incorporate vegetation clearing, and management of invasive species. The MN PUC typically requires the Applicant to prepare a plan in coordination with MnDNR as a condition of the Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

36

1 in virgin territory, I think it would be much more
2 critical that they follow best management practices.

3 I guess that's mostly what I've got right
4 now. I'm going to submit some additional comments
5 when I have time to read it more. I didn't read the
6 whole thing yet.

7 Another thing I would like to mention,
8 though, is that there's a website on the web, it's
9 the Minnesota Tornado History Project, and they have
10 an interactive map that documents every known
11 tornado that is known to man since I think 1950.
12 And it shows the path of the tornado, the date, and
13 the track that it took. And I know when I've looked
14 at that and you look in the area of the Effie
15 alternative it shows no tornados since the time it
16 has been recorded. So I'd like to get a little more
17 information on what the possibility is of a storm
18 coming that would actually impact these lines.

19 You know, Bill had mentioned before he's
20 seen footage after tornados have gone through and
21 the power lines are left standing and the homes are
22 gone. So they must have some estimation of what
23 force winds will impact the towers and the
24 separation there that is between the proposed orange
25 and blue routes, and then the Effie variation is

0025-6

Electrical system reliability and weather events are discussed in the Section 5.3.7 of the EIS. Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather study that the Applicant would conduct to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. This weather study is available on edocket 14-21, document 20158-113594-06 (Exhibit 83). Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted by the Applicant to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-6

0025-6 cont'd

37

0025-6
Continued 0025-7

1 really significant. I'd like some data on, like,
 2 when a straight line wind comes, what the track is.
 3 We had one here several years back and it started at
 4 Lake Winnie (phonetic) and traveled all the way to
 5 Grand Rapids. So if the separation of line is only
 6 three, four miles in that case, is it really
 7 significant for that separation. If they're
 8 together will it really make a difference. And you
 9 can also look at the tornado tracking on the chart
 10 and you'll find that bigger tornados have a longer
 11 track, so what is the likelihood, if they're right
 12 together or if there's several miles separation is
 13 that really significant.

0025-7

14 So another issue is the earth worms. I'm
 15 not sure if you're aware of that. But my son worked
 16 for the Chippewa National Forest and they're real
 17 concerned about the spread of earth worms. Unknown
 18 to most people, they aren't native to the United
 19 States, and when they start spreading through the
 20 forest they go at a very slow rate, but they
 21 decompose a lot of the bitter that's on the ground,
 22 in other words, the leaves and so forth, and they
 23 have an impact on what grows there. Like all those
 24 things that are impacted and they end up changing
 25 the forest type to more a grasslands area. So if

The invasion of earthworms into forests occurs primarily through
 dumping of fishing bait. While it is possible construction equipment
 could transport seeds of invasive plant species, it is unlikely that
 construction equipment would transport living earthworms along the
 construction site.

As discussed in Chapter 6 of the EIS, the Applicant may be
 required to conduct pre-construction field surveys for rare species
 as a condition of the MN PUC Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-7 cont'd

0025-7
Continued 0025-8

38

1 they choose either the orange or blue route and
2 introduce worming to it, that can have impacts and
3 so they would have to have mitigation to avoid that.

4 And I'm wondering when the rare plants
5 survey will be done. I know they mentioned it in
6 their -- certain few rare plant species, but I think
7 that's just historical. At archeological sites
8 there's several listed in there. And I'm just
9 wondering if you're going to do a more thorough

10 evaluation of that or if that comes when the final
11 route is chosen. And it did show an archaeological
12 site on the Effie route, and I'm just wondering,
13 they said it hasn't been investigated to the point
14 where, you know, it has complete significance, but
15 it is a significant site and if that route is chosen
16 I'm wondering what mitigation they can do to
17 preserve that site. For instance, you know, place
18 the towers so they're not in the area or avoided
19 during construction.

20 Another idea is you mentioned in there
21 just generically that a 150-foot high tower can be
22 visible for miles, and in a shrub land area there is
23 swamp or it is forested or hilly where the view shed
24 will be less, and I'm wondering if it's possible to
25 have a view shed map drawn up where we'd have to

Viewshed maps have not been prepared as part of the EIS. The concept for the assessment of visual impacts is stated in Section 5.3.1.1: "The 1,500 foot ROI for aesthetic resources was identified because the proposed Project is most likely to be visible within this near-foreground distance zone and views of the proposed Project from aesthetic resources within this distance zone have the greatest potential to result in visual impacts for sensitive viewers." Visual simulations, provided in Appendix N of the EIS, were prepared for seven viewpoints within the study area to represent typical views of the proposed Project. These photo simulations are intended to provide reviewers with a sense of what the transmission line would look like from various distances and in various landscape settings within the study area.

Bass Lake and Balsam Lake are greater than 1,500 feet from the proposed routes and variations. Although the transmission line may be visible from these locations and surrounding areas, there is less potential for the proposed Project to result in significant visual impacts for sensitive viewers beyond the near-foreground distance zone. Visual impacts are likely to be greater for snowmobile trails, recreation trails, and other visually sensitive resources occurring within the near-foreground distance zone.

In an area where a proposed route or variation results in a visual impact, it may be possible to minimize or mitigate the impact by adjusting the alignment, micro-siting structure locations, reducing structure heights, darkening the finish on structures to reduce color contrast, using non-specular conductors, and/or feathering vegetation edges of cleared rights-of-way to reduce contrast.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-8

39

1 check the height of the towers for spacing and see
2 if it's going to have critical impact on different
3 areas. If you look at the map, and the view shed is
4 wide, it's this wide on the map and it is narrow
5 like this then we can see if it's going to impact
6 Bass Lake Park or some of the local lakes that it
7 goes by and crosses the Big Bog that is east of
8 Balsam Lake that is a site of high biological
9 diversity. And, you know, there's snowmobile trails
10 and recreational trails across there now, there are
11 no roads or anything, but the impact on tourism and
12 so forth from power lines that take away from your
13 enjoyment of the outdoors.

14 I was wondering if it's possible, at
15 least in the critical areas, to check what the view
16 shed is. Minnesota Power said that the reason
17 they're spacing their towers at thousands of feet is
18 because it's cheaper that way. The further you put
19 them apart and the higher you build them it's
20 cheaper. If you put them lower or closer together
21 they cost more, but your view shed is less, and I
22 would assume the towers would be more robust and
23 less susceptible to blow down. So I was wondering
24 if some of those issues could be considered in the
25 EIS.

1 Thank you.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Rich. I look
4 forward to you digging deeper into the EIS and your
5 further comments. I think some of the issues you
6 brought up, as you dig deeper in the EIS you'll find
7 some answers, but we will certainly address the
8 comments you made tonight in the final EIS and any
9 comments you make written post this meeting.

10 Okay. Anyone else want to speak on the
11 record?

12 Okay. Before I wrap it up, because I
13 always come back to people several times to try to
14 prod some comments out of them, but remember, the
15 written comments are due August 10th, and you can
16 send them to either me or Jules or both of us. U.S.
17 mail, e-mail, fax, electronically through our
18 websites, or my comment sheet that's on the table,
19 that'll work, too. So remember that date.

20 Also remember in August, and the notice
21 should be circling around, if you got a copy of this
22 notice, that means you're on our list, so you should
23 get a copy of Mike's notice on the contested case
24 hearing. I encourage you strongly to also attend
25 the contested case hearings, and that is the spot

0025-9

Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather studies that the Applicant would conduct a weather study to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

41

1 where you get to ask Minnesota Power direct
 2 questions, you know, about if you have issues about
 3 tower spans or you have issues about what kind of
 4 vegetation control you're going to have. Any of
 5 these issues, they will have their people there to
 6 answer the questions. It is also the opportunity
 7 for you to, if you have a preference on an
 8 alternative or you have an idea for conditions that
 9 you would like the judge to consider for the route
 10 permit, that is the point to bring those issues up.
 11 So before we wrap up, going once?
 12 Anybody want to -- okay, Rich, step up to the mic
 13 and have another go at it. State and spell your
 14 name, please.

15 MR. RICHARD LIBBEY: Rich Libbey,
 16 L-I-B-B-E-Y.

17 One other thing I forgot to mention was
 18 that one of the mitigation strategies for the power
 19 line was to do a climactic study. As I recall in
 20 one of the first hearings at the Federal Energy
 21 Regulatory Commission, is they're supposed to do a
 22 study on the whole line as to the vulnerability to
 23 storms. And they were going to put it in storm
 24 damage, apparently, you know, they have to pass the
 25 FERC study before they're allowed to build the line.

0025-9

1 I was wondering if that was completed or if I heard
2 it right or is there actually a FERC study out there
3 that's assessing the possibility of a serious storm
4 event.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Rich, we'll
6 look into that.

7 Okay. Sir, please step to the mic.
8 State and spell your name again.

9 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Yeah. Is there
10 anywhere in the EIS that lists the costs of going
11 different routes? Financially what it is from route
12 A, B, or C?

13 MR. BILL STORM: The costs on the various
14 routes is in the EIS.

15 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Okay.

16 MR. BILL STORM: The alternatives
17 relative to the preferreds, I guess.

18 Okay. Let's bring it around again.

19 Anyone want to speak on the record? Going once?
20 Going twice?

21 Remember, you have until August 10th to
22 get your written comments in. Remember the hearings
23 start in August for the contested case hearings.

24 And I'm going to bring it to my last
25 call. Anybody?

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Kelliher Old School Center
20 243 Clark Avenue North
21 Kelliher, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 Ronald Lindner, if you wouldn't mind
2 stepping up to the mic. There you go, Ronald.

3 MR. RONALD LINDNER: Good morning. My
4 name is Ronald B. Lindner, that's L-I-N-D-N-E-R. I
5 reside over by Mizpah, Minnesota. I am quite close
6 where the projected power line will hopefully run
7 through sometime.

8 And I support this project, I think it's
9 the right direction. Let's face it, we're all faced
10 with energy problems today, with our coal-fired
11 plants, nuclear plants, nobody wants to build. This
12 is coming off of water in Canada, let's face it,
13 that's probably what all these environmentalists
14 don't quite understand yet, that this is where we
15 want to get our power from.

16 And I own land right just above -- just
17 below the power line there, and my wife and I have
18 discussed it, and I was part of the process ever
19 since they've been aligning there and I've looked at
20 it. And I've lived in Koochiching County since
21 1938, so that makes me about 78 years old. And I
22 hear some of the people come in from the outside, we
23 can't do this, we can't do that. We need what we
24 got in northern Minnesota, the only thing we got to
25 get is something up here that we can use for

0026-1

1 year-round, and that's one thing we do use is power,
 2 electricity. How many of you have electricity in
 3 your house? Nobody, I guess.

4 Well, I enjoy my electricity, it's not
 5 cheap, I belong to North Itasca, but I guess I've
 6 been there since you know when. So, anyway, I've
 7 lived there all my life and I strongly support this
 8 power line. And I think the direction we've got to
 9 go is let's get it down here. We've got to look
 10 forward to what our schools are doing today, we've
 11 got good schools in Kelliher, we've got good schools
 12 in Northome, we should be very proud of that. I am,
 13 I know that. I graduated from Northome, my wife
 14 graduated from Northome.

15 And I think people are just on the wrong
 16 track when they listen to all these eight balls out
 17 there, and that's what I'll call them. And I have
 18 this creek, if you'll notice on the map over there,
 19 that creek goes through my land in two different
 20 chunks through it. I love that creek there, the
 21 only thing I don't love is the people who want to
 22 continue to destroy beaver that are not where they
 23 should be. And we track and try to control our
 24 beaver and we want to keep them there because that's
 25 what keeps our water in our creek. We just went

27

1 through a drought there, where some eight ball shot
2 and was taking care of the beaver problems themself
3 without permission, and it didn't hurt a thing.

4 Where this stream comes through my property, it goes
5 on north of me, goes out into the swamp up in the
6 north, it is the best filtering system in the world
7 up here in this Bog up here and through that. We've
8 got a great filtering system between Red Lake and
9 down where I live. And that creek is very short
10 lived. It comes from this drainage over to the east
11 of where I live at, and it's not going to hurt
12 anything.

13 And I've been protecting the beaver on my
14 place as much as I can. And when we went through
15 the drought here for two years, that creek was the
16 first time ever to get bone dry. I mean, it
17 practically went dry. We lost all our minnow
18 population in there, but they're starting to recover
19 now because somebody's taking care of the beaver and
20 given us something on the land down there.

21 But I think we're in the right direction
22 here, they have a good route picked through there.
23 It's not going to really destroy anybody's property
24 anywhere in that south part of the county where it's
25 going. It's on the edge of the swamp out there and

1 it's already in the swamp, a lot of it. And it's
2 great place and this is a great place to live.

3 How many of you live in Koochiching
4 County here? There's two. Anybody else? How about
5 Beltrami County? Three. Yeah, I don't know where
6 you guys live at, but I think we're in the right
7 direction here of getting the power down here to us.
8 And I know our county board, I see our county
9 commissioners over there, I guess I see where they
10 voted to support the project, which I think they
11 should be smart enough to know that.

12 But, anyway, I will support this right
13 through to the end, whether we get it here or it
14 goes up on the north end of the county. It's going
15 to go somewhere and we certainly can use it in this
16 end of the county. And maybe down the line we can
17 draw our power off from this power. I'd be happy to
18 have water-powered electricity coming into my place,
19 I don't know how much longer I'll be here, that's
20 not up to me.

21 But I think people have the wrong idea
22 when we talk about building. Our country has -- we
23 have suffered up here. I've been through hardships
24 all my life. I was born and raised on a farm up
25 here in a small place and the hardships are there.

1 And we cannot hold our young people up here, and
2 I'll tell you that right now, we need our young
3 people back up here. And we're going to get it
4 through jobs. And electricity certainly can help us
5 to bring jobs to south Koochiching and north
6 Beltrami, wherever. You all know what the age
7 bracket is in these areas now. Let's try to bring
8 something back to this part of the country that we
9 can tap into or we can get power and be productive.
10 We know the Iron Range is up and down over there,
11 but that's a lot of self destruction over there,
12 too, but they're trying to get cheaper power so they
13 can stay in business, too. And business has to make
14 money. If people don't know it, if a business don't
15 make money, they don't stay in business.

16 So I encourage you to get back and
17 support this project. And, like I say, I'm going to
18 follow it through, as long as they have meetings I'm
19 going to be at them. And I hope if you've got
20 something to say or if you're opposed to get up here
21 and say it.

22 So I thank you.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Ron.

24 MR. RONALD LINDNER: You bet.

25 MR. BILL STORM: That was the only card I

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6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
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19 Roseau Civic Center
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21 Roseau, Minnesota
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1 that failed. So what I'll do is if anybody wants to
2 speak tonight, please raise your hands if you want
3 to speak.

4 Okay. We'll start out with Carol. Carol
5 Overland, please state and spell your name. Turn
6 your mic on.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

8 Carol Overland, I'm an attorney, and my
9 address is 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing, Minnesota.

10 And I'm not representing anyone at this
11 point in the certificate of need process. I want to
12 make sure that everyone knows that the buy the farm
13 option is an option here. That if they do want to
14 take your land, they can take -- you can require
15 that they take the entire parcel, not just a small
16 piece of it. And I'll have more comments later on
17 if I have a chance to look at the EIS.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

20 Anyone else want to speak on the record
21 tonight -- today, this morning?

22 MR. TODD LUND: I would.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Please step up to
24 the mic and state and spell your name, please.

25 MR. TODD LUND: My name is Todd H. Lund,

1 T-0-D-D, H, L-U-N-D.

2 I think that crossing significant
3 portions of agricultural property is probably not a
4 very good idea due to the fact that the increasing
5 size of equipment, tractors are weighing 55,000
6 pounds, the drills that they're pulling are equally
7 the same weight. If there were an error in any type
8 of auto steer or anything where the operator doesn't
9 have control, the damage would be, you know,
10 life-threatening.

11 And there is an existing power line that
12 could be probably paralleled, with many miles of
13 forest, coming across the border, where there's
14 probably very good crossings. Considering this
15 power line is for public use, I think that the
16 majority of the property should be public. We all
17 use it, that land is not a tax-based land. We pay
18 taxes, we bought this land. The amount of turns and
19 inconvenience and the danger to ourselves and our
20 young farmers is never going to go away once the
21 power line is established. It's something that
22 we'll be living with the rest of our lives. The
23 existing power line appears that it probably crossed
24 the least amount of public property. And I think
25 that's probably maybe where it should try to lie.

0027-1

0027-1
During construction, the Applicant would comply with all applicable OSHA requirements and would **implement standard construction, mitigation, and operation and maintenance practices developed from experience with past projects as well as industry-specific BMPs, as specified in Section 2.13 of the EIS. Compliance with OSHA's standards for occupational health and safety along with implementation of BMPs would avoid and minimize impacts on public and worker health and safety resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed Project, regardless of the route or variation.**

0027-2

0027-2
The Border Crossing 500kV and 230kV variations evaluated in Section 6.2.1 reflect your preference to parallel existing transmission lines where the proposed Project would cross the U.S. and Canadian border.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 That's about all I have to say. Thank
2 you.

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you,
4 Mr. Lund.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
6 comment. And, again, I encourage you to participate
7 in the hearings next month and tell the judge why
8 you prefer one route over the other and why you
9 think one route might be problematic and another
10 more advantageous.

11 Anyone else who wants to speak tonight --
12 this morning? The week is young yet.

13 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The day is young.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. We do have review
15 copies of the document out here. We certainly have
16 staff people that can help you if you want to talk
17 about a particular -- look at a particular map and
18 maybe talk about a particular thing. But if no one
19 wants to speak on the record tonight -- or today?
20 Going once? Twice?

21 Okay. Remember that you have until
22 August 10th to submit written comments on the draft
23 environmental impact statement. And I strongly
24 encourage you, if you have route preferences or
25 issues that you think one route or another have and

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1 MR. ALAN MULLER: I'd be happy to yield
2 to the people here who are local, or I can speak
3 now.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: I'd like to hear what you
5 have to say.

6 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: State and spell
7 your name, please.

8 MR. ALAN MULLER: Alan Muller, A-L-A-N,
9 M-U-L-L-E-R.

10 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: The mic is not on.

11 MR. ALAN MULLER: Is it on now?

12 My name is Alan Muller, A-L-A-N,
13 M-U-L-L-E-R, and I'm a resident of Red Wing,
14 Minnesota.

15 What I know about these draft EIS
16 documents is essentially what I've read between this
17 morning's hearing and the present one. So I have
18 some questions, some thoughts for you, and the
19 answers to some of my questions may be in here and I
20 may have missed them so I apologize if that's the
21 case.

22 First, this is a -- formally this is a
23 federal hearing on the record, am I right, and it's
24 an informal state proceeding. Will the transcript
25 of this meeting and others like it be in the public

33

1 record?

2 MR. BILL STORM: Yes.

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. ALAN MULLER: Let me just sort of go
5 in order on the bullet points on here.

6 At page 5, at section 1.2.4.1, there's
7 reference to the National Historic Preservation Act
8 and requirements for consultation with the Indian
9 tribes, et cetera, and that is addressed in slightly
10 more detail further into the report.

11 But it was bothering me that I saw all
12 this procedural stuff, but it didn't say anything
13 about what the Indian tribes have to say about this
14 project. And I really think that that's a rather
15 significant deficiency. And maybe the tribes and
16 the bands involved don't have an opinion about it or
17 didn't express one, but I can't tell by this
18 document. And the preferred way of addressing that
19 would have been to have an appendix containing
20 letters from those tribes rather than Barr
21 Engineering's interpretation of what they had to say
22 because Barr Engineering is not a neutral party.

23 Okay. Now, there is a certain amount of
24 discussion here about regional energy demand in
25 northeastern Minnesota and the capacity of this

0028-1
DOE has conducted government-to-government consultation with
federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The
discussion of DOE's tribal consultation is presented in
Section 5.3.3.1 Archaeology and Historic Architectural Resources
of the EIS. Further documentation of ongoing consultation with the
federally recognized Indian tribes is provided in the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-1

0028-2
The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project and its 250 MW
capacity is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163
(Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-2

0028-2 cont'd

0028-2
Continued

0028-3

Section 1.3.2 of the Final EIS is updated to state the Certificate of Need was granted on June 30, 2015.

0028-4

The proposed alternatives are fully analyzed in the EIS.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-3

0028-4

34

1 line. And the information seems vague and
 2 unsubstantiated. For example, there's reference to
 3 increase in industrial load, and perhaps industrial
 4 load is increasing, but anyone reading Minnesota
 5 newspapers have seen story after story about large
 6 loads shutting down due to the depression or low
 7 prices in the iron mining industry. So if, in fact,
 8 the load is increasing, it would be nice to see that
 9 substantiated in some way other than them writing,
 10 or perhaps marketing ambitions of the utilities of
 11 the area.

12 But let me backtrack with another
 13 question. I understand that from a Minnesota point
 14 of view, questions of need are off the table because
 15 there's been a certificate of need proceeding and
 16 the PUC did, in fact, grant a certificate of need
 17 for this project. And is that correct?

MR. BILL STORM: Yes.

18
 19 MR. ALAN MULLER: There are places in
 20 here that say that and there are other places that
 21 talk about the certificate of need proceeding as
 22 something that's ongoing and I think those should be
 23 updated to be consistent.

24 From a federal point of view, and this is
 25 unfamiliar to me, I have never looked before at a

0028-4 cont'd

35

1 Presidential permitting matter, it stated that the
 2 federal interest is in the border crossing. But
 3 it's also stated in here that the rest of the
 4 project is regarded as a connected action, and in a
 5 NEPA sense, which it obviously is. So that has, to
 6 a certain extent, been evaluated in the DEIS. But
 7 it certainly does not appear to me that it has been
 8 evaluated in a substantial way.

9 And Ms. Overland made reference to this
 10 at page 45, and I don't have the section number,
 11 three-quarters of a page or a little bit less than
 12 three quarters of a page is devoted to comments on a
 13 no build alternative. That's three-quarters of a
 14 page out of 940 pages in these two documents alone.
 15 And that certainly does not suggest to me that this
 16 DEIS reflects a substantial or meaningful or useful
 17 consideration of alternatives.

18 What's actually evaluated here in fine
 19 detail are route alternatives. And I think that the
 20 authors of the document should be commended with the
 21 detail that they've addressed that, but that is not
 22 what the National Environmental Policy Act means by
 23 alternatives. And it mocks the intent of NEPA to
 24 say that, to represent that as meaning the federal
 25 government's obligations to look at alternatives to

0028-4
Continued

0028-5

The decision of DOE is to determine whether to permit or not permit the transmission line. DOE does not assess the entire realm of potential alternatives (e.g., generation or conservation alternatives) as part of their NEPA review. DOE's responsibility is to consider the alternative put forth by the utility in the their Presidential permit and not to review the utility's resource planning process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-5

0028-5
Continued 0028-6
0028-6

Section 2.8.1 of the EIS states that the proposed Project is designed to increase the total transfer capability between the U.S. and Manitoba by up to 883 MW. Section 2.8.1 was revised to correctly identify 883 MW.

36

1 this project. I hope I've stated that clearly.

2 Now, with regard to the capacity of the
3 line, and let me find, if I can, the proper citation
4 for that. We can look at page 30, section 2.8.1,
5 expected power transfer capability. And there are
6 various other mentions throughout the document. For
7 example, there's mention of a 250 megawatt power
8 purchase agreement by the applicant. Then there is
9 mention of the applicant's interest in having, at
10 page 19, at having a power transfer capability of
11 883 megawatts. And then again back at page 30,
12 there's reference to, quote, at least 750 megawatts,
13 unquote. And elsewhere, and I'm not able to find it
14 at the moment, which I apologize, there have been
15 references to significantly higher numbers for the
16 actual capacity of the line. And that leaves
17 entirely unresolved, in my opinion, the question
18 about whether there's a reasonable relationship
19 between the scale of this project and the
20 applicant's stated purposes. If, in fact, the
21 applicant needs 250 megawatts of additional power
22 transfer capacity, it probably doesn't make sense.
23 It makes sense for DOE or the state to sign off on a
24 project that has perhaps several times that power
25 transfer capability, and it might be motivated by a

1 desire to engage in market transactions and power or
2 something that one can have an opinion about, but
3 they're not discussed in the document.

4 Okay. I think I have a number of more
5 comments that I might make here, but I think I'll
6 just write down on what I've said and thank you for
7 considering that.

8 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

10 Anyone else want to take the opportunity
11 to speak?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Yeah I'll do that.

13 MR. BILL STORM: Please state and spell
14 your name for the court reporter.

15 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Marshall Nelson,
16 M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L, N-E-L-S-O-N. Lake of the Woods
17 County.

18 1600 pages. It's a lot to go through to
19 find out what's relevant. You know, I can't sit
20 here and comment on the west section or east
21 section, I don't live there, I have no intricate
22 knowledge of the area and I have no business
23 commenting on specifics to that.

24 Like I said, when I got here tonight, I
25 don't know what the proper term is, I have one, but

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0029-1

The response to the comment is provided in the transcript.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Again, anybody
2 else? Any questions, comments, concerns about the
3 draft EIS that you'd like to put on the table?

4 Alan, would you like to have another go
5 at it?

6 MR. ALAN MULLER: Just a technical or
7 procedural question for Julie, if I may.

8 What are the legal criteria for the
9 issuance of a Presidential permit for a border
10 crossing facility? And does the legal burden lie on
11 the applicant to demonstrate that such a permit
12 should be issued? And, if so, what does the
13 applicant have to show? I mean, in a general sense.

14 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: There isn't so much
15 a legal burden. What we have, and if you look at
16 10 CFR part 250, Carol, I believe, pulled up the
17 exact point -- or 205, sorry, 205. Which is our
18 Presidential permit application regulations that lay
19 out very specifically the process for applications
20 as well as the contents of the application,
21 including any electric system information, project
22 information, environmental information, all of those
23 things.

24 DOE -- and this is discussed in the
25 regulatory context section of both the summary as

0029-1

1 well as the Chapter 1 section in the EIS, where we
2 talk about our Presidential permit decision. As
3 part of the Presidential permit decision, the DOE
4 accepts applications for border crossing,
5 international border crossings from an applicant, as
6 well as information related to, as I stated,
7 environmental, the electric reliability system. We
8 then vet that information through the NEPA process.

9 DOE makes the determination of whether or
10 not to issue a Presidential permit based on a couple
11 of different things. A large consideration is what
12 we sort of characterize -- is what's characterized
13 in statute as public interest. What falls under
14 public interest in a very large part is the
15 potential environmental impacts related to not only
16 the border crossing, but as you pointed out, to what
17 we call the connected action, which is the
18 transmission line. We look at those things.

19 We also work and we have to have
20 concurrence with the Department of State, as well as
21 the Department of Defense for the project, to make
22 sure that they concur on our issuance of the
23 Presidential permit. Within their aspect, they're
24 considering state considerations as well as
25 considerations related to national security and

0029-2

Detailed information about DOE's Presidential permit program, including but not limited to all Presidential permits issued by the Department, are available on DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability web site at: <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/international-electricity-regulation-3>.

No changes were made to the EIS in response to this comment.

53

1 national defense.

2 DOE then also considers and makes a
3 determination related to electric system
4 reliability. And then any other factors that are
5 relevant to the particular application that is in
6 front of us.

7 So those are the variables that are laid
8 out to us in statute and that are also laid out in
9 the regulations as part of our decision and that are
10 discussed in section 1 and the summary of the
11 document.

12 MR. ALAN MULLER: Thank you. That's
13 helpful. I realize, and some of that you did say
14 before and I heard it, but it wasn't clear to me
15 what you meant.

16 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: That's okay.

17 MR. ALAN MULLER: Could you give us any
18 background information on how many such permits are
19 processed through your organization and how many of
20 them are granted versus how many of them are denied?

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The number, I mean,
22 the actual, the overall number of how many
23 Presidential permits, I mean, the program has been
24 in place since 1979, maybe 1980-ish, and I don't
25 have that institutional memory. I can tell you that

0029-2

1 the -- what we respond to and how busy we are in the
2 Presidential permit arena depends on how many
3 applications we get. And we don't solicit for these
4 applications, they come to us and we respond to them
5 in a timely manner.

6 We recently issued a Presidential permit
7 for a 336 1000 megawatt line, a DC line going from
8 the international border between New York and Quebec
9 and surveying a substation in Queens. We are
10 considering and we currently have a draft EIS out
11 for New England PowerLink, which is 160 miles, if I
12 remember correctly. That also is a DC line. We're
13 considering Northern Pass, which is a 500 kV in the
14 state of New Hampshire, roughly to the tune of about
15 180 miles. So we have a lot, and Great Northern,
16 obviously, and we have others that are anticipated.

17 The DOE, in its history, and, again, I
18 would have to look back so I can't say unequivocally
19 how many applications we received and what we
20 denied. Sometimes some of the applications go away,
21 I mean, so there are those, and so I would have to
22 do some digging to give an accurate and a precise
23 response to that question.

24 MR. ALAN MULLER: Well, I was asking
25 because I have the impression in Minnesota that

1 applicants for certificates of need for transmission
2 lines always get them with very few exceptions. And
3 that the process, although it's long and complex,
4 has some of the characteristics of a rubber stamp as
5 a whole. And I'm curious to know whether the data
6 for how the U.S. DOE handles the permits form the
7 same impression. I'm not speculating, but it's a
8 reasonable question from the standpoint of members
9 of the public who would like to know how seriously
10 their concerns really are taken.

11 And that is all I have to say. So thank
12 you.

13 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, Alan.

15 Has that spurred anybody else's
16 consciousness? Anybody want to speak on the record?

17 Okay. I'll give you a few minutes to
18 sink in. Speak. Speak.

19 Okay. Thanks for coming out. The
20 program doesn't work if people don't participate.
21 Remember that the written comment period deadline is
22 August 10th, your comments to me and Jules about the
23 draft EIS.

24 Remember that I'll be back up here in
25 August for two weeks with an ALJ, an administrative

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 AmericInn
20 1500 Highway 71
21 International Falls, Minnesota
22
23 July 16, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix ELLING, RPR

1 well.
2 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Right. Thank
3 you.
4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
5 comment. I encourage you -- I did give you a CD,
6 correct?
7 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Yes.
8 MR. BILL STORM: I encourage you to go
9 through the CD. You have until August 10th to
10 formulate it. And is the document searchable?
11 Yeah, the document is searchable on the CD, yes, it
12 is.
13 Okay. Coming back to the general room.
14 Anyone want to make a comment on the record about
15 the draft EIS?
16 Okay. Alan, sure, do you want to come
17 up, please state and spell your name and have at it.
18 Is that my wet copy?
19 MR. ALAN MULLER: That's your wet copy.
20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Reading in the
21 rain, right?
22 MR. ALAN MULLER: Actually, the dampness
23 of this can be attributed to my dog.
24 My name is Alan Muller, M-U-L-L-E-R, I'm
25 a resident of Red Wing, Minnesota. And I offered

36

1 some comments on this document a couple of days ago
 2 and I didn't complete those comments, but I had a
 3 few hours to look through this and so I want to add
 4 a couple of comments to the ones that I have already
 5 made.

6 At page 113, which is delineated as
 7 section 5.2.1.4, there is a discussion of property
 8 values, effects on property values. And there is a
 9 paragraph at the bottom of the right-hand column on
 10 page 113 that says in the few studies that detected
 11 decreases in sales price, those effects ranged from
 12 2 to 9 percent and in a few cases the sales price
 13 actually increased. And the intent of this section
 14 appears to be to argue that in the construction of
 15 this transmission project is not likely to have a
 16 substantial effect on the value of the properties
 17 through which it passes or approaches.

18 And I suggest to you that this is a
 19 conclusion that is unlikely to be correct and
 20 certainly is not a conclusion that is well
 21 substantiated by the material in here. What I would
 22 like to see would be some sort a quantitative
 23 discussion of the number of properties in total that
 24 would be impacted and some defensible summation of
 25 the likely total decrease in property values that

0030-1

Forecasting more than a general estimated percentage change in property values attributable to construction of the proposed Project is not feasible given that the number and type of properties in proximity to the ROW has not yet been determined and the vast number of variables that affect property values and changes in value cannot be assessed. Within your comment, you questioned the validity of the approximate two to nine percent decrease in property values, and a few instances of sale price increases, from the literature review by Jackson and Pitts (2010) of 17 studies conducted between 1954 and 2009. This review is published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Real Estate Literature by the American Real Estate Society, whose membership consists of academics, researchers, and practicing professionals and is a respected analysis. Another study used to support the property values discussion was one by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (2000) which showed that proximity to a high-voltage transmission line does not always cause property value decrease, and when it does, property value decrease can range from 1 to 14 percent. This summary conclusion was drawn from the Commission's analysis of 30 papers, articles, and court cases and is considered a comprehensive literature review that was vetted by the state of Wisconsin. Also included in the property values discussion are results from studies by Weber and Jensen (1978) and Jensen and Weber (1982) that looked specifically at the effects of transmission lines constructed on or near agricultural land. Weber and Jensen (1978) found no effect on agricultural land sale prices, while Jensen and Weber (1982) found agricultural land sale price decreases from 0 to 20 percent, depending on the level of disruption to farm operations. Appendix J, Property Value Supplement, of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project EIS contains a lengthier discussion of these literature reviews than is included in Section 5.2.1.4 but all studies are considered to be valid property value analyses.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0030-1

0030-1 cont'd

0030-1
Continued

0030-2
Section 5.2.2.1 the EIS summarizes the predicted intensity of electric and magnetic fields calculated by the Applicant based on two main operational scenarios:

Scenario 1: Stand-alone 500 kV Transmission Line. EMF from the proposed Project transmission line structures only. Electric and magnetic fields are predicted for three types of structures: guyed Delta tower, guyed V-tower, and self-supporting tower at an operating current level of 2,000 amperes.

Scenario 2: 500 kV Transmission Line Paralleling Existing Transmission Lines. Electric and magnetic fields are estimated from the proposed 500 kV transmission line operating in parallel with the existing 500 kV, 230 kV, and 115 kV transmission lines. Depending on the configuration, operating line current levels vary.

Predicted magnetic fields from a total of six cases are calculated at average and peak levels. The modeling cases report magnetic fields with maximum current supported by each type of 500-kV transmission structure, ranging from 1,024 to 2,000 amperes.

EMF modeling scenarios and results in Section 5.2.2.1 are revised based on updated modeling results provided by the Applicant (Appendix Y). The revised version of Table 5-22 indicates the current levels supported by the structures modeled.

0030-2

37

would occur from building this project rather than just kind of a page of denial and hand waving. So, you know, I think that the DEIS is certainly unsatisfactory at this point in how it approaches that.

Now, let me move to the discussion of electric and magnetic fields, which begins on page 141 and is identified as section 5.2.2.1. I'm sure it's well known to everyone in the audience and certainly to the authors that the magnitude of electric fields is generally related to the voltage on the line, and the magnitude of magnetic fields is generally related to the current flowing through the line.

And I see a number of tables here, and they predict magnetic field strengths, but they don't associate these predicted -- the numbers, which are in some cases carried out to four significant figures, and these are not tied to any particular current values or power transmission values and that makes them rather meaningless. Particularly since, as I previously testified, this seems to be some contradictory information about the actual power transfer capability of this line, which would be associated with different levels of

0030-2 cont'd

38

0030-2
Continued

1 current. So I think this information is
2 unsatisfactory.

3 These tables need to have a column that
4 clearly specifies what amperage, what current values
5 are associated with these magnetic field strengths,
6 and it needs to be clear that we need to receive
7 information on the actual maximum amperage that the
8 line could sustain. As it is, we don't have that.

9 Okay. Now, let me back up, if I may, to
10 a discussion of climate change and greenhouse gas
11 emissions. And this begins, roughly speaking, at
12 page 111, and is delineated as section 5.2.1.3. And
13 there's verbiage in here that suggests that the
14 likely effect of building this project would be a
15 reduction in greenhouse gas emissions due to the use
16 of more hydropower and the burning of less fossil
17 fuels. And there is also a suggestion that it would
18 facilitate the integration of greater amounts of
19 wind capacity in North Dakota. Which, if it
20 occurred, would probably also have a beneficial
21 effect on reducing climate forcing emissions. But
22 everything in here is extremely vague, it rather
23 reads like something that was patched together out
24 of different documents. And it would be extremely
25 helpful to have some numbers assigned to this. Just

0030-3

The addition of 250 MW of capacity from renewable energy sources will reduce the average GHG emissions per megawatt hour (MWH) of energy generated in the region. The exact value would depend on many variables, from growth in demand to the addition or closure of other new sources of energy to the implementation of state and federal GHG emission restrictions. It would be difficult to quantify the exact reductions in emissions. However, it is very likely the region would see a reduction in GHG emissions as a result of the action, therefore there will be no potential for an increase in GHG emissions and a qualitative discussion was determined to be adequate for this analysis.

0030-3

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

39

1 what reduction in the use of fossil fuels is
 2 anticipated, is associated with that 250 megawatt
 3 power purchase agreement with Minnesota Power and
 4 Manitoba Hydro that's cited here, and whether the
 5 information in here is associated with that 250
 6 megawatt power purchase agreement or some
 7 significantly larger power transmission. Again,
 8 there are contradictory numbers in various parts of
 9 the report as I previously testified. So I'm
 10 suggesting here that some clarity and at least some
 11 roughly quantitative assessment of different
 12 scenarios would perhaps give this some credibility.

13 Now, moving on in the same section there
 14 is a discussion of criteria air pollutants. And
 15 then that begins on page 111 and the discussion then
 16 jumps back to discussions of climate change. But
 17 it's not very clear here whether the authors are
 18 attempting to discuss emissions of criteria air
 19 pollutants associated with the construction of the
 20 project or the operation of the project, and it
 21 would be very helpful to have some clarification of
 22 that so we know what is actually being said here.

23 And I'll just close here by referring to
 24 what Ms. Overland has previously said. It seems to
 25 me that the authors and consultants of this report

0030-4

Project impacts for criteria pollutants as well as climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are discussed for construction as well as operation, maintenance and emergency repair of the proposed Project in Section 5.2.1.3 of the EIS. Construction related criteria pollutant and climate change and GHG emissions are discussed under the "Construction Impacts" heading while operational emissions of criteria pollutants and climate change and GHG emissions are discussed under the "Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Repair Impacts" heading.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0030-5

Thank you for your comment. The intent of the Draft EIS comment period is to allow for members of the public, including those opposed to the line, to have the opportunity to review the analysis in the document.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0030-4

0030-5

1 are parties that have a history of working for the
 2 electricity industry, and particularly the power
 3 transmission industry, and perhaps that's a reason
 4 why so much of the general tone of this report seems
 5 to me to be that of an advocacy document rather than
 6 a neutral and objective evaluation of the project.

7 So I would recommend that you obtain some
 8 sort of peer review, perhaps peer review from some
 9 parties who have been involved in opposing
 10 transmission lines and advocating for alternatives,
 11 there certainly are such people around. Because
 12 really the responsibility for peer reviewing a draft
 13 environmental impact statement should not fall on
 14 the general public.

15 Okay. I think that's what I have to say
 16 at the moment.

17 Thank you.

18 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Alan.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

20 Okay. With that, anyone else who would
 21 like to take the opportunity to provide comment,
 22 questions on the draft environmental impact
 23 statement?

24 Okay. I want to remind you that the
 25 comment period for this phase of the document review

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
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14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Lake of the Woods School
20 236 15th Avenue SW
21 Baudette, Minnesota
22
23 July 15, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 desire to engage in market transactions and power or
 2 something that one can have an opinion about, but
 3 they're not discussed in the document.

4 Okay. I think I have a number of more
 5 comments that I might make here, but I think I'll
 6 just write down on what I've said and thank you for
 7 considering that.

8 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

10 Anyone else want to take the opportunity
 11 to speak?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Yeah I'll do that.

13 MR. BILL STORM: Please state and spell
 14 your name for the court reporter.

15 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Marshall Nelson,
 16 M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L, N-E-L-S-O-N. Lake of the Woods
 17 County.

18 1600 pages. It's a lot to go through to
 19 find out what's relevant. You know, I can't sit
 20 here and comment on the west section or east
 21 section, I don't live there, I have no intricate
 22 knowledge of the area and I have no business
 23 commenting on specifics to that.

24 Like I said, when I got here tonight, I
 25 don't know what the proper term is, I have one, but

0031-1

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-1

38

I probably shouldn't say it out loud in public. I tried to pick out a few things and we got a comment period going on yet, I'm sure there will be more submitted by myself. But here's just a couple things. And I'm glad we have copies here because I wasn't going to print it out.

Page 168 you talk about precision farming systems. Kind of an oxymoron here. Page 168, middle of the page, precision farming systems. And I'm quoting here, just part of it. Transmission lines have the potential to interfere with RTK and standard GPS used for precision farming. In further discussion in another section here, which, I apologize, I didn't get to yet, but, I mean, it says that it can happen, but since potential impacts related to precision farming systems are not expected from the proposed project, so it's not discussed any further. I mean, it says it can, but you don't expect any, even though on this blue route crossing agricultural land, I don't understand how you can say that it has potential but you don't expect any. You know, you're contradicting yourself there. I guess in the final I'd appreciate a little more detail or explanation.
Like I was telling you, I do experience

0031-1
Continued

39

1 problems with the 230 we got there. It's not that
2 it shuts it down, it limits the capabilities of the
3 very expensive technology that we purchased to
4 operate more efficient, you know. It does that,
5 what can you do, and it is kind of specific to where
6 you're at right under the structure, but when you're
7 going to come across our ag land we're not going to
8 stop farming that specific right-of-way.

9 And nobody else is standing in line, I do
10 have a couple other things real quick.

11 Page 204. And this is discussing
12 agricultural impact. It is reciting in 2010.

13 There's been a huge explosion of agriculture in
14 Roseau, Lake of the Woods, and Koochiching County
15 since 2012. I disagree with you that the principal
16 commodities are sugar beets and wheat. I guess I've
17 been here most of my life and I don't know anybody
18 who grows sugar beets. I don't know how that got in
19 there, but this data here I do not agree with. If
20 you looked at more current data from what the ag
21 economics are, there's been a big shift, and that
22 the impact on this ag land, not just the precision
23 farming or whatever, but there is more to it than
24 that.

25 There's been a lot of government land,

0031-1 cont'd

0031-1
Continued

0031-2

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-2

40

1 CRP, different programs on land and stuff like that,
2 and it's come out as being actively farmed as we
3 speak and land sales and a lot of that in the past.
4 So that's one spot I think you guys want to take a
5 look at.

6 Aerial spraying. 205. Yeah. You know,
7 and I understand maybe you're not discussing it
8 further than Chapter 6, as far as this around the
9 transmission lines and trying to line them up with
10 whatever makes sense for travel and, geez, you'll
11 have to use land base. Well, that's what I said
12 when I come in here tonight. It doesn't matter. I
13 can't get out there right now to spray this crop
14 with a land unit because it's wet. And, obviously,
15 if you look out the window, it's getting hit again.
16 If you can't get an airplane to fly it, what do I
17 do? You know, I'm struggling with this, I'm making
18 my way around this power line, it's been there since
19 the '70s, this is, like I said, my grandfather
20 started this, now it's my problem. I've been
21 getting around it different ways, trying to line up
22 to the edge of this thing, you know. Now you're
23 going to come through here and will cut the whole
24 dang section in half again and eliminate everything
25 we got on that particular section. This, and I can

0031-2 cont'd

41

0031-2
Continued

1 put this in writing and to the ALJ judge, but this
 2 is the stuff that needs to be addressed because land
 3 isn't always the easy alternative. And I'm glad you
 4 included it in this, I guess, and this is the first
 5 time I've mentioned it after talking to you guys and
 6 so I did mention about it.

0031-3
 Discussion of impacts on Recreation and Tourism resulting from
 the proposed Project are in Section 5.2.1.9. The EIS discussion for
 Recreation and Tourism is limited to activities on public lands.
 Impacts to landowners as a result of the proposed Project are
 discussed relative to Displacement in Section 5.2.1.1 and Land Use
 Compatibility in Section 5.3.1.2.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-3

7 One other question before I give up the
 8 mic here is what's the ramifications on recreation?
 9 You know, I know I have neighbors that have a power
 10 line going through their property, they have deer
 11 stands and different things, and every time the guys
 12 come through to clean up the power line or come
 13 underneath there they come through and tear it down.
 14 So if the idea is if you're going to come through
 15 here and destroy my aesthetics out my kitchen
 16 window, and you're going to destroy my farming
 17 practices and make it more difficult because of the
 18 technology I've invested in, and on top of all this
 19 you have to take out my recreation? I think -- is
 20 that in here somewhere?

21 MR. BILL STORM: There is sections on
 22 recreation and the impacts.

23 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Can you tell me
 24 where I'd find it?

25 MR. BILL STORM: No. But there are

42

1 sections for the west, central and east that talk
 2 about the impact or potential impact that the
 3 proposed route and the alternatives may have on
 4 recreational activities.

5 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay. And does
 6 that specifically address recreation by private
 7 landowners on their own property once this thing
 8 goes through, or is it just -- 'cause I know you're
 9 looking as the whole, I mean, I see that term used a
 10 lot in here, as a whole, as a whole, as a whole.
 11 Specifically to that, 'cause it means I can't have
 12 my deer stand, and my dad wants to hunt in
 13 retirement, you know, and that's just another --

14 MR. BILL STORM: I understand your
 15 comment --

16 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay.

17 MR. BILL STORM: -- and we'll look back
 18 at it in the context of the comment you made to see
 19 if there's any more we can do to capture that
 20 individual impact that you're talking about.

21 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Lastly, Alan here
 22 or somebody asked about the policy on public record,
 23 all these comments here today. Where and when will
 24 I find those?

25 MR. BILL STORM: When the meetings are

1 over and the comment period is over, I will gather
2 all the comments, the oral transcripts and the
3 written comments, and I will post them on my
4 website, the website that was up there previously.
5 And I will post them on the PUC website, Mike's
6 group -- that's probably not the right way to say
7 that. It's what we call the PUC website, even
8 though I think it's actually the Department of
9 Commerce that runs it, but it's eDockets. And it'll
10 be on the federal site so you can find it there,
11 too.

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: But we're not going
13 to see these comments until --

14 MR. BILL STORM: You'll see the comments
15 once the comment period closes. Well, actually, no,
16 you'll see them two times.

17 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: You'll see them
18 twice. You will see them when the comment period
19 closes, the actual comments, and then the individual
20 comments will be recorded in the comment response
21 document, as well as an indication of where in the
22 document we've changed things or how we dealt with
23 it and the nature of how we dealt with that. And it
24 points you back so you can go back to the document.
25 And that final will have tracked changes to show

1 where we made changes as well so it will make it
2 clear.

3 But they will be posted as the comments
4 on the website and then they will also again be
5 captured in the comment response document that will
6 be part of the final.

7 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I got this from
8 Minnesota Power, notice of the meeting and stuff
9 like that, I also got an e-mail. And I hate to
10 bring it up, I'm not sure where I got it from, that
11 the draft EIS was available for review. I'm on that
12 list. Will I get all of the things you just talked
13 about as a commenter? This was the thing we talked
14 about last October, was is that we have a problem
15 getting information to people on the land that it
16 didn't cross, you know, and I was one of them that
17 lived right next to it. It's a long story.

18 MR. BILL STORM: If you signed up for our
19 project list -- did you get a notice from us?

20 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: From Minnesota
21 Power.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Yeah, they mailed -- did
23 you mail it out under our envelope?

24 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: It was a Minnesota
25 Power envelope.

1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Before you leave
 2 tonight, on the back table on the green card, just
 3 fill out your name and your address and I'll make
 4 sure you get on my project list.

5 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: That would be good.

6 MR. BILL STORM: And once you're on the
 7 project list, when the notice of hearing, which is
 8 going to be in August comes out, you'll get it, and
 9 when the final EIS is available, you'll get that
 10 notice, too. And you can always check my website or
 11 eDockets to see if anything has been posted. But
 12 after the comment period closes on August 10th, give
 13 me a few days to maybe a week and you'll be able to
 14 see all the comments plus the transcripts on our
 15 websites.

16 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: What I'm concerned
 17 about is I want to see all the comments before we
 18 have the hearing. Is that going to be possible?

19 MR. BILL STORM: No, there's an overlap,
 20 you probably will not see them before the hearing.
 21 But, again, the comments that we're talking about
 22 now are comments on the draft environmental impact
 23 statement. The hearing is about the whole permit
 24 application, whether you believe they should get a
 25 permit, and if they should, what the route should

1 be, what an alternative route should be, or what
2 conditions should be attached to that permit.
3 That's where you can ask, because all of Minnesota
4 Power's engineers and their witnesses who provided
5 information for the route permit will be at those
6 hearings, and you can ask them directly questions
7 that you don't think the record, including the draft
8 EIS, but the whole record haven't been answered.

9 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Right. I'd like to
10 see comments from everybody, it would be nice to
11 have all that.

12 MR. BILL STORM: If you go to my website
13 you will see all the comments that I've gotten
14 during the scoping period, and you'll be able to see
15 these, but, like I said, there is some overlap about
16 when this comment period ends and when the hearing
17 starts. Usually we like to have a week of
18 separation between those two things, but because of
19 the nexus between us and the feds it just didn't
20 work out that way.

21 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay. I have your
22 card. And I'll use it.

23 MR. BILL STORM: And what I would
24 encourage you to do, two things. One, certainly
25 come to the hearing next month to tell the ALJ what

1 you think about the proposed project and what you
 2 think about the various routes that are on the
 3 table. For the draft environmental impact
 4 statement, you mentioned -- because we do talk about
 5 the high-tech GPS units that farmers use, and is
 6 there possible interference with these transmission
 7 lines. And I haven't looked at that section since
 8 it was written and so I don't know if the two lines
 9 equal that or are really in conflict if you take
 10 them in context. I think the context might be that
 11 there is a potential there, but from the literature
 12 searches that we've done, the potential seems
 13 minimal, and that's why the conclusion is this line
 14 probably won't have that effect.

15 If you, through your trade association or
 16 through your farmers journals or through even your
 17 equipment manufacturing manuals, if you have
 18 information that relates to the impact of these
 19 transmission lines on that type of equipment, point
 20 me in that direction and I will make sure that
 21 information gets put in the final EIS. As long as,
 22 you know, I'll review the information, and there's a
 23 lot of stuff on the web, and if you send me
 24 something from 18 aliens, I might not put that
 25 forward. But if you sent me something from a

1 farmers journal or from an academic study, from a
2 Canada university or a United States university
3 somewhere, some kind of documentation that shows me
4 some more of that, that may cause us to beef that
5 section up if we need to.

6 Okay. Are you fine? You can make some
7 more comments, if you'd like.

8 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: No, I don't have
9 time to do that, but I will send something.

10 MR. BILL STORM: And did I give you a CD
11 copy?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I don't need a CD
13 copy, I can get it online.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Oh, you can get it
15 online? Some people, depending on what kind of
16 online system you have, it's a big document to pull
17 it all down.

18 Okay. Anybody else want to speak on the
19 record?

20 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I have a procedural
21 question.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Carol, go ahead.

23 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: This is fairly
24 quick. Given that there's a federal aspect of this,
25 do you do the -- like record of decision process in

1
 2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
 3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
 4 JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE
 5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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 10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
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 16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
 17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
 18
 19 Seven Clans Casino
 20 10200 Highway 89
 21 Red Lake, Minnesota
 22
 23 July 13, 2015
 24
 25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Eilling, RPR

1 to study that, going, you know, into the future, so
2 that if there is a problem you can work on it.

3 'Cause it would be something where you'd want to
4 monitor that over several years. I think that would
5 be a mitigation measure to put into this document as
6 well.

7 And then just to talk about the rare
8 species plants, that's something that needs to be
9 looked at. And, again, that needs to be looked at
10 as part of your study going forward on this project.

11 Let's see what else I've got. Gentlemen?

12 MR. JOE PLUMER: I have something I want
13 to say.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Are you done?

15 MR. KADE FERRIS: I'm not done yet, but
16 I'll let these guys in.

17 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Good evening. I'm
18 Charles Olson, I have just a very short comment.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Can you state and spell
20 your name for the court reporter?

21 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Charles Olson,
22 O-L-S-O-N.

23 I haven't had a chance to read the whole
24 environmental impact statement, that fault likes
25 with me. I did, however, look over the table of the

32

1 contents, both the condensed view there and through
 2 the books. And what I see is it's done in a vacuum.
 3 And it's really just examining just a very narrow
 4 scope. And we know when we look at the environment,
 5 we know that that's not true, that it is communities
 6 with stuff all the way around.

7 So I would like to see in the final
 8 environmental impact statement a section devoted to
 9 what the power company is planning to do to minimize
 10 the needs for more of these power lines, minimize
 11 its needs through solar panels and other renewable
 12 resources. And what other projects are going on in
 13 Minnesota and what they have for that so we can
 14 actually have that macro view at some point.

15 It's almost -- it's virtually required,
 16 because as we go further down and we find more and
 17 more on environmental damage, we build more and more
 18 structures, such as pipelines, transmission lines
 19 and stuff like that, at some point we have to quit
 20 looking at it in a vacuum and start looking at them
 21 in a macro sense.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Charlie.

23 Next?

24 Please state and spell your name.

25 MR. JOE PLUMER: My name is Joe Plumer,

0032-1 Although Minnesota does not have a general statewide energy plan, the MN PUC does review long-term generation and transmission planning for individual utilities. First, the MN PUC reviews and approves the utility's integrated resource plans, which are to consider different options for transmission and generation, including demand reduction and renewables. Then, as the utility seeks approval for individual projects such as this one, the MN PUC considers these alternatives before it decides whether the project is needed and how to meet that need (Certificate of Need). A summary of the Minnesota certificate of need process is provided in EIS Section 1.3.2.

0032-1 In addition, the DOE's Federal Action is to determine whether to permit the international border crossing that is a part of the proposed Project. DOE does not have a role in reviewing an applicant utility's resource planning process. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
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14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
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16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
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19 Seven Clans Casino
20 10200 Highway 89
21 Red Lake, Minnesota
22
23 July 13, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Eilling, RPR

0033-1

As discussed in Section 5.2.1 of the EIS, high voltage transmission line projects, like the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line project, have the potential to impact human settlement in a variety of ways, including potential displacement of humans which can be assessed by evaluating the presence or absence of human settlement features like residences, churches, schools, etc. The EIS also goes on to assess the potential for impacts to humans from the project in terms of several other closely related resource areas, including, noise, public health and safety, transportation, air quality, electronic interference, and property values. No change is made to the EIS in response to this comment.

24

1 from the public. As I said before, please state and
2 spell your name, speak slowly, slower than I gave my
3 thing, and make your comment, put your question on
4 the record, and we'll go on from there.

5 So first up.

6 MR. KADE FERRIS: First off, my name is
7 not Bill.

8 MR. BILL STORM: I know, I'm sorry.

9 Although it's such a good name, I don't know why
10 everybody is not Bill.

11 MR. KADE FERRIS: I guess it's the
12 handlebars that I shaved in last week.

13 Well, my name is Kade Ferris, the
14 archeologist and anthropologist for Red Lake Nation.

15 And in reviewing this document, there is
16 a lot of things that we need to look at. I know
17 some of this stuff in here is very general. I know
18 you guys, you know, have put volumes of work in
19 here.

20 Right off the bat, I guess, is when
21 you're talking about human settlement, in section
22 S.8.1 in the beginning here, and in section 6.2.1.1
23 as well, it's looking at -- you're looking at this
24 as a place that's kind of void of human settlement
25 for the most part. There's no residences, churches,

0033-1

0033-1 cont'd

0033-1
Continued

25
1 schools. That's the comment, or that's the first
2 thing that's drawn out of here, is you're looking at
3 not affecting human uses, or human settlement, or
4 human activities in the area.

5 But as far as the property value, I think
6 it's important that an assessment is done on how
7 this could affect the Red Lake Nation's property
8 value for those lands up in the ceded area, because
9 that is something that has not been considered by
10 this project as it stands. And I think that would
11 be something that would be very important to do,
12 especially since it's not just, say, the price of
13 the land, but it's the use of the land now and in
14 the future and how people either can or can't use
15 those lands. So I think that that's something that
16 needs to be looked at.

17 You talked about aesthetics, which is a
18 really important thing. I think it would be very
19 important to look at that as well. As you are close
20 on many of these, the routes through the Red Lake
21 land, and I'm not sure that the 1,300-foot view shed
22 is accurate. I think it's very arbitrary and I
23 think that that needs to be looked at as well.
24 1,500 is another one that we're talking about as far
25 as feet for historical architectural sites, but as

0033-2
Impacts to property values are discussed within Section 5.2.1.4 and conclude that potential impacts to property values resulting from construction and operation of the proposed Project, if any, would range from no effect to a 20 percent reduction based on conclusions from the literature review included in Appendix J. While the proposed routes and variations do not cross any of the Red Lake Nation's ceded lands, some of the proposed routes and variations do cross wilderness areas that may be utilized by Red Lake Nation members for hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering; those potential impacts are discussed in Section 5.2.1.8, as part of the impacts to Natural Resource Based Economies. The EIS also acknowledges in Section 5.3.1.3 of the EIS impacts to the Red Lake Nation Band of Chippewa Indians ceded lands.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-3

The assessment of visual impacts relies on the approach stated in Section 5.3.1.1 that, "The 1,500 foot ROI for aesthetic resources was identified because the proposed Project is most likely to be visible within this near-foreground distance zone and views of the proposed Project from aesthetic resources within this distance zone have the greatest potential to result in visual impacts for sensitive viewers." Visual simulations, provided in Appendix N, Photo Simulations, of the EIS, were prepared for seven viewpoints within the study area to represent typical views of the proposed Project. These simulations are intended to provide reviewers with a sense of what the transmission line would look like from various distances and in various landscape settings within the study area.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) used for considering potential adverse effects from the proposed Project on historic architectural sites or for assessing traditional properties is discussed in Section 5.3.3.1 and is included in the draft Programmatic Agreement developed for the proposed Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The draft Programmatic Agreement is included in Appendix V of the EIS. Within the EIS the direct APE is the anticipated 200-foot ROW and the footprint of the other elements of the proposed Project. The indirect APE includes the direct APE plus a one mile radius on each side of the

anticipated alignment of the proposed transmission line or the center of the footprint of the other elements of the proposed Project.

0033-3 cont'd

0033-3
Continued

1 far as traditional use of the area, 1,500 feet might
2 not be adequate depending on what a person is doing,
3 when they're doing it, and for what purpose.

4 Again, looking at land use compatibility.
5 It would be really, I think, important there to look
6 at what -- not just the impact of the project itself
7 now, but have you looked at what type of things
8 might occur in the future on this. So how this

9 project would be through access roads that you're
10 going to use to maintain things, will that create
11 any kind of new land use in the area? Are people
12 going to have better access to land that they didn't
13 have access to previously, and maybe they'll start
14 to drain it and farm it. Has that been considered?

15 I'm not sure it's even considered in here.

16 Again, 6.2.1.2, land-based economics.

17 You're looking at agriculture, you're looking at the
18 international boundary, you're looking at forestry,
19 but the question here is have you talked to the Red
20 Lake foresters about this? Because Red Lake has a
21 very strong, ongoing forestry activity up in that
22 area, and I think that it would behoove you guys,
23 before you issue the final EIS, to speak to, to
24 engage, and to get information as much as we can, if
25 not now, but for implementing the project. If

0033-4
Chapter 2 of the EIS discusses temporary and permanent access roads that are proposed as a part of the project. Permanent access roads would generally be within the ROW and are planned by the Applicant as unimproved roadways with no grading or filling.

0033-4
Section 5.3.1.2 of EIS is updated with a discussion that acknowledges that public access is generally expected to occur in areas where access was previously not possible due to the introduction of temporary and permanent roads that would be put in place as part of the proposed GNTL Project.

0033-5
As a federally-recognized tribal nation with an interest in the general area of the Project, Red Lake Nation is a cooperating agency that has a degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. Additional information regarding consultation with Red Lake Nation is provided in the EIS. Discussion of impacts from the proposed Project to Red Lake Forest Projects, Inc. is discussed within the Socioeconomics (Section 5.2.1.8) discussion of "Natural Resource-Based Economies."

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-5

0033-6
 A draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) is developed for the proposed Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.4(b)(2)). The draft PA being developed for the proposed Project is included in Appendix V of the EIS. The PA will:

Allow for the adjustment of the APE to ensure that direct and indirect effects on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed or -eligible cultural resources are properly considered. NRHP-listed or -eligible resources may include, but would not necessarily be limited to, archaeological resources; architectural, built, or aboveground resources; properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a federally recognized Indian tribe; and/or TCPs. Stipulate the need for additional cultural resources investigations within the APE to identify and evaluate resources for NRHP-eligibility. Such investigations would address the identification of archaeological and architectural, built, or aboveground resources within the APE and evaluate these resources for NRHP-eligibility by qualified consultants. Address the identification and evaluation of TCPs by qualified consultants to identify TCPs, which may include properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a federally recognized Indian tribe, and evaluate these properties for NRHP-eligibility. Include obtaining background information from written and oral sources on the prehistory and history of the area, such as the story of Mikinaak and his people's interaction with farmers in the 1800s near the Red Lake Tribe's village by Roseau.

0033-6

27

1 anything needs to be done to engage Red Lake
 2 forestry on that, because there are a lot of
 3 activities that go on up there and it's something
 4 that needs to be looked at.

5 Architecture and archaeological
 6 resources. I like the classes you guys did. I'd
 7 like to know, and I really can't -- I guess I'm not
 8 a big fan of this idea of 126 different locations
 9 that you consider high potential areas. As far as
 10 for archeology, there's been little or nothing in
 11 the environmental impact statement on traditional
 12 cultural properties. The Red Lake tribe will be
 13 happy to work with you on that.

14 You know, I mentioned earlier about out
 15 by Roseau where the tribe has an old village that
 16 belonged to one of the tribal members in the 1800s.
 17 His name is Mikinaak. And Mikinaak was right there
 18 by Roseau Lake where the river came in, and two of
 19 your lines will be crossing in that area. And this
 20 first was very important, not just, you know, as a
 21 member of the Red Lake tribe, but also it was
 22 important historically to that area because when
 23 there was, I guess, a panic where the farmers
 24 thought there was going to be an Indian uprising,
 25 and they all left to escape being killed, I guess,

0033-6 cont'd

0033-6
Continued

28

1 which never, of course, was going to happen,
 2 Mikinaak and his people fed and watered cattle and
 3 livestock to make sure they didn't die. And he was
 4 a really important part of history in that Roseau
 5 area. And I think it would be really important as
 6 part of this project to hear some of those stories
 7 and to get that information out so that it can be
 8 noted that this area is Ojibwe land, but more so,
 9 it's not something where is it vacated for any other
 10 reason than people diminished those lands. So I
 11 think that would be really important to do in terms
 12 of satisfying that part. I know there's an
 13 agreement and we can do great stuff with that. I
 14 will definitely have to give some props to the
 15 Department of Energy for working with the Red Lake
 16 Nation on going over that PA, and I think it would
 17 provide some great information moving forward on
 18 this project as well.

19 There's a lot of other things in here
 20 that, I mean, I could go on and on and talk the rest
 21 of the night, if you'd like.

22 But some of the other key things, just
 23 looking at the natural environment area, is things
 24 like water resources. Again, you know, is your
 25 project, by having these different, like I said,

0033-7

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-7 cont'd

0033-7
Continued
0033-8

Impacts to vegetation are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. Chapter 6 of the EIS identifies that the MN PUC Route Permit could also require the development of a Vegetation Management Plan as a permit condition, which could include plant surveys along the permitted ROW, incorporate vegetation clearing, and management of invasive species. The MN PUC typically requires the Applicant to prepare a plan in coordination with the MnDNR as a condition of the Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-8

0033-9

Thank you for providing this information. The references are added to Chapter 9 of the EIS. We have reviewed the documents that you referenced regarding ungulates and smaller animals and their use of transmission line corridors. The studies indicate that ungulates cross transmission line corridors unlike road corridors which act as barriers. Predators may use the corridors more often which would deter use by ungulate and other smaller animals. In addition, animals with young will avoid corridors of any type because they don't provide cover for their young to hide from predators. The results are inconclusive for reindeer for the selected study areas - but there were extenuating circumstances (roads and dams) which may limit their need to cross the transmission line corridors. The documents provide some methods to reduce the effects of corridors on ungulates, which primarily involve returning the corridor back to an intermediate level of successional forest that provides more habitat (cover, food, etc.).

0033-9

Following full review of the studies pointed to by the commenter for any new information relevant to the proposed Project, no changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

29

access roads, staging areas, which are they permanent or not? That's something that needs to be answered in here. And, if so, could that have an impact on water resources in the area, if people decide they're going to start draining the land and use some of that land up there and they have access, that's a big concern.

Also, you know, vegetation. You're removing a lot of areas and keeping them clear and I think that needs to be looked at from a tribal perspective going forward. It's not so much germane here to the EIS in that sense, but I think you need to mention that as a mitigative measure, that you'll work with the tribe to identify plants and other resources like that that will or can be affected, and trying to, I guess, get ideas from the tribe to better manage those up in that area because we know what the long-going cumulative impacts might be to some of those plant colonies.

Wildlife. I have mentioned this probably a good dozen times at the PA meetings. It was not so much in that sense a culture resource issue, but it's also a natural resource issue. These large power lines, you're going to be creating these gigantic slots of more or less predator highway for

0033-9
Continued

30

1 a lot of hunters, but also for natural predators
2 such as the wolf, and a lot of movements in order to
3 get access and I guess they hunt for subsistence.
4 And so I think that's something that needs to be
5 examined going forward. It might not be something
6 that you really need to address here, but it's
7 something that should be addressed, I think, as far
8 as this project goes.

9 I think you need to make sure that you're
10 working with the Red Lake DNR on some of the
11 activities that happen up in that area. And what
12 you can do to work with Red Lake DNR going forward
13 into the future as far as monitoring some of those
14 things that happen there as far as is there going to
15 be an effect. We don't know, it's hard to tell. A
16 lot of studies have taken place that say that there
17 can or can't be an effect. There's some Norwegian
18 studies that I've read, deer and other game don't
19 want to cross those areas. Not because it's a
20 gigantic wild area that is traveled by a person or a
21 wolf, but because you've got those high-voltage
22 lines. And there's speculation that those
23 high-voltage lines can keep them from moving
24 naturally.

25 So I think working with the tribe's DNR

1 to study that, going, you know, into the future, so
2 that if there is a problem you can work on it.

3 'Cause it would be something where you'd want to
4 monitor that over several years. I think that would
5 be a mitigation measure to put into this document as
6 well.

7 And then just to talk about the rare
8 species plants, that's something that needs to be
9 looked at. And, again, that needs to be looked at
10 as part of your study going forward on this project.

11 Let's see what else I've got. Gentlemen?

12 MR. JOE PLUMER: I have something I want
13 to say.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Are you done?

15 MR. KADE FERRIS: I'm not done yet, but
16 I'll let these guys in.

17 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Good evening. I'm
18 Charles Olson, I have just a very short comment.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Can you state and spell
20 your name for the court reporter?

21 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Charles Olson,
22 O-L-S-O-N.

23 I haven't had a chance to read the whole
24 environmental impact statement, that fault likes
25 with me. I did, however, look over the table of the

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25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Eilling, RPR

0034-1

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected the Applicant will identify the locations for all permanent and temporary access roads, laydown areas, stringing areas, fly-in sites, and structure locations. They will work with the appropriate federal and state agencies to develop survey plans, conduct fieldwork, and determine the wetland and other resource impacts for the project. This information will be needed in order to complete the federal and state permitting processes.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0034-1

34

where they lie as far as the preferred route and the alternate route. And if there's anything that can be done, we would like that to be avoided. These are lands that we don't yet know the exact description.

Okay. Did you get that okay, Janet?

COURT REPORTER: I did. Thank you.

MR. JOE PLUMER: Thank you.

MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Kade, do you want to continue?

MR. KADE FERRIS: Yeah.

I think, you know, Joe made a really good point about the route and, you know, I guess what's going to be the main route.

But, also, I think as far as the construction procedures, that was something I know I've been -- I'd love to see something as far as where you're planning on doing the staging access roads, not just for ongoing maintenance, but also construction. You put those roads in, take those roads out, how you're going to restrict or allow access to those areas, because once a road is somewhere people love to use it. So that's going to be a real big issue that you need to make sure that you address in this document, is how you're going to

0034-1 cont'd

35

0034-1
Continued

1 deal with those roads. Because the second there's a
 2 road, then all of a sudden we're going to be hunting
 3 on those areas and going back there and doing your
 4 things and that's, I guess, an impact that needs to
 5 be examined in here.

6 I think that Charlie made a good point as
 7 well as far as how does this tie into future
 8 projects. You know, is this going to satisfy your
 9 need for the next five years or 10 years or 20 years
 10 as far as this line from Canada? Do you see this
 11 becoming, I guess, a conduit for future additional
 12 projects and how this can open that up? 'Cause
 13 that's one of the things that I've always tried to
 14 stress, is the second you do something, it makes it
 15 easier to do something else. And I think that's
 16 exactly what Charles was trying to say, is the
 17 second you do a project, it goes through, now all of
 18 a sudden, hey, wait, we have to have a substation
 19 here or we're going to have to put in additional
 20 lines because we have additional need, and is that
 21 going to be addressed adequately as far as, you
 22 know, sufficiency of this project for a specific
 23 amount of time, because that's something people will
 24 definitely want to know.

25 I know, as far as -- what's the section?

0034-2
Although Minnesota does not have a general statewide energy plan, the MN PUC does review long-term planning for individual utilities. First, the MN PUC reviews and approves the utility's integrated resource plans, which are to consider different options for generation, including renewables. Then, as the utility seeks approval for individual projects such as this one, the MN PUC decided whether the project is needed and how to meet that need (Certificate of Need). The MN PUC certificate of need process is discussed in Section 1.3.2 of the EIS.

Chapter 7 of the EIS addresses the cumulative impacts of "reasonably foreseeable" future actions in the US. Other more speculative actions are outside the scope of analysis for this document.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0034-2
Continued 0034-3

The Biological Assessment, added to the EIS in Appendix R, discusses potential impacts to the northern long-eared bat, as well as avoidance and minimization measures intended to protect this Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species.

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1 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Can I ask, when you
2 say for a specific amount of time --

3 MR. KADE FERRIS: I guess how long is
4 this going to be sufficient for the state of
5 Minnesota? I mean, meeting your needs as a power
6 company? Is it five years, 10 years, 20 years? How
7 long do you see it satisfying your needs before you
8 have to go after more lines or, as Charles said, go
9 after alternative energy.

10 I know hydro is an alternative energy in
11 a sense, it's green energy, and that's great, you
12 don't have to have more coal and that kind of thing
13 and so that's very commendable. But, it's still --
14 it's not, I guess, as green as other forms of energy
15 could be, because you have to knock out of a lot of
16 trees and so that's the idea there.

17 A long-eared bat, I assume you guys have
18 a head's up on that one. I know that they're --
19 that's one of the things that I think is something
20 that needs to be looked at, too, is how much is this
21 habitat -- or how are you going to address it, and
22 that came out recently so you have to make sure you
23 address that adequately in here.

24 All right. Okay. Here we are. Other
25 than that, we're going to provide some written

0034-3

1 comments. But, yeah, those are just some of the
2 things that are, you know, definitely of issue.

3 Anything else gentlemen?

4 MR. JOE PLUMER: I can't think of
5 anything right now.

6 MR. KADE FERRIS: But, I mean, this is a
7 huge document. And we're glad, you know, that you
8 are moving forward, that we have a plan at least to
9 satisfy some of these studies.

10 And I want to thank Department of Energy
11 and I want to thank Minnesota Power for allowing Red
12 Lake to be a cooperator and see the studies ongoing
13 to help satisfy the EIS. And I think that's where
14 we'll be here shortly, and we'll definitely provide
15 some more written comments as well, and we'll be
16 writing those to Julie at the Department of Energy.

17 So thank you.

18 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

19 And I just wanted to ask a question for
20 clarification. As a cooperator, this is an ongoing
21 discussion, so I know Al, he is the director for
22 DNR, and the forestry falls under his department?
23 Is that correct?

24 MR. KADE FERRIS: Yes.

25 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: I just wanted to

0034-4

Plans associated with the proposed Project would be developed following selection of the final route by the MN PUC. As a standard practice, the Applicant follows industry standard protocol for fire prevention during construction, including but not limited to:

- a. Maintain orderly work sites.
- b. Regularly inform workers on fire danger, particularly in high fire danger seasons and areas.
- c. Identify and communicate emergency contact information for the appropriate work location.
- d. Fire extinguishers available on all equipment.
- e. Use of fire spotters during hot work (welding, grinding, etc.).
- f. Conduct open burning only by and in accordance with burning permit.
- g. Requiring construction contractors to act expeditiously to extinguish wildfires and to do everything reasonably within a contractor's power, both independently and on request of any duly-authorized representative of the United States, to prevent and suppress fires on or near the job-site, including making available such construction personnel and equipment as may be reasonably obtainable for the suppression of such fires.

The Applicant regularly inspects all of its transmission lines during operation and for maintenance. In the case of a wildfire, lines would be inspected for integrity following an event. The Applicant would work in coordination with responding fire department or other agencies with regard to aerial application of chemical fire retardants that may have corrosive or other deleterious effects to transmission system facilities. Final protocols for fire management would be further defined in the general conditions of the proposed Project in the permitting phase of the process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0034-4

38

1 make sure.

2 MR. KADE FERRIS: Right. And that's

3 important, you know, is to talk to them directly,

4 because there's a lot of guys on staff and they have

5 a lot of things to do. So if, you know, in

6 implementing some of those things, we have those

7 guys directly seeing, you know, what type of things

8 and work they have to do that would make, I guess,

9 their jobs easier, but also make their management go

10 more smooth. 'Cause there's a lot of lands that are

11 up there, our target over the next several years for

12 them is for harvest, and then there's always the

13 issue of -- and I don't believe you mentioned that

14 in here, but forest fires and cleanup. Because you

15 guys run the risk of having forest fires rip through

16 this area where your transmission line is, and when

17 that happens, how is that going to affect things,

18 like cleanup of those areas, you might want to plop

19 that in here as an extra item.

20 Okay. Thanks, guys.

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kade.

23 Anyone else want to go on the record

24 tonight?

25 Okay. If not, I do want to remind you,

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13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Bigfork School
20 100 Huskie Boulevard
21 Bigfork, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0035-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

30

1 your comment.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get an
3 electronic copy of the draft to take with you?

4 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: No, I'd like one.

5 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay. We'll make
6 sure you get one before you go.

7 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else who
8 wants to speak?

9 Yes, sir. If you would step to the mic
10 and state and spell your name.

11 MR. DENNY PAVEK: My name is Denny Pavek,
12 P-A-V-E-K.

13 And I wasn't planning to speak, but
14 listening to a couple of folks talk here I wanted to
15 just state the gentleman, Dave Christenson, says it
16 for us, too. We're in Deer Lake, we have a
17 homeowners association, I represent the 50 cabin
18 owners up there, and we fully support, as it's
19 called, I believe, the Effie route. I believe
20 that's the red route, is that correct?

21 MR. BILL STORM: We have not assigned
22 colors.

23 MR. DENNY PAVEK: The map has colors,
24 though.

25 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yeah, the Effie

0035-1

1 variation.

2 MR. DENNY PAVEK: It is the red route,
3 and there are a few people that live there
4 year-round. So that's where we as the cabin owners
5 association would like to see it go.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9 Does that spur anybody? Anybody else
10 want to speak?

11 MR. JOHN KANNAS: I will.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yes, sir. State and
13 spell your name, please.

14 MR. JOHN KANNAS: Sure. My name is John
15 Kannas, K-A-N-N-A-S.

16 I'm a supervisor in Balsam Township and
17 there are three routes that cross Balsam Township.
18 We understand the line is going through, and the
19 town board is in support, and all the residents,
20 that we want the blue route through Balsam, not the
21 alternative route, which is the green route or the
22 yellow or orange route, which slices the township
23 right in the middle, right through the main populous
24 area. And the other is the abandoned Minnesota
25 Power line, but, again, we don't want that, we want

1
 2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
 3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
 4 JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE
 5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 6 AND
 7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
 8
 9
 10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
 11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
 12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
 13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
 14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
 15
 16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
 17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
 18
 19 Seven Clans Casino
 20 10200 Highway 89
 21 Red Lake, Minnesota
 22
 23 July 13, 2015
 24
 25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Eilling, RPR

1 contents, both the condensed view there and through
2 the books. And what I see is it's done in a vacuum.
3 And it's really just examining just a very narrow
4 scope. And we know when we look at the environment,
5 we know that that's not true, that it is communities
6 with stuff all the way around.

7 So I would like to see in the final
8 environmental impact statement a section devoted to
9 what the power company is planning to do to minimize
10 the needs for more of these power lines, minimize
11 its needs through solar panels and other renewable
12 resources. And what other projects are going on in
13 Minnesota and what they have for that so we can
14 actually have that macro view at some point.

15 It's almost -- it's virtually required,
16 because as we go further down and we find more and
17 more on environmental damage, we build more and more
18 structures, such as pipelines, transmission lines
19 and stuff like that, at some point we have to quit
20 looking at it in a vacuum and start looking at them
21 in a macro sense.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Charlie.

23 Next?

24 Please state and spell your name.

25 MR. JOE PLUMER: My name is Joe Plumer,

0036-1

DOE recognizes the Red Lake Tribe's concerns regarding potential impacts on tribal lands and understand that the tribe will be coordinating with the Applicant regarding the locations of ceded lands that would be restored to the tribe per the recent resolution of disputed Volstead land parcels. Additionally, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0036-1

33

P-L-U-M-E-R.

My comment has to do with the route.

I've talked with Minnesota Power about this concern, and it has to do with I would say that overall on balance that the tribe would prefer, you know, the blue line, the blue route. Mainly because Minnesota Power has done a pretty good job of avoiding all the tribe ceded lands, known ceded lands. And my comment right now has to do with the unknown ceded lands.

And the tribe has been recently informed of a decision of the field solicitor, or not the field, the main solicitor in Washington, that this issue involving Bolstad leaned parcels was finally resolved 70 years after the restoration order of the ceded lands. And it was decided in the tribe's favor. And what that means, bottom line, is there's going to be about 66,000 acres coming back to the tribe, but we don't know the exact legal descriptions yet.

So I would just like it to be noted that we don't know where they're all located, we know they're in five northern counties, and once we have the exact descriptions, we'll get those to Jim of Minnesota Power as soon as possible just to see

1 where they lie as far as the preferred route and the
2 alternate route. And if there's anything that can
3 be done, we would like that to be avoided. These
4 are lands that we don't yet know the exact
5 description.

6 Okay. Did you get that okay, Janet?

7 COURT REPORTER: I did. Thank you.

8 MR. JOE PLUMER: Thank you.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Kade, do you want
10 to continue?

11 MR. KADE FERRIS: Yeah.

12 I think, you know, Joe made a really good
13 point about the route and, you know, I guess what's
14 going to be the main route.

15 But, also, I think as far as the
16 construction procedures, that was something I know
17 I've been -- I'd love to see something as far as
18 where you're planning on doing the staging access
19 roads, not just for ongoing maintenance, but also
20 construction. You put those roads in, take those
21 roads out, how you're going to restrict or allow
22 access to those areas, because once a road is
23 somewhere people love to use it. So that's going to
24 be a real big issue that you need to make sure that
25 you address in this document, is how you're going to

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
6 AND
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Bigfork School
20 100 Huskie Boulevard
21 Bigfork, Minnesota
22
23 July 21, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 reporter can follow you.

2 Try to focus your comments on the draft
3 EIS. I'm not going to cut you off if you want to
4 comment on something else, but I'm asking you to
5 focus your comments on the draft EIS. And written
6 comments to either me or Jules or both, it doesn't
7 matter, by regular mail, e-mail, snail mail that
8 sort of information. You can also comment
9 electronically. If you go to the Commerce website,
10 there's a link that you can comment electronically.
11 If you go to the fed's website there's a link there,
12 too.

13 So that's the fed and the state process
14 and I'm going to turn it over to the public. No one
15 filled out a card so I'm just going to go with a
16 show of hands.

17 Does anyone want to speak on the record
18 tonight?

19 Okay, sir, I ask that you step to the
20 mic, state and spell your name, and try to speak
21 slowly and deliberately, unlike I do, for the court
22 reporter. Thank you.

23 MR. DANIEL SIGFRID: My name is Daniel
24 Sigfrid, S-I-G-F-R-I-D. And I own property on this
25 proposed route, the blue route.

0037-1

Notification of the proposed Project was provided in a manner consistent with DOE and MN PUC requirements and outlined in Section 1.4.4 of the EIS. Additionally, as described in Section 2.3.1, the Applicant hosted numerous public involvement meetings throughout the route selection process to provide Project information and solicit feedback from the public.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-1

23

1 I'm going to ask you a question. I see
 2 your process. You're buffaloing the people who own
 3 property along this route. You said that the EIS
 4 draft just came out and before that in 2014
 5 everybody was notified when you did the route.
 6 Nobody was notified. Nobody. I've got people who
 7 live there, I live in the Cities, I own property up
 8 here, and you did your scoping decision and nobody
 9 was notified.

10 You said there was a public hearing. I
 11 see that in the record there was a public hearing.
 12 But nobody got notified about the public hearing.
 13 So you tell me how you can come out here now and you
 14 tell me that there's nothing we can do anything
 15 about it anymore. Yeah, you've got your process
 16 between the federal, state, but you forgot about the
 17 people who own and live and have property up here.

18 I read every piece of mail I get. I
 19 never got it. People I know, right here, five or
 20 six of them were never notified. Now you're telling
 21 us it's too late to show you an alternative, it's
 22 too late to raise a fuss. You guys are buffaloing
 23 us. You're on a path.

24 I also know the people who own this
 25 company, Minnesota Power, it's not a Minnesota

0037-1 cont'd

0037-1
Continued 0037-2

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

24

1 company. I also know the shareholders, the
 2 politicians who bought into this three, four years
 3 ago when it was done underneath us. Now you show up
 4 and you just want to show a process which relates,
 5 we don't know, because you never notified us.
 6 Bullshit.

7 This is a wilderness. This is a
 8 beautiful place in Minnesota. You talk about green,
 9 this is the green alternative, that's the opening
 10 paragraph, hydropower from Manitoba. Do you know
 11 when they back up their river in Manitoba what it'll
 12 do with fishery and the wildlife up there? Then
 13 you're going to cut 276 miles of wilderness out of
 14 the state of Minnesota wilderness. I'm not talking
 15 about farmland, I'm talking about wilderness. 276
 16 miles of green trees that don't grow back again.
 17 And you're saying this is green, this is good for
 18 the state, this keeps us from doing another coal
 19 plant. The need for electricity isn't even there
 20 and evidently this is forward-looking. People
 21 invested. The state capitol, who bought stock in
 22 this deal, in this parent company that owns
 23 Minnesota Power. They're the only ones who are
 24 going to make money. They're the only ones who are
 25 going to benefit.

0037-3

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-3

0037-4

The condemnation process and the Buy the Farm provision are summarized in Sections 2.9.1 and 2.9.2 of the EIS, respectively.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-4

25

1 The wildlife, the deer hunters. I have a
 2 small piece of land. I've been coming up here 30
 3 years. We have people from all over the United
 4 States that come up here. We took a vote 10 years
 5 ago, if you want to bring electricity to our deer
 6 shacks, they voted 10 to nothing, no. This is our
 7 solitude, this is our beauty, these are our timber
 8 wolf, these are goose, these are white tail deer,
 9 links, bobcats, pine martin.

10 You're going to wipe out 276 miles and
 11 pay these people who own this property for a
 12 200-foot stripe through their property, which is
 13 nothing. Or you're going to go, why don't you do
 14 buy the farm provision. You people know about the
 15 buy the farm provision? They have to buy your
 16 property. You want to know what, the state gets the
 17 last laugh on that. If you decide to do the buy the
 18 farm provision, that they buy your property, within
 19 90 days they condemn it and they'll drag you through
 20 court on the price of your property for eight years.

21 And now we get a letter and it's too late
 22 to speak, it's too late to talk. You're dealing
 23 with Minnesota people here, good people who love
 24 this land.

25 And it's about profit, it's about people

0037-5

Neither the State of Minnesota (MN PUC) nor the U.S. Department of Energy has made a final decision on its permit for this proposed Project, and the final schedule for the DOE Presidential permit is as yet undetermined.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-5

26

1 making money in the future on a stock that they
2 bought and they passed it through the state capitol.
3 I'd like to ring all their necks, and I don't mean
4 to be violent because I'm not.

5 So instead of going through the draft
6 EIS, this is all beyond me. You guys are two years
7 ahead of us. We don't even had a stand anymore. We
8 can't complain, we can't show you an alternative
9 route. We can't do anything. You're going to take
10 hundreds and hundreds of years of people's lives who
11 love this area, who love this pristine wilderness.
12 You know what the road is called? The Wilderness
13 Trail. What you want to do is come in and buffalo
14 all these people, you don't even notify people
15 before these hearings.

16 I saw the list. 12 people in Koochiching
17 and Itasca County. My name was on there. I just
18 saw it the other day. I was here for the Minnesota
19 Power and they immediately took us off into little
20 groups trying to explain this away. That was a year
21 ago. Even that was after the scoping decision was
22 already done.

23 So that's it. I'm not going to say any
24 more. Except for I've got almost 30 years of
25 family, my son, who was a helicopter pilot in the

1 army, he was killed three years ago. Is this what
2 he was fighting for? To get buffaloed? To run down
3 the road? This is already a done deal. And the
4 politicians who bought the stock already know that.
5 That's why they invested. Two, three, four, five
6 years ago. Now it's a done deal. Nothing we can
7 do. Nothing we can say. It doesn't matter.

8 Our lives, this is where I come, this is
9 my place. Somebody is telling me be careful up
10 there, what if you break your leg and you're up
11 there by yourself on the deer stands. I said, Luke,
12 he said, I don't want to come and find you dead, and
13 I'm in Alabama training to be a helicopter pilot, he
14 said I don't want to find you dead up there. I told
15 him one thing. I said, you want to know what? If I
16 die up there, there's nobody else in the world who
17 will want to come up there and find me. And I said
18 when you find me, I'll have a smile on my face
19 because this is the place I love.

20 I'm done.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you for
22 your comment.

23 Next? Anyone else want to comment on the
24 record?

25 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: I will.

1
2 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING
4
5 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS
6 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
7 AND
8 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
9
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties
15
16 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
17 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499
18
19 Timberlake Lodge
20 144 SE 17th Street
21 Grand Rapids, Minnesota
22
23 July 22, 2015
24
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0038-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

27

1 It's listed as a nonresidential. It's a cabin that
2 we use on a weekly basis. In fact, we use it
3 year-round. So I will be sending in that comment.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kathy.

6 Okay. Next? Anyone else?

7 Sir, please step to the mic and state and
8 spell your name.

9 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Rodney Charles
10 Toomi, T-0-0-M-I.

11 If I understood everything both of you
12 said, that right now if we already sent an e-mail to
13 both of you with our concerns, that is as much as we
14 can do at this time, and the contested hearings will
15 be coming up in August and that will be the next
16 step, correct?

17 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct, sir.

18 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: I'm also

19 guessing everything that was shared on the slides is
20 also on the website, or is there information that
21 you presented that would not be in the website?

22 MR. BILL STORM: I don't think -- I'll
23 put the slides on the website.

24 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. My last
25 question is, and if you put it on the website I can

0038-1

1 get it there, but if you go back three slides you
2 gave two numbers that should be on the
3 correspondence and I only had one of them and I sent
4 it to you guys so I want to make sure I had the
5 other one.

6 MR. BILL STORM: That would be the docket
7 number, it's TL-14-21 --

8 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: And EIS-0499.

9 MR. BILL STORM: That's the DOE number.

10 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. I

11 believe. But for this point, as long as we sent it
12 to you, that's as much as we can do here until the
13 contested hearings would be in place?

14 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct.

15 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you.

18 Anyone else want to speak on the record?
19 Okay, sir, please step to the mic, state
20 and spell your name.

21 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Mike Hughes,
22 H-U-G-H-E-S.

23 When I first went to the meeting before,
24 I looked at all the evidence, and I still feel like
25 I'm David trying to fight Goliath. You know, do

1

DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Bigfork School
100 Huskie Boulevard
Bigfork, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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0039-1

The draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) developed for the proposed Project located in Appendix V includes stipulations related to the need for additional cultural resource investigations to identify and evaluate resources potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such investigations would:

Address the identification of archaeological and architectural, built, or aboveground resources for NRHP-eligibility by qualified cultural consultants; Address the identification and evaluation of traditional cultural properties (TCPs), which may include properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to federally-recognized Indian tribes and evaluate these properties for NHRP-eligibility; Include obtaining background information from written and oral sources on the prehistory and history of the area, including Effie County, County Road 27, and the Knight Family.

0039-1

32

1 to see it as far east of the township as possible.
2 So that's all I have to say. But thank
3 you for letting us talk.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
5 comment.

6 Anyone else?
7 Okay. Yes, sir. Please state and spell
8 your name.

9 MR. CHRIS VIERE: Chris Viere, V-I-E-R-E.
10 And I'm commenting on the environmental review.

11 One of the things that you do, is you
12 aggregate the overall view is some of the micro, you
13 know, easements that happen along different routes.
14 And those, you know, aren't necessarily reflected in
15 detail in certain areas.

16 So one of the things I want to kind of
17 highlight here, on the orange route that comes
18 through Effie and it passes through County Road 27,
19 we go through and if you go you'll see this various
20 important cultural artifacts.

21 Everybody here is familiar with the
22 Knights, I have property next to them, I got to know
23 them, very good people. James Knight was an
24 environmentalist and a historian. And the route
25 would pass right through that country. And so

1 before anybody would even realize what happened,
2 they draw basically a power line right through the
3 important part of the history. And the family is
4 still there. So this book is available on Amazon,
5 We Homesteaded, it's a fantastic read that really is
6 about the environment that was here for a century
7 and in many respects is still here.

8 And so I think that one of the really
9 excellent things that has been done here is the
10 Effie variation, where there's an 80 percent of the
11 existing corridors, and I think that would greatly
12 diminish the environmental impact.

13 Thank you.

14 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, sir.

16 Cheryl, could you get the information
17 from that book just so that we can track it down?

18 Okay. Anyone else? Okay. I'll come
19 back, I do three calls before I call the meeting.

20 So what I want to remind you is to
21 comment on the draft environmental impact statement
22 you have until August 10. If you want a CD copy,
23 please see me and we'll make sure you get one before
24 you leave. When you make your comment, put the
25 docket number and the DOE number on it.

0041-1 Map 6-46 in the EIS is revised to show the location of your gravel pit.

Please provide your contact information. This information and your comments will be publicly available.

Name: Carol Avelsgaard Phone: 732-846-5253
Street Address: 105 North 2nd Ave State: NJ ZIP: 08904
City: Highland Park Email: avelsgaard@msn.com

Share your comments on the Draft EIS regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line project. Be as specific as possible.

- What information or analysis needs to be clarified?
• What information or analysis is missing or incomplete?
• Are any specific edits needed to make the document complete and accurate?

Draft EIS section or page number: 5-93 Information to be corrected or new information needed:

East of Battle Lake in 151-29-22 (Gravel Pit) J2 Segment Option runs along the property line on the east side. This pit is operational. The proposed transmission line runs along a high, steep ridge. The west side of the ridge is being mined for gravel and the ridge has been undercut. It is not stable. Construction of the line would prevent me from extracting more gravel.

Draft EIS section or page number: Information to be corrected or new information needed:

Notes: My summer address is 65629 City Rd 174 Northome, MN 56661 Phone 218-897-5106

Draft EIS section or page number: Information to be corrected or new information needed:

Attach additional comments as necessary using the format above. If attaching additional comments, please number the page(s) and tell us how many pages you are including: page(s).

RECEIVED
 JUL 27
 MAILROOM
 Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
 MN Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 Saint Paul, MN 55114-1198



WILLIAM COLE STORM
 MN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 85 7TH PLACE EAST STE 500
 SAINT PAUL MN 55101-2198

55101\$6013 C012

Comment Period: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 Great Northern Transmission Line
 Docket Nos. E-015/TL-14-21

An environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures associated with a proposed project. The EIS is issued as a draft so that it can be improved through public comment. The purpose of this comment period is to gather feedback about specific, factual information that needs to be clarified or included in the final EIS. Comments regarding new route alternatives are not considered.

After reading the Draft EIS, you might have developed a preference for a specific route alternative. This will be considered, but preferences are best expressed to an administrative law judge through the public hearing portion of the permitting process, currently scheduled for August 5, 6, 12 and 13, 2015.

Direct your questions regarding commenting or submitting your comments to the Environmental Review Manager, Bill Storm, at: bill.storm@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1844. Information regarding the proposed project is available at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=33847>. For information regarding the public hearing contact the public advisor at consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Public Comment Period Closes Monday, August 10, 2015

Comments must be post-marked or received electronically by the comment deadline.

How to comment:

- Submit this form to the Environmental Review Manager at a public meeting
- Mail this form remembering to affix appropriate postage
- Mail comments in a separate envelope using the mailing address on this form
- Fax comments to the Environmental Review Manager: (651) 539-0109
- Email comments to the Environmental Review Manager: bill.storm@state.mn.us
- Use the online comment form at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Comments do not need to be on this form to be accepted. We encourage you to provide comments in whatever way is most convenient for you. If commenting by email or fax use "Public Comment: Great Northern Transmission Line DEIS (E-015/TL-14-21)" in the subject line.

THANK YOU for commenting on the Draft EIS!



Comment on the Great Northern Transmission Line Docket Number TL-14-21

Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

0042-1 Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Lorris and Elsie Erickson

Organization (if any): Farm Land near project

Mailing Address: 22556 State Hwy 89

City: Roseau

State: MN

Zip: 56751

Email: _____

0042-1

Comment: Please do NOT use the alternate route.

Roseau Lake WMA segment 1

Route South near MN 89 and East near CR 126

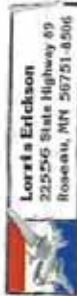
Farm Land near project.

Please use proposed Blueorange shared Route.

Farm Machinery is Bigger.

Also crop spraying planes are opening!

Please fold, fasten, and mail. No envelope necessary.



GRAND FORKS ND 582
10 JUL 2015 PM 1 T

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

55101\$6013

0043-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: [David Foster](#)
To: [Storm_Bill \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: power line
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 9:25:14 PM

| 0043-1

I am against the power line going through Malung
Janet Foster

0044-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0044-1

From: [Linda Johnson](mailto:Linda.Johnson@state.mn.us)
To: [Storm_Bill \(COM.MN\)](mailto:Storm_Bill@COM.MN)
Subject: Fwd: TL-14-21 The Great Northern Transmission Line
Date: Monday, July 13, 2015 7:56:03 AM

Dear Mr. Storm:

I apologize for a serious mistake in my previous email. The last statement should read:

"I urge you to consider the overall environmental impact to this area and choose the **Red Route**".

Thank you,
Linda Johnson
8614 Brant St NE
Circle Pines, MN 55014

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda Johnson** <linda.johnson888@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 12, 2015 at 8:25 PM

Subject: TL-14-21 The Great Northern Transmission Line

To: bill.storm@state.mn.us

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am Linda Johnson, a property owner on Napoleon Lake in Itasca County. It is located in the heart of your proposed and favored transmission line route - referred to as the "Blue Route".

Public opposition to lines tends to focus on their visual and environmental impacts. In 1993 Priestly and Craik conducted a survey regarding public concerns with overhead powerlines (median percentage of respondents perceiving impacts) and here are those findings:

- 54% aesthetics
- 50% property values
- 45% health
- 24% safety
- 15% noise
- 8% TV radio reception

Objectives and benefits of using new transmission technologies that are available today:

- Increase power-carrying capacity within *existing* (constrained) ROWs.
- Reduce/minimize impacts of transmission lines: environmental, visual, footprint, etc.

I am opposed to the Blue Route. The Blue Route would create an undesirable footprint in a heavily hunted / hiked / ATV accessible wilderness area. It would displace wildlife. The men in my family hunt that area; we have hiked and picked berries and enjoyed the wildlife native to that area. The Blue Route will change that dramatically and forever.

I oppose the Orange Route for the same reasons as the Blue route. Why create another negative footprint?

Using the Red Route would make sense as you would piggyback on land that currently has overhead powerlines. The footprint would be much smaller. It would conserve the wilderness that all of us who live in and recreate in have come to appreciate and enjoy.

This is curious to me: I learned that the new lines would serve corporations / industry and you don't even have committed customers for this approved project.

I urge you to consider the overall environmental impact to this area and choose the **Red Route**.

Sincerely,
Linda Johnson
8614 Brant St NE
Circle Pines, MN 55014

0046-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Susan Lisell
To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
Date: Friday, July 31, 2015 8:52:13 AM

July 31, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
Ms. Ann O'Reilly
Representative Dan Fabian
Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Susan Lisell and I am a *property owner and agricultural producer* of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

0046-1

0046-1 cont'd

0046-1
Continued

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Lisell

24459 County Road 129 Roseau, MN 56751

218-424-7743 or cell phone 218-452-0081

gislisell@gmail.com

0047-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Joanna Lisell
 To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
 Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
 Date: Friday, July 31, 2015 8:48:19 AM

July 31, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
 Ms. Ann O'Reilly
 Representative Dan Fabian
 Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Susan Lisell and I am a *property owner and agricultural producer* of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

0047-1

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Lisell

24459 County Road 129 Roseau, MN 56751

218-424-7743 or cell phone 218-452-0081

gislisell@gmail.com

0048-1

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.4.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

0048-1

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0048-2

Beltrami North Variation 1 was developed with the intent to avoid USFWS Interest Lands. This alternative one of the scoping comments received for the proposed Project. Based on all of the scoping comments received, the DOC-EERA issued the scoping decision for this EIS on January 8, 2015 (Appendix D). The scoping decision identifies matters to be addressed in this EIS, including resources potentially impacted by the project and alternative route segments and alignment modifications - beyond those proposed routes and associated facilities proposed by the Applicant.

0048-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.



To: Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am concerned about the Scoping Decision Route that goes across, and thereby forms, Beltrami North Variation 1. The right of way of this route is largely private land. It includes residences and farmland that is farmed by my son and me. I am concerned because of the difficulty of farming around the towers, especially with large equipment. We would have to give them wide berth to avoid hitting them with, say, the far end of a wide cultivator or field sprayer. Aerial spraying of crops would be difficult, if possible at all. Yet sometimes it is our only alternative if the land is too wet to permit ground travel.

It seems to me that the people who proposed this scoping decision route didn't make much, if any, effort to avoid either farmland or homes. What they apparently did try to avoid was having the route go through public land. This is surprising to me since I thought that a primary objective of any proposed route is that it minimizes affecting homes, farmland, and other private land use.

I don't understand the aversion to having a route cross public land. I don't see what great negative effect is assumed to result by crossing such land. What possible negative effect on the environment, on wildlife, or on the movement or retention of water could have seemed so monumental that it would outweigh the considerable negative effect of crossing a good deal of farmland and numerous homes. I have observed the similar existing power line crossing public land near the farm where I live numerous times each year for all the years since it has been installed. Since most of these times were during deer hunting season, I have been near it for prolonged periods and various times of day. For the most part it is still and silent, although it will often crackle or buzz when exposed to snow, light rain, or moisture laden air. Wind doesn't affect it and the wildlife doesn't seem to mind it, treating it like any other sizable opening. Indeed, the wildlife appears to benefit from the grassy areas on the higher land and the low willows and water tolerant non-woody vegetation on the lower areas. It generates a powerful electromagnetic field, but the vegetation appears unaffected. Once the line is in place, its physical presence consists of nothing more than a supported tower every quarter mile or so and wires strung high overhead, so its contact with the soil is too scant to affect water movement. In the unoccupied and unfarmed areas that I have observed, I have detected no negative effect worth mentioning, let alone the huge negative effect needed to explain the aversion to cross public land in conjunction with the willingness to ignore the priority directive displayed by the creators of that part of the Scoping Decision Route I have been discussing. Perhaps there have been unbiased, well designed scientific studies of this kind of situation, but I do not know of any.

Thank you for your consideration of my concern about this Scoping Decision Route.

John A. Lund

RECEIVED
JUL 08 2015
MAILROOM

June 23, 2015

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21

Dear Mr. Storm,

With all due respect, I oppose the Minnesota Public Utility Commission's proposed Balsam Variation alternative route of the Great Northern Transmission Line for the following reasons:

1. The Balsam Variation route is not cost effective compared to Minnesota Power's preferred Blue Line route. The Blue Line route, as you know, is a straight line route. The Balsam Variation route zig-zags to take advantage of a 65 foot right-of-way that currently exists. However, an additional 135 feet of right-of-way will still have to be cleared to accommodate the new transmission line.
2. The Advisory Task Force appointed for this project indicated that minimization of impacts to private land and landowners were a priority and the Balsam Variation route developed during Scoping does not satisfy this recommendation. The Balsam Variation route would impact a lot more private land and landowners than the Blue Line route.
3. Also, the Balsam Community Center, Balsam Volunteer Fire Department, Balsam Bible Chapel, parsonage, community playground, tennis courts, softball/baseball field would all be included in the middle of the Balsam Variation right-of-way.
4. As a part owner of 84 acres of undeveloped property located entirely within the Balsam Variation right-of-way, which includes approximately 3,000 feet of undeveloped lakeshore, I am concerned about the impact this new transmission line would have the valuation of our property.
5. In addition, I would like to know what impact this transmission line would have on our ability to sell our property at fair market value should we decide to sell at some point in the future.
6. Minnesota Power's intent was to design the transmission line route to maximize separation from existing homes and cabins. The Blue Line accomplishes that goal. The Balsam Variation route right-of-way would run right behind my family's hunting shack which is on a hill overlooking Snaptail Lake.
7. The transmission line is capable of producing an audible noise produced by corona discharges from transmission line conductors. Minnesota Power states that this noise, which resembles a subtle crackling sound is typically only within the threshold of human hearing during rainy or foggy conditions. They also stated that during light rain, dense fog, snow and other times there is moisture in

0049-1
The EIS provides cost comparisons for the proposed routes compared to the variations in Chapter 6. All alternatives will require new ROW for its entire length. While some alternatives parallel existing transmission lines, none of the alternatives share ROWs with existing transmission lines. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-2
The scoping process provided the opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to land use and land ownership for each alternative.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-3
As shown Map 120 in Appendix S of the EIS, these resources are located within the Balsam Variation route width, not the ROW.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-4
A discussion about the potential effects of transmission lines on property values is included in the EIS in Section 5.2.1.4. This includes a summary of the potential range of property value effects attributed to transmission lines. Further, Appendix J, Property Values Supplement provides a summary of the literature regarding the relationship between transmission lines and property values used to develop the property values analysis in Section 5.2.1.4.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-5
The scoping process provided the opportunity to recommend alternatives for the EIS. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to residences for each alternative.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-6
Noise is discussed in Section 5.2.1.2 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-6 cont'd

Noise is discussed in Section 5.2.1.2 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-6
Continued

0049-7

8. From a health and safety point of view, Minnesota Power also refers to "induced voltage", which occurs when an electric field reaches a nearby conductive object, such as a vehicle or metal building and it induces a voltage on the object. Then, if the object is insulated or partially insulated from the ground and a person touches that object, a small current would pass through the person's body to the ground. This might be accompanied by a spark discharge and mild shock, similar to what can occur when a person walks across a carpet and touches an object. Minnesota Power states induced voltage normally is not a problem. Again, this transmission line will impact my family's hunting land due to the fact that it will reduce the amount of land my family will be able to hunt on.

0049-7

Section 5.2.2.4 in the EIS discusses induced voltage. Section 5.2.1.2 of the EIS presents the estimated audible noise levels from the from the proposed 500 kV transmission lines under rainy conditions (worst case scenario for noise generated from corona effect). Section 5.2.2.8 of the EIS discusses public safety hazards associated with the proposed Project including electrical shocks. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Summarizing noise and potential voltage (shock) issues, we find it hard to believe that these are NOT health issues. One of our deer hunters was never comfortable with the emissions from the old power line and a new higher voltage power line would, in her mind, make that area unusable for anything including deer hunting.

0049-8

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0049-8

9. When Minnesota Power removed the existing transmission line, they told us we could do whatever we wanted to do with our property, such as plant trees. Trees along with an apple orchard were planted and we had every intention of using our property to its fullest. Now, once again, we face the threat of not being able to use our property the way we want to.

10. There is an existing osprey nest on the property adjoining our property and if you were to drive where roads/highways intersect with the proposed power line right-of-way, you would see a great number of nesting sites.

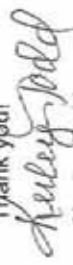
0049-9

As discussed in Section 2.1.1.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices to minimize impacts to migratory birds, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit would require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Based on the reasons stated above, I am respectfully asking you to remove the Balsam Variation from consideration for the Great Northern Transmission Line.

Thank you!



Keeley Todd
PO Box 354
201 1st Street
Bovey MN 55709-0354

41259 Scenic Highway
Bovey MN 55709

July 30, 2015

Mr. William Cole Storm
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Dear Mr. Storm:

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line Border Crossing

As you are aware, Manitoba Hydro is the Proponent for the Canadian portion of the 500 kV transmission project known in Canada as the 'Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project,' and in the U.S. as the Great Northern Transmission Line (Project). We recently reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (June 19, 2015), submitted by the Minnesota Department of Commerce - Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Staff and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Draft EIS identifies a number of border crossing variations that are under consideration. Manitoba Hydro would like to provide the following comments regarding selection of the border crossing:

1. Manitoba Hydro can only support the agreed-upon border crossing located at Lat. 49 00 00.00N; Long. 95 54 50.49W; known as the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route in the Draft EIS and noted as the MH Preferred Border Crossing and shown as a light blue area on the attached map.

Manitoba Hydro completed a robust, transparent comparative analysis of routes and all potential border crossings using a process based on the EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology. This process:

- Evaluated numerous social, technical and environmental factors, similar to those criteria identified in the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission routing and siting regulations (such as land use, human settlement, agriculture, forestry, cultural and historic resources, wildlife, rare species, water resources, noise, air quality, health and safety, engineering constraints, etc.);
- Incorporated routing preferences (that is, a weighting of the routing criteria) based on discussions with internal and external stakeholders; and
- Used this data to identify and rank potential border crossings and routes.

Using this methodology, Manitoba Hydro determined that Piney East Border crossing (MH Former Border Crossing shown in light grey on the attached map) which encompassed Border Crossing Hwy 310 Variation, was not a feasible border crossing for a variety of compelling reasons. These included, but were not limited to, the fact that routes to this crossing traverse areas of high biological diversity that had been noted by government agencies and environmental

0051-1

Thank you for your comment. Section 1.3.2 of the EIS is updated to indicate the border crossing location developed by Manitoba Hydro in their planning process.

0051-2

DOE notes Manitoba Hydro's concerns related to the Border Crossing 500 kV Variation and the Border Crossing 230kV Variation alternatives, which were not analyzed by Manitoba Hydro in its planning and environmental process for the Canadian portion of the proposed transmission line. Section 1.3.2 of the EIS is updated to indicate concerns related to these crossings which are comprised of public (Crown) land immediately north of the international border and this land is identified as supporting aboriginal uses of great importance to First Nations in the Province of Manitoba.

0051-1

0051-2

non-government organizations. Furthermore, this area is primarily composed of Crown (public) lands, which support traditional Aboriginal use and First Nations noted significant concerns in regards to route alternatives in this area. Border Crossing 500 kV Variation and the Border Crossing 230 kV Variation were outside of the agreed upon Border crossing and thus were not analyzed but would pose many of the same challenges.

Based on our environmental analysis and public, First Nations and Métis engagement processes, in consultation with Minnesota Power, the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route was selected as the preferred end point for each entity. While other border crossings were favored by each entity, the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange route was jointly selected because it balances environmental, technical, and stakeholder impacts on both sides of the border.

The preferred route and border crossing were presented as part of a third round of our engagement processes earlier this year. With the feedback received and through the environmental review work being undertaken, Manitoba Hydro determined the final placement of the transmission line and will submit an environmental impact statement to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. An application will also be filed with the National Energy Board in September. Manitoba Hydro **does not** have routes that connect to the border crossing variations included in the Draft EIS. Our application will only include the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route location developed and agreed upon by Manitoba Hydro and Minnesota Power.

Manitoba Hydro and Minnesota Power have made a business commitment to have the Project in service by June 2020. Selection of a border crossing location that does not align with our border crossing and route jeopardizes this commitment and the Project.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-360-4394.

Regards,

Original signed by Shannon Johnson

Shannon Johnson
Manager
Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department
Manitoba Hydro
820 Taylor Ave (3)
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3M 3T1

Attachments: 1

Cc: Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20585

Docket

Number TL-14-21

RECEIVED
JUL 13 2016
MAILROOM

My name is Larry Sullivan. I am a land owner on the Blue Route north of Effie. I understand the blue route has less residents living along it especially on my end. However I want and received a bid permit in 2012 from Koch Co. There were some surveys around but they said it was for the new sub station built by Great River Energy. That's a 1/2 down the rd. When the weather is right I can hear snow + rain cascade on the lines.

Nothing was said and I've never been notified of Great's weather proposed route or I wouldn't have built my dream home 1200 ft from the blue route. I am disabled and have put my life savings in my home. If this goes ~~then~~ they have taken my life savings from me. My home will be worth less than half because of ~~this~~ this route - (worth of the big power line is 9 tenths of a mile away, east of me great river's smaller line is 800 ft away if blue rt goes than west will be 1200 ft from my house and south will be less than 5 tenths of a mile.)

Not many people would be willing to buy a house that's surrounded by big power lines. Not to mention my peace and quiet from construction and forever when the power goes on.

If the blue route is just proposed why is there land clear all ready 1 mile

0052-1

All comments on the EIS are part of the record that will be reviewed by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) before a route permit decision is final. The comments about your property and home are included in this review. There is flexibility in final design and permitting so that if the Blue Route is selected, the Applicant will work with you to minimize impacts to your property.

The MN PUC will not make a decision on the Route Permit until early 2016. The MN PUC is required to review the EIS and select a route based on the information provided in it. While the Applicant has stated their preference for a route, the final route decision is not theirs - the decision will be made by the MN PUC.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0052-1

0052

0052-1
Continued

North west of me and Hibbons on
the route S.E. of me

I don't think this was handled very
well, I was not informed of this till
Jan 1950 by a neighbor.

1165 Co. Rd 62 Green is my 911
address Green is about 60 to 65 miles from
me. I tried to get my address changed
but Koch Co. Sheriff wouldn't change 911
address. I tried for 4 yrs.

There is another pt. which makes more
sense. ~~It~~ follow the power lines another
1 mile then turn south then isn't any
property owners on that route

My address is
P.O. Box 7 Effie Minn 56638
Phone # 218-257-1760

Sincerely,





Comment Form: Draft EIS
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

Please provide your contact information. This information and your comments will be publicly available.

Name: Gale OLSON Phone: 218-763-2261
Street Address: 37748 340 ST. State: Minn ZIP: 56151
City: Roseau Email:

Share your comments on the Draft EIS regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line project. Be as specific as possible.

- What information or analysis needs to be clarified?
- What information or analysis is missing or incomplete?
- Are any specific edits needed to make the document complete and accurate?

Draft EIS section or page number: 23 Information to be corrected or new information needed:

I am 100% against The Green alternate route. Going This Green Route would cut MY Farm IN Two. I also have trees planted on part of MY land which will be in The path of The Line.

Draft EIS section or page number: Information to be corrected or new information needed:

Draft EIS section or page number: Information to be corrected or new information needed:

Attach additional comments as necessary using the format above. If attaching additional comments, please number the page(s) and tell us how many pages you are including: _____ page(s).

0053-1
The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

GRAND FORKS ND 582
16 JUL 2015 PM 1 L



RECEIVED

JUL 20 2015

MAILROOM

WILLIAM COLE STORM
MN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
85 7TH PLACE EAST STE 500
SAINT PAUL MN 55101-2198

55101\$6013 COL2

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Comment Period: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Nos. E-015/TL-14-21

An environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures associated with a proposed project. The EIS is issued as a draft so that it can be improved through public comment. The purpose of this comment period is to gather feedback about specific, factual information that needs to be clarified or included in the final EIS. Comments regarding new route alternatives are not considered.

After reading the Draft EIS, you might have developed a preference for a specific route alternative. This will be considered, but preferences are best expressed to an administrative law judge through the public hearing portion of the permitting process, currently scheduled for August 5, 6, 12 and 13, 2015.

Direct your questions regarding commenting or submitting your comments to the Environmental Review Manager, Bill Storm, at: bill.storm@state.mn.us or (651) 539-1844. Information regarding the proposed project is available at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=33847>. For information regarding the public hearing, contact the public advisor at consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

FOLD HERE

Public Comment Period Closes Monday, August 10, 2015

Comments must be post-marked or received electronically by the comment deadline.

How to comment:

- Submit this form to the Environmental Review Manager at a public meeting
- Mail this form remembering to affix appropriate postage
- Mail comments in a separate envelope using the mailing address on this form
- Fax comments to the Environmental Review Manager: (651) 539-0109
- Email comments to the Environmental Review Manager: bill.storm@state.mn.us
- Use the online comment form at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Comments do not need to be on this form to be accepted. We encourage you to provide comments in whatever way is most convenient for you. If commenting by email or fax use "Public Comment: Great Northern Transmission Line DEIS (E-015/TL-14-21)" in the subject line.

THANK YOU for commenting on the Draft EIS!

0054-1

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Please provide your contact information. This information and your comments will be publicly available.

Name: GERRY REED/REDFARM LLC Phone: 218-689-8763
Street Address: 53818 CO. RD 2
City: WARKENTON State: MN ZIP: 56763
Email: gbr@heatnor.com

Share your comments on the Draft EIS regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line project. Be as specific as possible.

- What information or analysis needs to be clarified?
- What information or analysis is missing or incomplete?
- Are any specific edits needed to make the document complete and accurate?

Draft EIS section or page number: 5-10 Information to be corrected or new information needed:
Missing gross acreage (161-37-f) along Roseau Lake WMA Var 2

— SEE MAPS —
THE LAND WE FARM WILL BE GREATLY
EFFECTED BY THIS OPTION. IT WILL ALSO LIMIT
THE USE OF MY PRIVATE AIRSTRIP. I WOULD
APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD ROUTE IT WITH THE
EXISTING HIGH VOLTAGE LINE.

Draft EIS section or page number: _____ Information to be corrected or new information needed:
EXISTING HIGH VOLTAGE LINE.

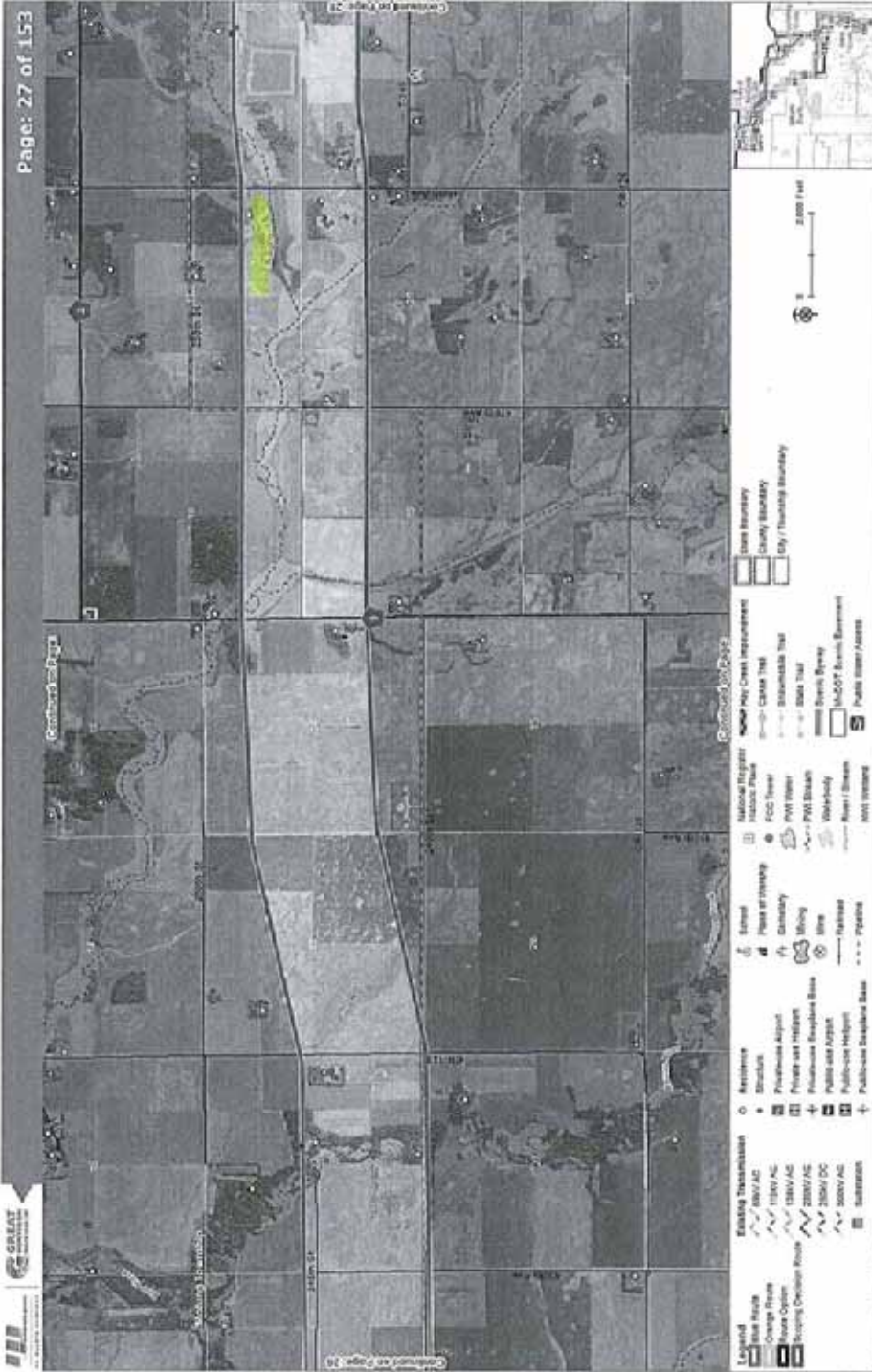
THANK YOU
Sam

Draft EIS section or page number: _____ Information to be corrected or new information needed:

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2015

MAILROOM
Additional comments as necessary using the format above. If attaching additional comments, please number the page(s) and tell us how many pages you are including: _____ page(s).

0054-1



LAND FARMED





LAND farmed



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0055-1

Thank you for your comment. Impacts to agriculture, including aerial spraying, noise, aesthetics are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: NORMAN KVEEN
Organization (if any): ALLAYN KVEEN
Mailing Address: 4760 N. 186 ST

City: BROOKFIELD
State: WISCONSIN
Zip: 53045
Email: _____

Comment: DEAR JULIE ANN SMITH

WE OWN LAND IN THE EAST WEST SCOPING
DECISION ROUTE. MY FAMILY HAS FARMED HERE
FOR OVER 100 YRS. I HAVE OWNED SOME OF THIS
LAND SINCE I WAS 16. I AM NOW 73
CROP SPRAYING PILOTS WILL NOT GO NEAR
THESE WIRES.

SURROUNDING FARM LAND WILL BE WORTH
CONSIDERABLY LESS. I HAVE PERSONALLY
STOOD NEXT TO THESE TOWERS AND HEARD
THE WIND THEY CAUSE. VERY DISTURBING.
THEY WOULD BE AN EYE SORE ON OUR
BEAUTIFUL FIELDS.

PLEASE REMOVE THE ROUTE THAT INCLUDES
MY LAND FROM CONSIDERATION

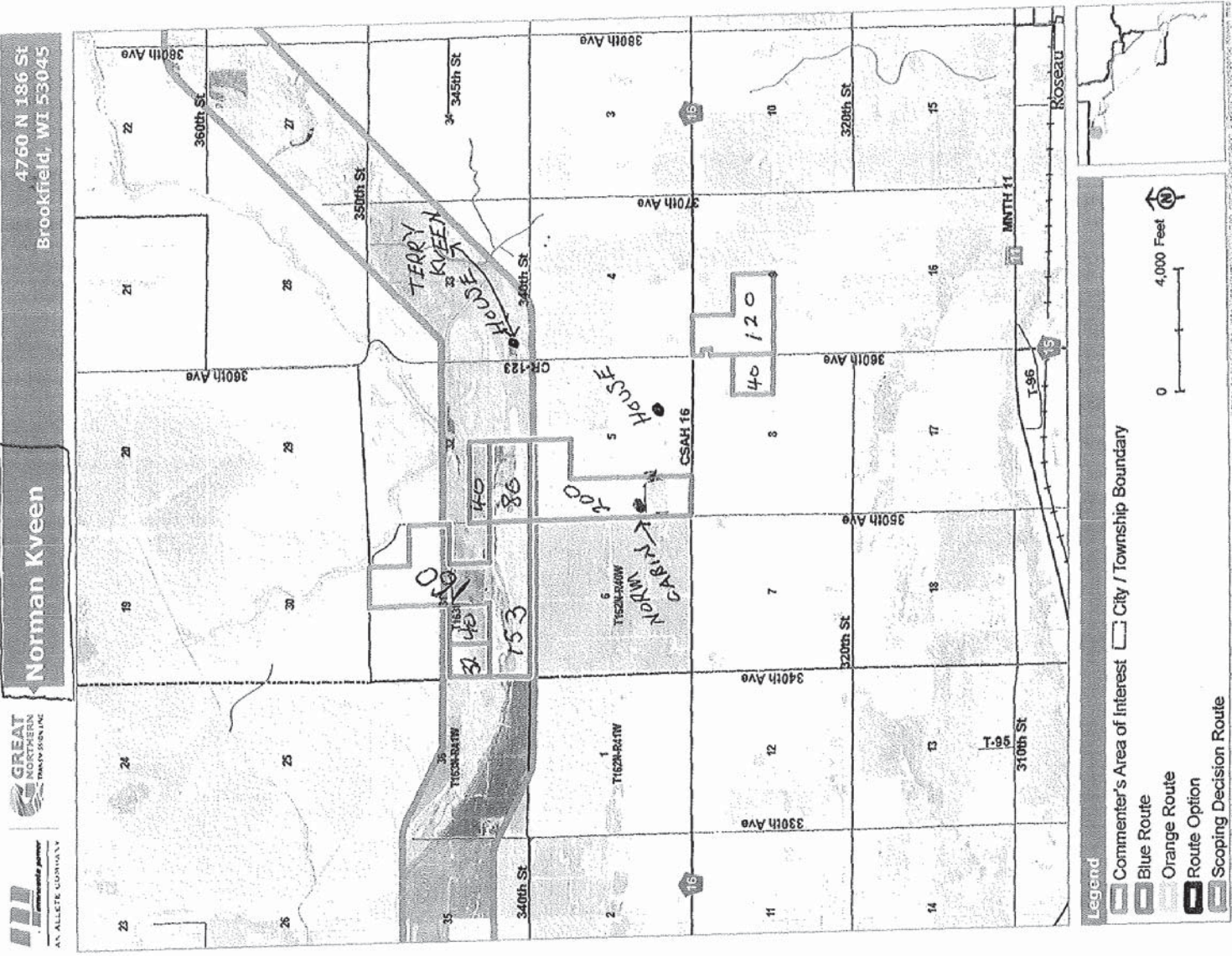
THE BLUE GRANGE ALTERNATIVE IS MORE
FAMILY FARM AND NEIGHBOR FRIENDLY
WE PREFER THIS ROUTE. THESE WIRES
ARE UNHEALTHY FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE.

THANK YOU

NORMAN KVEEN
Allayn Kveeen

0055-1

MY LAND AND CABIN SHOWN HERE



0056-1

DOE recognizes the potential confusion of having multiple government agencies involved in the same planning process. DOE believes that the inclusion of all of these agencies in the process will lead to a more inclusive and coordinated process and better decision-making.

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives for the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives as well as 33 route variations submitted by the MnDNR, the USFWS, and members of the public. For all alternatives proposed during the scoping process, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are evaluated in the EIS.

Anticipated schedules for all DOE Key EISs are publicly available on DOE's Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance website at: <http://energy.gov/nepa/office-nepa-policy-and-compliance>. Once a schedule for a ROD is developed for the Great Northern Transmission Line project it will be made available to the public via this website.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0056-2

As discussed in Section 4.1.1 of the EIS, MnDNR Scientific and Natural Areas are protected under state regulation with regard to transmission line crossings. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0056-3

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0056-1

P.O. Box 16
Warroad, MN. 56763
July 9 2015

Julie Ann Smith
National Electric Delivery Division (OE-20)
U S Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S W
Washington D C 20585 PCU Document Number TL-14-21
DOE E 15-0499

I am writing testimony for the July hearings to be held at various locations along the proposed power line routes in northern Minnesota.

This is the fourth or fifth document I have submitted regarding the power line routing, it has been a frustrating experience. The meetings I have attended and documents that have been submitted seem to be "feel good" experiences for the individuals directly affected by the power line routes. There is also a multitude of agencies and time tables involved in the lengthy process which are confusing to lay persons trying to give constructive input and hinders public involvement. The power companies submit a route with specific possible variations that best suits their needs and to fundamentally change their route is very difficult and if a change is made it comes through a specific group and not an individual.

In the case of the proposed Minnesota Power new line I asked to become a member of the citizens committee that met several times to discuss route variations and was denied this request.

Several times it was suggested a variation be obtained to follow the existing 500 kV line where it goes through a Scenic and Natural area that was added after the present 500 kV line was built. It only makes sense to parallel an existing line rather than environmentally destroy a completely new wilderness area. This suggestion was pursued by members of the Minnesota legislature but it is questionable how much, if at all, this avenue was pursued by Minnesota Power. An employee of Minnesota Power stated they were more interested in pursuing the "blue" route because of ease of access by Minnesota Power.

After reading summaries in the PUC – GNTV certificate it would seem that there should be no controversy that the Orange route would be a better ecological, less public interference, less Agricultural land interference, less impact of State conservation lands and State forests, four times less acres of mineral leases, and less historic architectural sites within one mile of the line. At one point Minnesota Power states the blue route would affect less farmland if drained. With the federal and state wetland and drainage laws and the value of wetlands, draining more land to become farmland should not be an option that should even be part of the report. The new orange route proposed would come

0056-2

0056-3

0056-3 cont'd

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

near the Big Bog State Park, the report is very clear that a new line in this area would not be visible from the park.

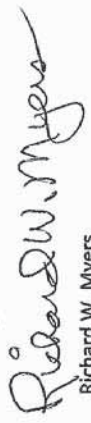
An area of interest to me is the Beltrami North Central Variation 1, 2, and 3; Hop 5. This is an area south of Williams Minnesota that Minnesota Power proposes to jump from the orange route to the blue route. The Minnesota Power proposal is to run the line east and then back north to hook up with the 240 KV blue route. The proposal runs east and then back north to contact the blue route. This is probably the longest route they could take to join the blue route. This route also ecologically changes more forest land in the major area of the "Peppermint Creek wolf pack". There are two shorter routes approximately two and three miles north of this route that were presented during the routing process. These routes would also require much less forest cutting and ecological disruption.

There will soon be three major power lines going through the central area of northern Minnesota all ending in the same general area. There will probably be more in the future. It certainly would make sense for there to be one major corridor through this primitive and ecological forest area rather than three only partial paralleling corridors.

I urge you to require Minnesota Power to use the orange route for this new power line.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Richard W. Myers

0057-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Richard Stacy
To: Storm Bill (COMML); O'Reilly, Ann (OAH); esp.dan.fabian@house.mn
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 12:36:12 PM

July 30, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
Ms. Ann O'Reilly
Representative Dan Fabian
Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Richard Stacy and I am a property owner in Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible. The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the

0057-1

difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Stacy
43126 County Road 2
Roseau, MN 56751
703-915-5258
rkconsult@aol.com

0058-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: [Karen Stacy](#)
 To: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#); [O'Reilly, Ann \(OAH\)](#); [esp.dan.fabian@house.mn](#)
 Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
 Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 3:21:36 PM

July 30, 2015

To: Mr. Bill Storm
 Ms. Ann O'Reilly
 Representative Dan Fabian
 Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/7L-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Karen Stacy and I am a property owner in Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

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These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed

0058-1

border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

//k/s

Karen L. Stacy
43126 Co. Rd. 2

Roseau, MN 56751

Phone #: 703.915-5266

Email address: kstacy662@aol.com

0059-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: [Gaty Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
 To: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637
 Subject: Thursday, July 30, 2015 10:32:49 PM
 Date:

July 30, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

Dear Mr. Storm,

Our names are Gary & Ione Olson and we are *property owners* in Roseau County Minnesota. We are writing to express our strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

We are opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, we believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed

0059-1

border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is our perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

We request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

We request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary & Ione Olson
23704 370th Ave
Roseau, MN 56751
218-463-2828

garolson@wiktel.com

0060-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: [K&M Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
 To: Comment on Mn.Power -Great northern Transmission Line docket number TL-14-21
 Subject: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
 Date: Friday, July 31, 2015 4:50:11 PM

Dear Mr. Storm

"Thank you" for all the information that you have provided about this project. Greatly appreciate your input. I tried to reach you by phone on July 31,2015 but you were unavailable. I hope you can please consider this email as part of my comments towards this project in the West Section. I live in Roseau county.

There is a alternative route on some maps that are orange and on another map that was mailed to me it shows green.. This particular line I am referring to comes down from canada on highway 89 then travels in a eastern direction leading to the south of Warroad ,Mn. . I live on the far east edge in Falun township about .5 miles off Highway #2 in Roseau county. The powerline alternative route would then be placed directly by our home.. I do not feel comfortable with this power source being so close to a living residence. With this same plan a neighbor to the east of me by the name of Jerry Reed has an airstrip which he uses to land and fly his airplanes. This would cause problems for him also.I hope that this alternative route that I have mentioned will be permanetly removed from this project.

I would express that if at all possible keeping the route as close to the other preexisting power line that runs thru Roseau county. This would not expose allot of families to living near such huge power sources in there back yards but instead be located more near wooded nonpopulated areas...

Thank you again for all information about this project. Will be keeping intouch with all future meetings and plans made about this project that affect the Roseau County area..

Sincerely,
 Marie Johnson

0060-1

0061-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

July 30, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
Ms. Ann O'Reilly
Representative Dan Fabian
Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Darryll Dahlquist and I am a property owner and a resident of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative --Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

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The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials

0061-1

and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely, Darryll Dahlquist

Name Darryll Dahlquist

Address 43529 240th St. Roseau, MN 56751

Phone # (218)463-3916

Email address marydahlquist@centurytel.net

0062-1

The alternatives analyzed in the EIS represent what DOE determines to be a reasonable range of alternatives based on scoping and comment periods. The addition suggested in this comment does not present an option significant enough to warrant an additional alternative to be analyzed in detail. For all alternatives analyzed in detail, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips were evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Greg3
 To: Storm, Bill (COMM); O'Reilly, Ann (OAH); esp.dan.fabian@house.mn
 Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
 Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 6:51:53 AM

Aug 3, 2015

To: Mr. Bill Storm
 Ms. Ann O'Reilly
 Representative Dan Fabian
 Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/7L-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Greg Grahm and I am a *property owner and/or resident* of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed

0062-1

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Continued

0062-2

border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,
Greg Grahm
31199 430th Ave
Roseau, MN 56751
greg3@goldenflax.com

0063-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

July 30, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
 Ms. Ann O'Reilly
 Representative Dan Fabian
 Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Gerry Grahn and I am a *property owner* of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and

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REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

Page 2 of 2

effectively negotiate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,



Gerry Grahm

43594 County Rd 124

Roseau, MN 56751

915-497-5948

gbgrahm@hotmail.com

0064-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

July 30, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
Ms. Ann O'Reilly
Representative Dan Fabian
Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Michael Grahn and I am a property owner and resident of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative --Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

Page 2 of 2

0064-1

and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Grahn

43598 County Rd 124

Roseau, MN 56751

218-463-2559

migrahn1954@gmail.com

0065-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

August 3, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm
Ms. Ann O'Reilly
Representative Dan Fabian
Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Willard Comstock and I am a property owner of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives (the "Scoping Decision Route"), in particular the route through Malung and Falun Townships, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

0065-1

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Willard Comstock

25443 County Road 9
Roseau, MN 56751
218-424-7351
wncomstock@wiktel.com

0066-1

The scoping process provided an opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS, including the border crossing alternatives submitted by the MnDNR and USFWS. For the range of reasonable alternatives, impacts to human settlement, agriculture, land use, vegetation, and airports/airstrips are among the impacts evaluated in the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Blair Comstock
 To: Storm, Bill (COMML); O'Reilly, Ann (OAH); rep.dan.fabian@house.mn
 Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21
 Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:48:41 AM

August 3, 2015

TO: Mr. Bill Storm

Ms. Ann O'Reilly

Representative Dan Fabian

Senator LeRoy Stumpf

SUBJECT: COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REQUEST BY MINNESOTA POWER FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE: MPUC DOCKET NO. E01 5/TL-14-21 OAH CASE NO. 65-2500- 3 1637

My name is Blair Comstock and I am a *property owner and resident* of Roseau County Minnesota. I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets, and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

Bear creek runs between the majority of our farm land. The route alternatives runs within a couple hundred feet from bear creek. Every year hundreds of ducks and geese nest here. Countless seagulls, pelicans, herons, cormorants, snipes, hawks, crows, swans and other migratory birds either make bear creek their home or visit it daily. Within 500 feet a pair of bald eagles have been nesting for 20 years. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 protects eagles from any outside human disturbance and "in addition to immediate impacts, this definition also covers impacts that result from human-induced alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present, if, upon the eagle's return, such alterations agitate or bother an eagle to a degree that interferes with or interrupts normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits, and causes injury, death or nest abandonment." The migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 does the same thing, it protects the birds safety. Whether that's hunting or any other threat to the birds safety. And right now, the birds safety is under risk from Great Northern Transmission lines. Birds are not alot different from humans. They live where we live. Like Deer and other animals, they live off of our fields. They eat the food that we grow for the world.

The amended border crossing and power line route proposed by Minnesota Power is the only feasible border crossing and power line alignment through Roseau County, given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

The route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were submitted without input from Roseau County and its residents.

I am opposed to the proposed route alternatives, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative --Segments 1 & 2, in Roseau County. These alternatives will cause significant negative impacts on private property owners and agricultural land use, and interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the Roseau Public Airport. Additionally, the proposed alternatives will unnecessarily increase the length of the power lines in Roseau County.

The impact to agricultural land uses and human settlements must be minimized. After careful and thoughtful review of the various proposed routes through Roseau County, I believe that Minnesota Power's

0066-1

proposed route would accomplish these objectives to the greatest extent possible.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), require the granting of easements across fertile and productive agricultural land. Access to these easements present the potential to cause sustained damage to the agricultural land as Minnesota Power constructs and maintains the power lines that follow the easements.

These easements will also create artificial boundaries in the fields where noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can grow and cause damage to the surrounding agricultural land. These noxious and harmful weeds and plant life can have a significant negative impact on the overall production of the planted field. These easements will create drainage problems for the fields and will increase the difficulty to place drain tile in the fields.

The route alternatives, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Roseau Lake WMA Alternative -- Segments 1 & 2), disregard and effectively negate over three years of good faith dialogue and participation by Roseau County officials and its residents, who have been working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that will provide the least impact to residents, property owners and agricultural land.

Minnesota Power's extensive planning process, for this project, was conducted in a very deliberate and transparent manner. Minnesota Power used a voluntary outreach approach that included multiple open houses for Roseau County residents and multiple meetings with Roseau County officials. This approach and collaboration resulted in the realignment of the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Pney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Power's proposed route through Roseau County minimizes impacts on private property owners and agricultural land, while maximizing use of state lands and current power line easements.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and US Fish & Wildlife Service had ample opportunity to participate in the initial Minnesota Power planning process. Yet, these two government agencies waited to propose additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS without input from Roseau County and its residents.

This back door, after the fact, approach demonstrates a total lack of respect for the planning process, Roseau County and its residents. Based on past history of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, concerning projects of this nature, it is my perception that this is DNR's "business as usual" approach to this type of situation.

I request that the Minnesota Power's preferred route, as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy, be selected.

I request that the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be removed from consideration.

Sincerely,

Blair Cornstock

27380 county road 9

Roseau Mn 56751

701-866-6593

0067-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: [Arthur Krahn](#)
To: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Transmission line
Date: Monday, August 03, 2015 9:55:26 PM

Dear Bill Storm,
The original proposed line is the best. Power lines in the forest are a good thing. Hikers, berry pickers, bird watchers, hunters, DNR workers, loggers, firefighters, and anyone else who actually spends time in the woods, uses and benefits from open lines cut into the forest. They help many people keep from getting lost as well. The big game, small game, and birds also use and benefit from the young growth and better grass that comes as a result of maintaining a transmission line through the forest. The line going north of the Beltrami Island state forest is not so. Back yards, food plots, and small woods do not benefit from a transmission line but are damaged by it.
Sincerely,
Arthur Krahn

0067-1

0068-1

Thank you for your comment.

No changes are made to the EIS as a result of this comment.

From: apache@web.lntc.state.mn.us
To: Storm, Bill (COMML)
Subject: Gaukerud Sun Aug 2 09:12:13 2015 14-21
Date: Sunday, August 02, 2015 9:12:14 AM

This public comment has been sent via the form at: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Minnesota Power Great Northern Transmission Line Project (Routing)

Docket number: 14-21

User Name: John Gaukerud

County: Roseau County

City: Badger

Email: jgaukerud@wiktel.com

Phone: 2185283529

Impact: As a private landowner and farmer I am very much opposed to the alternative route proposed. The line would divide my fields on my farm and would make it very difficult for aerial spraying and other normal farming practices. This is a project for public good and should follow the route on public land. My property is on map 21 of the west section of the project.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Sun Aug 2 09:12:13 2015

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

0068-1

COPY



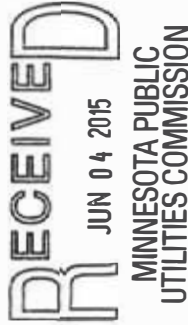
Justice
Legal Services Branch
Civil Law Division
Room 730 Woodsworth Building
405 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 3L6

In reply, please refer to:
Gord Hannon
General Counsel

Phone: (204) 945-0242
Fax: (204) 948-2244
Gord.Hannon@gov.mb.ca
File No: NR04DO (429)

June 2, 2015

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164



Dear Madam:

Re: Canadian and Provincial Permitting of the Manitoba Minnesota
Transmission Project
OAH Docket No. 65-2500-31367
MPUC Docket No. E-015/TL-14-21

Please find enclosed Manitoba Justice's comments to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission E-Docket Number E-015/TL-14-21, in the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Koochiching and Itasca Counties. Please include our comments in the above-referenced record.

Yours truly,

Gordon E. Hannon
General Counsel

c. Dan Wolf, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ✓



Justice
Legal Services Branch
Civil Law Division
Room 730 Woodsworth Building
405 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 3L6

In reply, please refer to:
Gord Hannon
General Counsel

Phone: (204) 945-0242
Fax: (204) 948-2244
Gord.Hannon@gov.mb.ca
File No: NFR04D0 (429)

June 2, 2015

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164

Dear Madam:

Re: Canadian and Provincial Permitting of the Manitoba Minnesota
Transmission Project
OAH Docket No. 65-2500-31367
MPUC Docket No. E-015/TL-14-21

Through representatives of Manitoba Hydro, representatives of the Government of Manitoba have been informed of regulatory developments regarding Minnesota Power's application for a route permit that would allow the construction of the Great Northern Transmission Line, the United States portion of a proposed new International Power Line ("IPL"), that would connect with the Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project ("the Project") at the Canada-United States Border.

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, this letter is being submitted for filing on the public record and to inform the Administrative Law Judge, Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Division and Minnesota Public Utilities Commission about these issues:

- (I) Canadian federal and Manitoba provincial legal regime and regulatory processes for authorizing an International Transmission Line;
- (II) an overview of the regulatory processes in Canada to date;
- (III) the required steps to complete the regulatory processes in Canada; and
- (IV) coordination with United States and Minnesota regulatory processes.

As a representative of the Government of Manitoba we can advise particularly of the Manitoba Government understanding of Manitoba provincial regulatory processes. However, the federal National Energy Board ("the NEB") has Canadian federal regulatory responsibilities under federal law because of the international nature of the

IPL, Manitoba is working with the NEB to coordinate the provincial and federal regulatory processes.

I. Canadian Federal and Provincial Legal Regime and Regulatory Processes for Authorizing an International Transmission Line

A. Overview

Under Canada's *Constitution Act, 1867*, laws in relation to international power lines are matters of exclusive federal jurisdiction. This jurisdiction has been exercised by the enactment by Canadian Parliament of the *National Energy Board Act* and the provisions of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* relating to IPLs.

Provincial legislation applies to the use and allocation of Crown (public) land in Manitoba for the line in Manitoba.

Generally, intra-provincial power transmission lines are subject to environmental assessment and licensing under *The Environment Act* of Manitoba. *The Environment Act* provides a regime of environmental assessment and licensing of projects or developments of defined classes. Transmission lines greater than 230 kV are considered Class 3 developments under the Classes of Development Regulation made under *The Environment Act* and are thus subject to the highest level of environmental assessment under Manitoba legislation. All documents filed in the environmental assessment process are filed on a public registry. The Environmental Impact Statement is open to public comments which are considered in the decision-making process.

Federal legislation allows for the involvement of provincial authorities and processes, including the assessment of the environmental impacts of IPLs, under certain circumstances. A common feature of both federal and provincial environmental review processes is the requirement for an applicant to conduct a public engagement program ("PEP") regarding the project, including the proposed route of an IPL, and its potential socio-economic and environmental impacts as part of its environmental assessment of the project prior to filing an application for licenses and authorizations.

The regulatory practice in Manitoba is that government authorities do not formally engage in public consultations about projects of this type. Government decision makers do not generally engage directly in public consultation; public input is provided through the proponent's public engagement program and through comments on the public registry. In some cases, however, a public hearing may be commissioned by the minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship before the Clean Environment Commission, for the Commission to provide advice to decision makers respecting a proposed development.

The Government of Manitoba engages directly in consultations with Aboriginal peoples about potential adverse effects of the project on the exercise of Aboriginal or treaty rights recognized pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

B. Canadian Federal law

1. *National Energy Board Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. N-7*

The responsibility for regulating the construction and operation of IPLs rests with the National Energy Board of Canada pursuant to the *National Energy Board Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. N-7*. In accordance with Section 58.1 of the *National Energy Board Act*, authorization is required to construct or operate an IPL. The *National Energy Board Electricity Regulations, SOR/97-130* set out a comprehensive list of information requirements for inclusion in an application to be filed with the NEB for an authorization of an IPL. The NEB Electricity Filing Manual provides additional extensive detail and guidance on the expectations for the content of an application. Both the regulations and the Filing Manual identify the need for an application to contain: an identification of a single proposed route and border crossing point for the IPL; an environmental and socio-economic assessment of the IPL; and a description of the Public Engagement Program that has been undertaken by the applicant. Upon the filing of an application, the NEB's authority is limited under Section 58.11 of the Act to either issuing a permit authorizing the IPL or recommending and issuing a certificate for the IPL. There is no authority for NEB to determine an alternate route for an IPL.

Notwithstanding federal jurisdiction over IPLs, Sections 58.17 and 58.2 of the Act allow for the application of provincial laws to certain matters relating to IPLs, including environmental assessment, where an Order in Council is issued by the government of the province where the IPL is located. While the NEB allows for a provincial environmental review process, and while the NEB is also under a duty to seek to avoid the duplication of measures undertaken by a province in respect of an IPL, the NEB is prohibited from delegating its decision-making authority regarding the environmental impacts of an IPL under federal environmental legislation, as discussed below.

2. *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52*

The construction, operation and decommissioning of a new electrical transmission line with a voltage of 345 kV or more and requiring 75 km or more of new right of way in totality is considered a Designated Project pursuant s. 39 of the Schedule to the *Regulation Designating Physical Activities SOR/2012-147* under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52 (CEAA, 2012)*.

Pursuant to paragraph 15(b) of *CEAA, 2012*, the NEB is a "Responsible Authority" for a "Designated Project" regulated under the *National Energy Board Act*. As part of its responsibilities, the NEB must ensure that an environmental assessment has been performed by the applicant pursuant to *CEAA, 2012* and must determine whether the IPL is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

C. Provincial law

1. *The Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability Act*, C.C.S.M. c. P336 and *The Public Utilities Board Act*, C.C.S.M. c. P280

The Public Utilities Board of Manitoba ("the PUB") has jurisdiction over Manitoba Hydro's retail electricity rates in accordance with Section 26 of *The Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability Act* and *The Public Utilities Board Act*. Although the PUB does not have the specific authority to review Manitoba Hydro's capital projects, the PUB can be assigned additional duties by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Manitoba Order in Council 128/2013 was issued on April 17, 2013 under the authority of section 107 of *The Public Utilities Board Act* requiring a panel of the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba to conduct a "Needs For and Alternatives To" ("NFAT") review of Manitoba Hydro's preferred development plan, including the construction of a new 500 kV IPL and to make a recommendation to the Government of Manitoba as to whether construction of the new IPL should go forward.

2. *The Environment Act*, C.C.S.M. c. E125

The construction of electrical transmission lines greater than 230 kV and associated facilities is considered a Class 3 Development pursuant to the Classes of Development Regulation M.R. 164/88, made under *The Environment Act* and is subject to licensing under Section 12 of *The Environment Act*. The Licensing Procedures Regulation, M.R. 163/88 made under the Act outlines the process to be used and the information requirements for proposals under the Act. Subsection 1(1) of this Regulation requires the submission of a proposal that contains the location of the proposed development and a description of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the development. A full, detailed assessment of the impacts for the proposed development is limited to the single proposed route and associated infrastructure. While alternative routes are included in the proposal, they are included only for comparison purposes to demonstrate why the single proposed route was selected. The proposal will not include detailed environmental or social-economic impacts of these alternatives. Should the proposed route be rejected in this process, an alternative route is not chosen by the regulator.

The Environment Act process includes an opportunity for public comments through a public registry maintained by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

3. *The Crown Lands Act*, C.C.S.M. c. C.340

Publicly-owned lands in Canada are considered to be "Crown lands", administered and controlled on behalf of the Crown. Under Canada's constitution Crown lands are generally administered and controlled by the provinces. The use and allocation of Crown

lands in Manitoba is governed by *The Crown Lands Act*. That Act provides the legislative authority for the provincial government to allocate or grant rights in provincial Crown land in Manitoba. Authorizations for the use of any Crown land for the IPL in Manitoba will be required under *The Crown Lands Act*.

4. The Constitution Act, 1982 and Consultation by the Government with Aboriginal Peoples

Subsections 35(1) and (2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* state:

Recognition of existing aboriginal and treaty rights

35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.

Definition of "aboriginal peoples of Canada"

(2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

The *Constitution Act, 1982* is part of the constitution of Canada and applies to federal and provincial government action. In accordance with governing case law interpreting s. 35, including leading Supreme Court of Canada cases *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, [2004] 3 S.C.R. 511, 2004 SCC 73 and *Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage)* [2005] 3 S.C.R. 388, 2005 SCC 69, it is settled law in Canada that the Crown (federal and provincial governments within the scope of their responsibilities) has a duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples about any decision or action that might affect the exercise of Aboriginal rights or treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples and to attempt in good faith to address or accommodate concerns expressed by the Aboriginal peoples about those effects before making the decision or taking the action.

The Government of Manitoba has developed an Interim Provincial Policy for Crown Consultation with First Nations, Métis Communities and Other Aboriginal Communities as a general statement of the approach of the Government to meeting its duty of consultation with Aboriginal peoples. The Government is committed to completing consultation processes with potentially-affected Aboriginal communities. In order to determine the communities potentially affected an initial assessment of the consultation requirements is undertaken by the Government based on the route of the proposed project. Consultation is being planned based on the identified proposed route in Manitoba.

II. An Overview of the Regulatory Processes to Date

The need for and justification for the Project has already been confirmed by the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba as a result of the NFAT review process conducted between June 2013 and May 2014. The PUB issued a final report to the Manitoba Government

on the NFAT process in June 2014. The NFAT review process commenced with the filing of Manitoba Hydro's proposal and rationale, followed by two rounds of written information requests, the filing of evidence by interveners, one further round of information requests, and finally a hearing held from March 3 to May 26, 2014. The NFAT review included the appointment of independent expert consultants to examine Manitoba Hydro's plans. Those experts filed reports on their findings and testified at the NFAT hearing.

The PUB final report recommended that Manitoba Hydro be given approval to proceed with the construction of the proposed 500 kV Manitoba Minnesota transmission line. On December 10, 2014, Order in Council 545/2014 was issued by the Government of Manitoba under *The Manitoba Hydro Act* authorizing Manitoba Hydro to proceed with all actions necessary to construct and operate the new transmission line.

Manitoba Order in Council No. 00386/2013 has also been issued under the authority of the *National Energy Board Act* designating the Manitoba Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship as the provincial regulatory agency for the proposed IPL. This allows for the provincial environmental assessment and licensing process under *The Environment Act* to apply to the portion of the line in Manitoba.

It is our understanding that Manitoba Hydro has considered several different alternative routes for the Project over the last few years and conducted a Public Engagement Process that included consideration of these alternative routes. Based upon the outcome of that Public Engagement Process and a detailed route selection process conducted with the assistance of several external consultants, Manitoba Hydro has selected a specific proposed route. That route ends at a border crossing that was determined after several months of analysis and in-depth discussion with Minnesota Power. The crossing selected was considered to be in the best interests of the overall project and acceptable to both parties.

It is our understanding that Manitoba Hydro will be filing an application with the NEB for approval of a specific final preferred route with an identified associated border crossing, consistent with Canadian legal requirements.

We understand that three pre-application meetings have been held with the NEB providing information regarding the scope of the Project and the intended authorizations that will be sought once the application is filed. As described below, the NEB was also provided with Manitoba Hydro's draft Scoping Document.

Several meetings have also been held with representatives of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship with respect to scope of environmental assessment, including the Public Engagement Program. On November 21, 2014, Manitoba Hydro filed an Environment Act Proposal with MCWS for a Class 3 Development under subsections 12(1) and 12(3) of *The Environment Act*, and provided a draft Scoping Document that outlines the proposed contents of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project that describes the various environmental

components that will be studied. Included in that draft Scoping Document was a map of the final preferred route that identified the selected border crossing.

Pursuant to subsection 12(4) of *The Environment Act*, MCWS posted the filed documents on a public registry, and provided an opportunity for public/stakeholder comment until February 25, 2015. The public registry is available on-line at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/5750mbhydrobmbminnesota/index.html>

Also pursuant to subsection 12(4) of *The Environment Act*, the Proposal was provided for analysis to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of experts from several different provincial departments, including the wildlife branch, heritage branch, and fisheries branch, of the preferred route and associated border crossing. Comments from various departments have already been received.

III. The Required Steps to Complete the Regulatory Processes in Canada

It is anticipated that the current round of public engagement by Manitoba Hydro will be completed by summer 2015 and Manitoba Hydro will file its Environmental Impact Statement with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship shortly after that pursuant to subsection 12(5) of *The Environment Act*.

An application will subsequently be filed with NEB. The NEB application and the EIS filed under the Environment Act will both seek approval for the single proposed route and the selected border crossing.

Public notification of the NEB application will be made and an opportunity for interested parties to file written comments with NEB will be specified in the notice. Manitoba Hydro will then have an opportunity to file written responses to any comments.

Once the EIS is filed, MCWS, coordinating with the NEB, will then begin its assessment of the Project and the EIS in accordance with subsection 12(5) of *The Environment Act*. Public consultations conducted by Manitoba Hydro are taken into consideration by MCWS when conducting its assessment. A public hearing before the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission may also be ordered under clause 12(5)(e) and subsection 12(6) of that Act. The NEB also has jurisdiction to order a public hearing under section 24 of the *National Energy Board Act*. As such, there could possibly be a joint public hearing or two separate hearings.

The provincial Technical Advisory Committee also conducts an extensive review of submitted EIS documents and provides written information requests to Manitoba Hydro that must be satisfied as part of the process. This may be done in advance of the public hearing or concurrently. Again, that review is based upon the single proposed route and selected border crossing.

Independent of the environmental assessment process, including any public hearings is the Crown consultation process with Aboriginal communities referred to above. The

0069-1

DOE notes Manitoba Hydro's concerns related to the Border Crossing 500 kV Variation and the Border Crossing 230kV Variation alternatives, which were not analyzed by Manitoba Hydro in its planning and environmental process for the Canadian portion of the proposed transmission line. Section 1.3.2 of the EIS is updated to indicate concerns related to these crossings which are comprised of public (Crown) land immediately north of the international border and this land is identified as supporting aboriginal uses of great importance to First Nations in the Province of Manitoba.

0069-1

consultations will involve consideration of the single proposed route and selected border crossing.

IV. Coordination with United States and Minnesota Regulatory Processes

It is our understanding from Manitoba Hydro that the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Division and Minnesota Public Utilities Commission have issued an environmental scoping document that includes multiple alternative border crossings in addition to the border crossing associated with the Preferred Route. It is further our understanding that these additional border crossings are not included in Minnesota Power's application for a Presidential Permit.

Any decision by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Division, or Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that would require a border crossing other than the selected border crossing included in the Canadian, Provincial and Presidential Permit review process will require the filing of new or amended applications containing a different proposed route. Manitoba Hydro advises that the filing of new or amended proposals with MCWS, or a new or amended application to the NEB, would require significant new studies to address the change in route to a different border crossing as part of the regulatory process in Canada. Manitoba Hydro also advises that it would be very unlikely that the necessary studies and the regulatory process would be completed in time to meet the proposed 2020 in-service date. As the agreements between Manitoba Hydro and Minnesota Power require a 2020 in-service date, the project may therefore be jeopardized.

Yours truly,



Gordon E. Hannon
General Counsel

c. Dan Wolf, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Appendix A – Links to legislation and key documents referred to in letter

Order in Council 00128/2013 for Manitoba Public Utilities Board NFAT Review:
<http://oic.gov.mb.ca/OICDocs/2013/04/Healthy%20Living.%20Seniors%20&%20Consumer%20Affairs.130417.Public%20Utilities%20Board%20Act.1282013.pdf>

Terms of Reference for Manitoba Public Utilities Board NFAT Review:
<http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca/pdf/nfat/TermsOfReference-Ap25.pdf>

Interim Provincial Policy for Crown Consultation with First Nations, Métis Communities and Other Aboriginal Communities:
http://www.gov.mb.ca/ana/pdf/pubs/interim_aboriginal_consultation_policy_and_guidelines.pdf

National Energy Board Act (Canada)
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-7/FullText.html>

National Energy Board Electricity Regulations
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-97-130/index.html>

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Canada)
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.2/1/index.html>

The Environment Act (Manitoba)
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/e125e.php>

Classes of Development Regulation
http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=164/88

The Public Utilities Board Act (Manitoba)
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/p280e.php>

The Crown Lands Act (Manitoba)
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/c340e.php>

Order in Council 545/2014, authorizing Transmission Line
<http://oic.gov.mb.ca/OICDocs/2014/12/Manitoba%20Hydro.141210.Manitoba%20Hydro%20Act.5452014.pdf>

Order in Council 00386/2013
<http://oic.gov.mb.ca/OICDocs/2013/11/Conservation%20&%20Water%20Stewardship.131106.National%20Energy%20Board%20Act.3862013.pdf>



PO Box 7950 Sin Main • Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada • R3C 0J1
(204) 360-4394 • sjohnson@hydro.mb.ca

July 30, 2015

Mr. William Cole Storm
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Dear Mr. Storm:

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line Border Crossing

As you are aware, Manitoba Hydro is the Proponent for the Canadian portion of the 500 kV transmission project known in Canada as the 'Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project,' and in the U.S. as the Great Northern Transmission Line (Project). We recently reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (June 19, 2015), submitted by the Minnesota Department of Commerce - Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Staff and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Draft EIS identifies a number of border crossing variations that are under consideration. Manitoba Hydro would like to provide the following comments regarding selection of the border crossing:

1. Manitoba Hydro can only support the agreed-upon border crossing located at Lat. 49 00 00.00N; Long. 95 54 50.49W; known as the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route in the Draft EIS and noted as the MH Preferred Border Crossing and shown as a light blue area on the attached map.

Manitoba Hydro completed a robust, transparent comparative analysis of routes and all potential border crossings using a process based on the EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology. This process:

- Evaluated numerous social, technical and environmental factors, similar to those criteria identified in the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission routing and siting regulations (such as land use, human settlement, agriculture, forestry, cultural and historic resources, wildlife, rare species, water resources, noise, air quality, health and safety, engineering constraints, etc.);
- Incorporated routing preferences (that is, a weighting of the routing criteria) based on discussions with internal and external stakeholders; and
- Used this data to identify and rank potential border crossings and routes.

Using this methodology, Manitoba Hydro determined that Piney East Border crossing (MH Former Border Crossing shown in light grey on the attached map) which encompassed Border Crossing Hwy 310 Variation, was not a feasible border crossing for a variety of compelling reasons. These included, but were not limited to, the fact that routes to this crossing traverse areas of high biological diversity that had been noted by government agencies and environmental

0070-1

Thank you for your comment. Section 1.3.2 of the EIS is updated to indicate the border crossing location developed by Manitoba Hydro in their planning process.

0070-2

DOE notes Manitoba Hydro's concerns related to the Border Crossing 500 kV Variation and the Border Crossing 230kV Variation alternatives, which were not analyzed by Manitoba Hydro in its planning and environmental process for the Canadian portion of the proposed transmission line. Section 1.3.2 of the EIS is updated to indicate concerns related to these crossings which are comprised of public (Crown) land immediately north of the international border and this land is identified as supporting aboriginal uses of great importance to First Nations in the Province of Manitoba.

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0070-2

non-government organizations. Furthermore, this area is primarily composed of Crown (public) lands, which support traditional Aboriginal use and First Nations noted significant concerns in regards to route alternatives in this area. Border Crossing 500 kV Variation and the Border Crossing 230 kV Variation were outside of the agreed upon Border crossing and thus were not analyzed but would pose many of the same challenges.

Based on our environmental analysis and public, First Nations and Métis engagement processes, in consultation with Minnesota Power, the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route was selected as the preferred end point for each entity. While other border crossings were favored by each entity, the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange route was jointly selected because it balances environmental, technical, and stakeholder impacts on both sides of the border.

The preferred route and border crossing were presented as part of a third round of our engagement processes earlier this year. With the feedback received and through the environmental review work being undertaken, Manitoba Hydro determined the final placement of the transmission line and will submit an environmental impact statement to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. An application will also be filed with the National Energy Board in September. Manitoba Hydro **does not** have routes that connect to the border crossing variations included in the Draft EIS. Our application will only include the Proposed Border Crossing - Blue/Orange Route location developed and agreed upon by Manitoba Hydro and Minnesota Power.

Manitoba Hydro and Minnesota Power have made a business commitment to have the Project in service by June 2020. Selection of a border crossing location that does not align with our border crossing and route jeopardizes this commitment and the Project.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-360-4394.

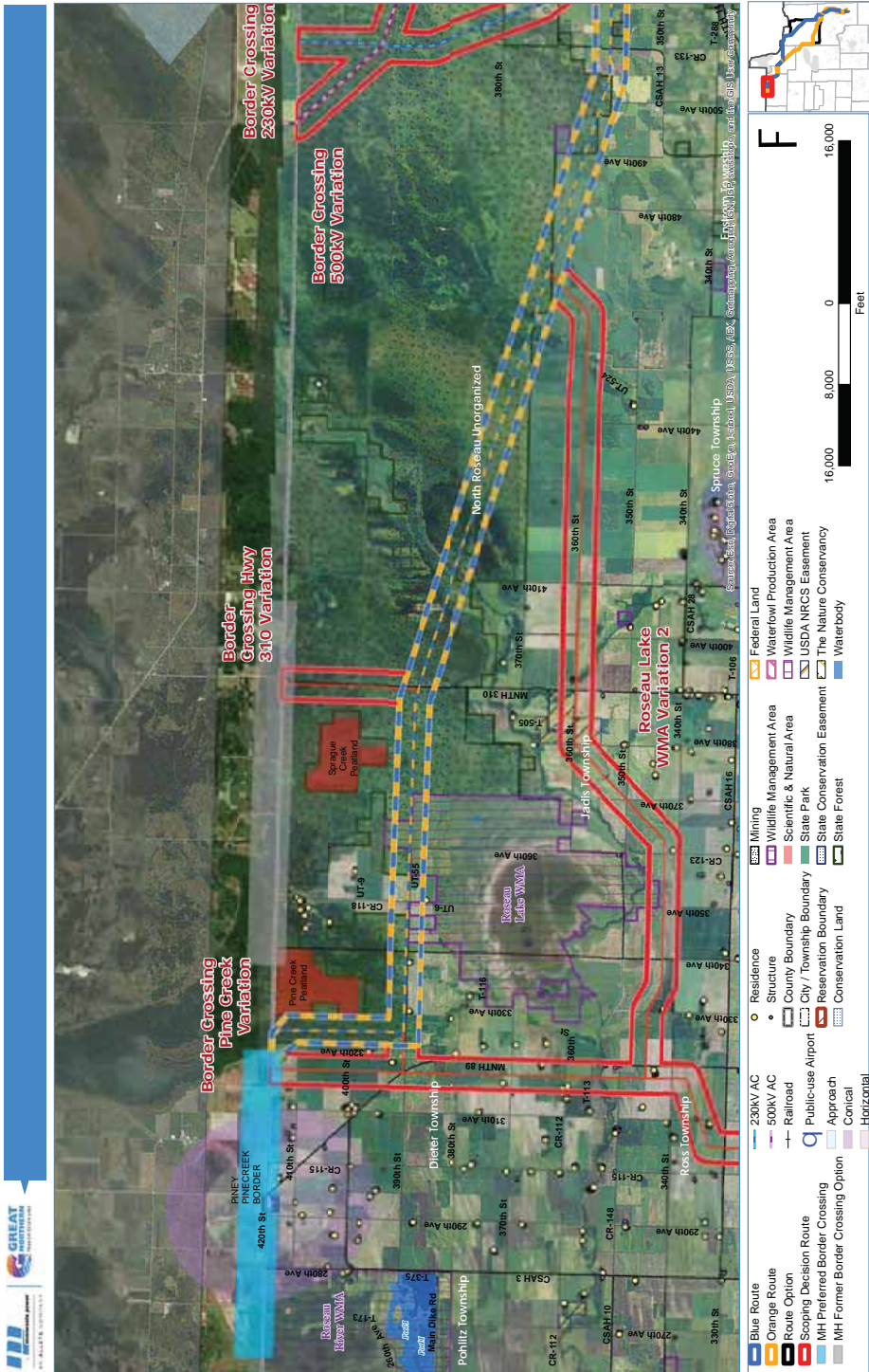
Regards,

Original signed by Shannon Johnson

Shannon Johnson
Manager
Licensing and Environmental Assessment Department
Manitoba Hydro
820 Taylor Ave (3)
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3M 3T1

Attachments: 1

Cc: Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC, 20585





Board of Commissioners
606 5th Ave. SW, Room #131
Roseau, MN 56751
Phone: 218-463-4248
Fax: 218-463-3252

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Falk and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-02-01

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 kV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County, and residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach has included multiple open houses in Roseau County, and multiple meetings updating Roseau County Commissioners, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line, and the scope of the environmental impact statement for the State route permit and Federal Presidential Permit; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a working group to gather additional public input and two Roseau County Commissioners participated in these working group meetings, and provided input on the proposed routes and border crossing; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

District 1, Glenda Phillippe** District 2, Jack Swanson, Chair
District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair ** District 4, Todd Miller ** District 5, Mark Foldesi
An Equal Opportunity Employer

0071-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Roseau County that impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service effectively negate over three years of good faith participation by Roseau County, and its residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Roseau County designates Commissioners Roger Falk and Todd Miller as possible participants in the public information meetings on the draft environmental impact statement, and the State route permit public hearings, and may provide written and oral testimony consistent with this Resolution.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF ROSEAU)

I, Jeff Pelowski, County Coordinator in and for Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners on February 10, 2015.

(SEAL)


Roseau County Coordinator

0071-1

District 1, Glenda Phillipc** District 2, Jack Swanson, Chair
District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair ** District 4, Todd Miller ** District 5, Mark Foldesi

An Equal Opportunity Employer

0072-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

ATTN: The Honorable Ann O'Reilly
 Bill Storm
 Jim Atkinson

The Dieter Town Board County of Roseau MN with Reservations will support Minnesota Power's Proposed Transmission Line Route Alternatives, from the Manitoba Canada USA Border Crossing 2.9 miles East of State Hwy 89 then South 2.3 miles to 390th Street then East along 390th Street out of Dieter township, our main concern in Dieter township is the line goes close to Building sites and homes IT could be moved into waste land and not harm anybody or anything.

The Proposed route the DNR has laid out are extremely Destructive and Intrusive on Farm Land and occupied homes and building sites. Each time the Home owners and Land owners pay these taxes they pay for the waste Land that is not taxed. When a project for the public good like this comes along IT should be on Public Land.

Thanks, Marlin Elton

Clerk Dieter Township
 Land and Home owner Dieter Township Roseau Co.
 Marlin Elton

0072-1

0073-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Dan Fabian
State Representative



Minnesota House of Representatives

District 1A
Kittson, Marshall, Pennington and Roseau
Counties

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

Dear Mr. Wolf,

I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's proposed route alternatives and international border crossing of the Great Northern Transmission Line through my House District. The Great Northern Transmission Line is an important project that will connect not just Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro, but will provide connections and benefits for the entire region. That said, a transmission project of this size and magnitude must be planned in a careful and deliberate manner recognizing the critical international cooperation. Based on what I have observed first hand and through working closely with Minnesota Power and my constituents, I firmly believe Minnesota Power has exceeded that standard and hope that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission takes this into account when evaluating route alternatives and the border crossing.

The MPUC should take into account that Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County and my constituents for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners. These routes have not been done in isolation, but through a voluntary outreach approach that has included multiple open houses in Roseau County and multiple meetings with Roseau County. This approach and collaboration led Minnesota Power to moving the originally proposed border crossing further to the east to avoid potential impacts to any future expansions of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Department of Natural Resources' Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. The new border crossing minimizes impacts on private landowners, maximizes use of state lands, and is the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro.

However, despite these facts, the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service proposed additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS. Similar to the reasons expressed by the Roseau County Board Resolution, I oppose these proposed route alternatives in Roseau County. These route alternatives were done without input from Roseau County or my constituents and would inflict significantly more impacts on private landowners and farmers, while unnecessarily increasing the length of the line in Roseau County. While I understand the MPUC must apply its statutory factors in evaluating routes for transmission lines, in this instance I believe it is in the best interest of my constituents to limit the impacts on agricultural land uses and homes and Minnesota Power's proposed route accomplishes that interest. If the MPUC accepts any of the route alternatives submitted by the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, the three years of coordination by Minnesota Power and stakeholders, including myself, will be negated.

The Great Northern Transmission Line provides many benefits to the State of Minnesota and to maximize those benefits the MPUC should minimize impacts on residents and farmers in Roseau County.

Sincerely,

Dan Fabian

705 Main Ave. S., Roseau, Minnesota 56751
State Office Building, 1301 Hwy. Dr. Marano, Lubree King, Jr. Bldg., Dr. Paul, Minneapolis, MN 55454-1296
FAX: (651) 296-4378 Email: dan.fabian@house.mn

(218) 463-1204
(651) 296-4823



0074-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

April, 2015

Senate
State of Minnesota

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Director
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147


RE: Great Northern Transmission Line
MPUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21

Dear Executive Director Wolf,

We are writing to express our solid support for Minnesota Power's proposed route alternatives and international border crossing of the Great Northern Transmission Line. This project will go through Senator Skoe's Senate District and has a statewide impact given size and projected property tax revenues of \$40,000 to \$70,000 per mile from the project. The Great Northern Transmission Line is an important project that will connect not just Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro, but will provide connections and benefits for the entire region. This project will also support additional clean, renewable hydro power being transmitted from Manitoba Hydro to electric consumers in Minnesota. A transmission project of this size and scope must be planned in a careful and deliberate manner recognizing the important international cooperation.

The MPUC should take into account that Minnesota Power has been working with local governments and Senator Skoe's constituents for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners. These routes have not been done in isolation, but through a voluntary outreach approach that has included multiple open houses and multiple meetings updating local governments. However, despite these facts, the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service proposed additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS. We oppose these proposed route alternatives. These route alternatives were done without input from local governments or Senator Skoe's constituents and would provide significantly more impacts to private landowners and farmers, while unnecessarily increasing the length of the line. While we understand the MPUC must apply its statutory factors in evaluating routes for transmission lines, in this instance it is in the best interest of Minnesota residents to limit the impacts on agricultural land uses and homes and Minnesota Power's proposed route accomplishes that interest. If the MPUC accepts any of the route alternatives submitted by the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, the three years of coordination by Minnesota Power and stakeholders will be negated.

The Great Northern Transmission Line provides many benefits to the State of Minnesota and to maximize those benefits the MPUC should minimize impacts on residents and farmers.

Sincerely,

Senator Rod Skoe
Chair, Senate Tax Committee

Sincerely,

Senator Ann H. Rest
Chair, Senate Tax Reform Division

0074-1

0075-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

April, 2015

Senate
State of Minnesota

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Director
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147


RE: Great Northern Transmission Line
MPUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21

Dear Executive Director Wolf,

We are writing to express our solid support for Minnesota Power's proposed route alternatives and international border crossing of the Great Northern Transmission Line. This project will go through Senator Skoe's Senate District and has a statewide impact given size and projected property tax revenues of \$40,000 to \$70,000 per mile from the project. The Great Northern Transmission Line is an important project that will connect not just Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro, but will provide connections and benefits for the entire region. This project will also support additional clean, renewable hydro power being transmitted from Manitoba Hydro to electric consumers in Minnesota. A transmission project of this size and scope must be planned in a careful and deliberate manner recognizing the important international cooperation.

The MPUC should take into account that Minnesota Power has been working with local governments and Senator Skoe's constituents for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners. These routes have not been done in isolation, but through a voluntary outreach approach that has included multiple open houses and multiple meetings updating local governments. However, despite these facts, the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service proposed additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS. We oppose these proposed route alternatives. These route alternatives were done without input from local governments or Senator Skoe's constituents and would provide significantly more impacts to private landowners and farmers, while unnecessarily increasing the length of the line. While we understand the MPUC must apply its statutory factors in evaluating routes for transmission lines, in this instance it is in the best interest of Minnesota residents to limit the impacts on agricultural land uses and homes and Minnesota Power's proposed route accomplishes that interest. If the MPUC accepts any of the route alternatives submitted by the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, the three years of coordination by Minnesota Power and stakeholders will be negated.

The Great Northern Transmission Line provides many benefits to the State of Minnesota and to maximize those benefits the MPUC should minimize impacts on residents and farmers.

Sincerely,

Senator Rod Skoe
Chair, Senate Tax Committee

Sincerely,

Senator Ann H. Rest
Chair, Senate Tax Reform Division

0075-1



Senate

State of Minnesota

LeRoy Stumpf
Senator – District 1
G-12 State Capitol
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone (651) 296-8660

May 6, 2015

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

Dear PUC Commissioners Heydinger, Wergin, Lange, Lipschultz and Tuma,

I am writing to express my strong support for Minnesota Power's proposed route alternatives and international border crossing of the Great Northern Transmission Line through my Senate District. The Great Northern Transmission Line is an important project that will connect not just Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro, but will provide connections and benefits for the entire region. This project will also support additional clean, renewable hydro power being transmitted from Manitoba Hydro to electric consumers in Minnesota. A transmission project of this size and scope must be planned in a careful and deliberate manner recognizing the important international cooperation.

The MPUC should take into that Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County and my constituents for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners. These routes have not been done in isolation, but through a voluntary outreach approach that has included multiple open houses in Roseau County and multiple meetings updating Roseau County. However, despite these facts, the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service proposed additional border crossings and route alternatives that were carried forward into the scope of the draft EIS. Similar to the reasons expressed by the Roseau County Board Resolution, I oppose these proposed route alternatives in Roseau County. These route alternatives were done without input from Roseau County or my constituents and would provide significantly more impacts to private landowners and farmers, while unnecessarily increasing the length of the line in Roseau County. While I understand the MPUC must apply its statutory factors in evaluating routes for transmission lines, in this instance I believe it is in the best interest of my constituents to limit the impacts on agricultural land uses and homes and Minnesota Power's proposed route accomplishes that interest. If the MPUC accepts any of the route alternatives submitted by the DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, the three years of coordination by Minnesota Power and stakeholders will be negated.



Chair, Capital Investment Committee

6/15/15 4:00

0076-1

0076-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

PUC Commissioners Heydinger, Wergin, Lange, Lipschultz and Tuma,
May 6, 2015
Page 2

The Great Northern Transmission Line provides many benefits to the State of Minnesota and to maximize those benefits the MPUC should minimize impacts on residents and farmers in Roseau County.

Sincerely,



LeRoy Stumpf
Senator – District 1



218-634-2836
218-634-2509 (Fax)

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY

Lake of the Woods County Commissioners
206 8th Ave SE, Suite 260
Baudette, MN 56623

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Moorman and moved for adoption:

MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE

RESOLUTION NO. 15-06-08

MPUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21
OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637,
DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS; Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line through Lake of the Woods County by June 1, 2020;

WHEREAS; Minnesota Power has been working with Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners, residents, and landowners in Lake of the Woods County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners;

WHEREAS; Lake of the Woods County does not support Great Northern Transmission Line alternate routes indicated in Red;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT; Lake of the Woods County prefers Minnesota Power's "Orange Route" as reviewed with Jim Atkinson from Minnesota Power on May 26, 2015.

I certify that this is a true and complete copy of the original thereof, which is on file and of record the Office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota.

DATED at Baudette, Minnesota this 23rd day of June, 2015.

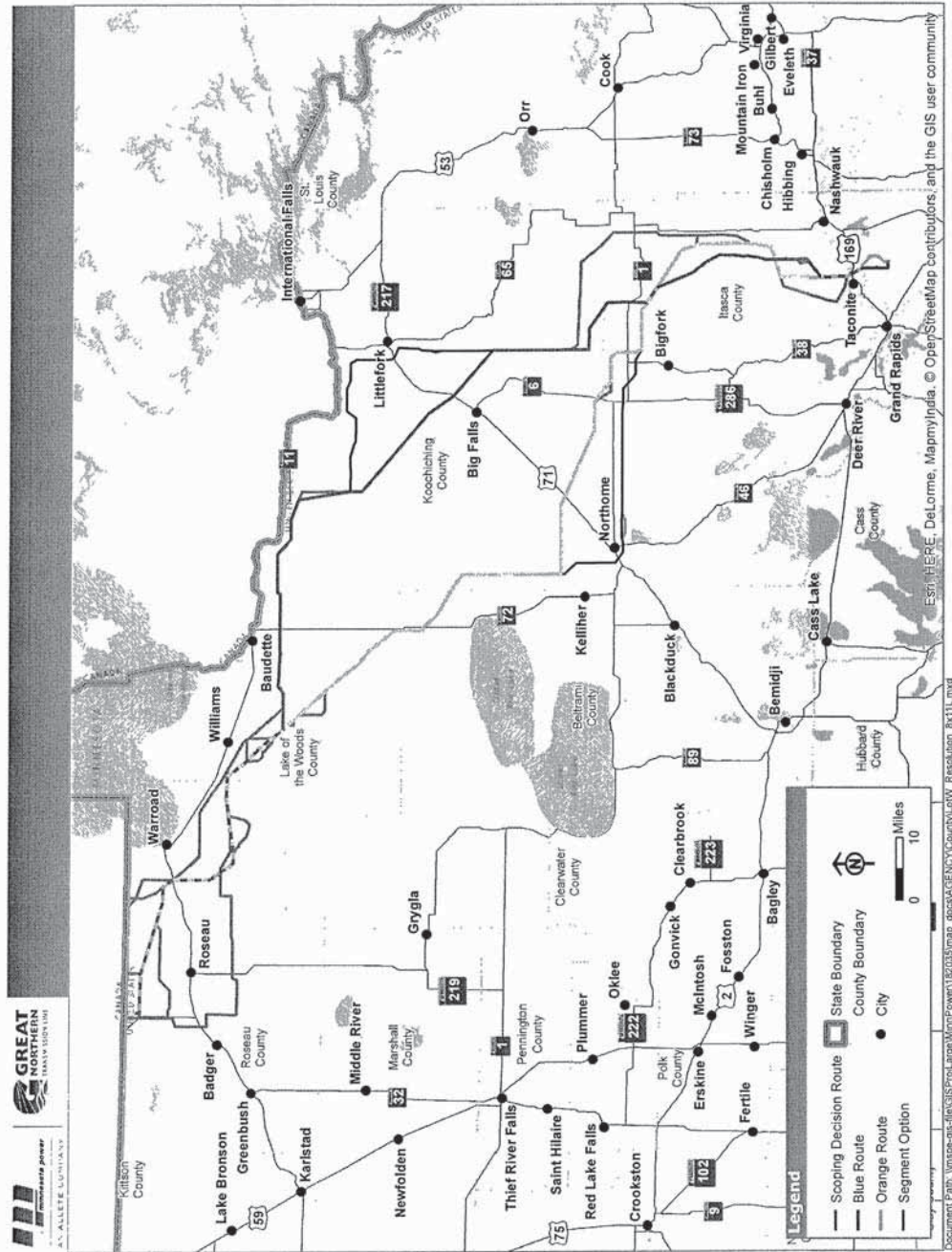
Lorene Hanson
Lorene Hanson, County Auditor/Treasurer

(SEAL)

- EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER -

0077-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0077-1



0078-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, June 16 2015; 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

2015/06-28 Motion by McBride, seconded by Skoe adopting the following resolution stating Koochiching County's support of the construction by Minnesota Power for the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line:

WHEREAS Minnesota Power has proposed the construction of the Great Northern Transmission Line to carry electricity from Manitoba Canada to the Blackberry Substation 10 miles east of Grand Rapids, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS this proposed line would provide access to clean, reliable and affordable energy to many Koochiching County residents who rely upon Minnesota Power to meet their energy needs; and

WHEREAS the proposed routes would necessitate the construction of a 500kv transmission line in Koochiching County; and

WHEREAS Minnesota Power has collaborated with Koochiching County officials and residents to create routes for said transmission line with minimal adverse impact to county residents, landowners and business; and

WHEREAS this collaborative effort included multiple rounds of open houses and public comment meetings in the communities of Littlefork, International Falls and Northome as well as several updates at regular meetings of the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS this collaborative process has resulted in the creation of two proposed routes referred to as the "Blue Route" and the "Orange Route" across Koochiching County; and

WHEREAS the segment option to the Blue Route passes through the Lindford area, the segment option to the Orange Route passes near the Northome School and the red "EIS Alternate Alignment" options were proposed without any input from County Stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Koochiching County supports the approval of either the Blue Route or the Orange Route of the Great Northern Transmission Line with strong preference being given to the Blue Route; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Koochiching County opposes all segment options and "EIS Alternate Alignment" options to both the Blue and Orange Route. Voting yes: Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee

CERTIFICATION
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING

I, Teresa Briggs, Clerk to the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners, in and for the County of Koochiching, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the records of my office show that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board at their meeting on June 16, 2015.

Date: 6-17-15
Teresa Briggs
Teresa Briggs, Board Clerk
Koochiching County Board

0078-1



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Jerry Adam
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: 40180 Bray Lake Rd
Nashwauk, MN
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____
Email: _____

Comment: We prefer the Balsam Variation Route -
STAY AWAY FROM "BRAY LAKE"

0079-1

0079-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.



**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Name: Karen Adam
 Organization (if any): 49180 Bray Lake Rd
 Mailing Address: 49180 Bray Lake Rd
 City: Nashwanak
 State: MN
 Zip: _____
 Email: _____

0080-1

Comment: We prefer the Balsam
creation route - please stay
away from Bray Lake.

0080-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21 RECEIVED

MAY 14 2015

MAILROOM

Name: Curtis + Carol Amundson
 Organization (if any): 21906 370th Ave
 Mailing Address: _____

 City: Roseau
 State: MT
 Zip: 56751
 Email: _____

0081-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0081-2
The impacts on human health from the proposed Project are evaluated in the EIS, specifically noise in Section 5.2.1.2 and public health and safety in Section 5.2.2 of the EIS.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Comment:

Since this power line is for public use we think it should go on public land as much as possible.
 Therefore we are opposed to the route pictured on the back of this page.
 We think there are just too many people living on this route.
 No one knows the effect big power lines will have on humans. The effect (whatever that may be) would be unrelenting.

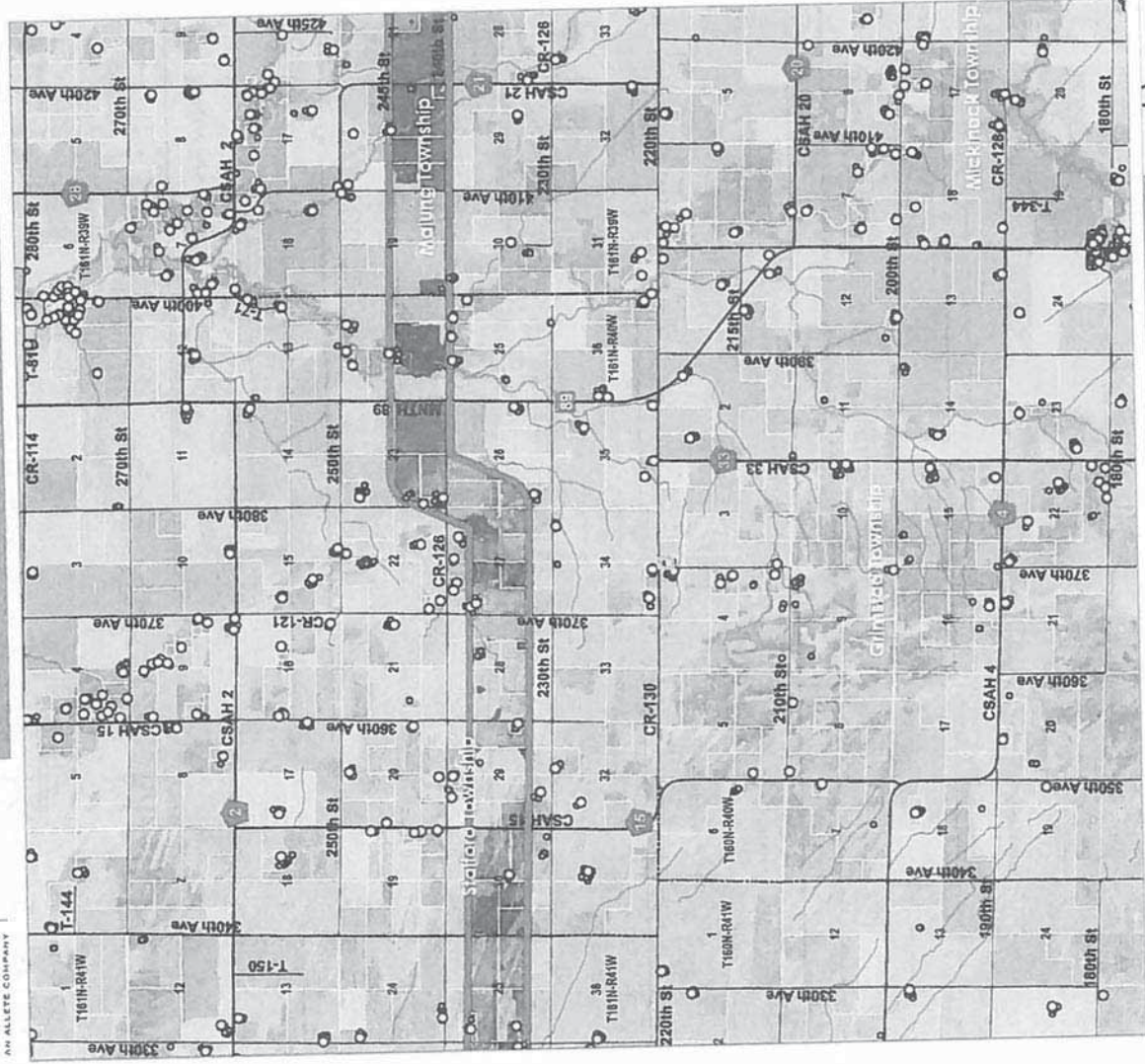
Carol + Curtis Amundson

0081-1

0081-2

GREAT PLAINS TRANSMISSION LINE
AN ALLETE COMPANY

Curtis Amundson
21906 370th Ave
Roseau, MN



Legend

- Commenter's Area of Interest
- Existing Transmission
- Blue Route
- Orange Route
- Route Option
- Scoping Decision Route
- 230KV AC
- 500KV AC
- Residence
- Structure

0 2,000 Feet



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

Contact Us Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 10:53 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Ben Bleeess

Email
benbleess@gmail.com

Street Address:
29272 650th avenue

City:
Warroad

State:
MN

Zipcode:
56763

Phone:
2182424633

Preferred method of contact:
Email

Inquiry:
I am concerned that the transmission lines will go over my future home building site 2 miles south of Swift MN.
Please do not use this alternate route.

| 0082-1

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>

0082-1
Thank you for your comment. The EIS only analyzes existing residences.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0083-1

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0083-1

From: Benjamin Bleess
To: Storm Bill (COMM)
Subject: TL-14-21
Date: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 4:44:24 PM

Hello Bill,

I just attended the Warroad meeting for the above issue.

I oppose the Cedar Bend WMA. This will go directly over my pasture and likely future home building sit if it goes on the south side of the current power lines.

If this goes through it will impact many homes and farms/animals. There is ample research that I could provide from government sources on stray voltage harming grazing/drinking of cows.

If this goes through I would like to know if my land could be rented annually (12 acres) instead of "purchasing" easement.

Thank you!
Ben Bleess

Great Northern Transmission Line GIS Map Comment Form

Name: Jeanet Delirch
Address: 37845 Co. Rd. 336

City: Parquet
County: Itaska

State: MN
Phone Number: 318-245-1840 Zip: 55709

Email: _____

Comment: I prefer the Red Route Balsam
Variation because its an existing
power line area
of front yard

0085-1

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

0085-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line

Docket Number TL-14-21

0086-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Saretha Fulton
 Organization (if any): Property owner
 Mailing Address: 1210 Main Ave
 City: Fot'l Falls
 State: MN
 Zip: 56649
 Email: Blackwoman@gmail.com

Comment:

I wish to continue to be on record as supporting
 MN Powers Blue Route as proposed

0086-1

As a property owner in Sac 30 Top 158 Range 25
 I strongly oppose the Black segment out of
 Littlebelk as circled on back map

Saretha Fulton

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM





Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0087-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Rudsey Horne
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 3824 Co. Rd 1

 City: Fettleburgh
 State: Michigan
 Zip: 49623
 Email: _____

0087-1

Comment: Please put the line through the Minnesota
 Power Building. There are a lot of people
 living on the Fettleburgh line. If you put
 it through there, you are going to
 waste a lot of money. I have a large garden
 and a lot of fruit trees. I am a fruit
 lover. I like to eat fruit.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Bonnie Horne

Organization (if any): _____

Mailing Address: 1500 8th Avenue

City: Littlefork

State: MN

Zip: 56653 218-278-6709

Email: _____

0088-1

Comment:

Please put the line through the Minnesota's Powers Blue Route that bypasses Littlefork and all the families that have homes ~~the~~ and children that will be affected by the other route. Please put the line through the Minnesota Powers Blue Route.

Why would you want to affect ~~the~~ many residents health of adults and children that can not afford to move to another area to get away from the health hazards. It affects many peoples lives. If you do not go through Minnesota Powers Blue Route.

0089-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: P & J TURKEYS
To: Storm_Bill (COMM)
Subject: Docket Number TL-14-21
Date: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 9:34:49 PM

As a land owner and agricultural producer in Roseau County, Minnesota I am opposed to the Great Northern Transmission Line going through agricultural land of Stokes, Stafford, and Malung townships of our county. The Original northern route through mostly unpopulated, non agricultural land is far more acceptable. The route through ag land imposes limitations on how our land is farmed and impacts values. I am tired of Minnesota wildlife and conservation interests taking precedence over people making a living off the land.

0089-1

Thank you,
Duane Jaenicke
23786 370th Ave
Roseau, MN 56751
218.689.0494

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line RECEIVED

Docket Number TL-14-21

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Name: CAVIN JOHNSON
Organization (if any): INDIVIDUAL & MEMBER OF THE HARTLEY LAKE ASSOC.

Mailing Address: 4468 E. Hwy 65

City: BOVEY, MN.

State: MN.

Zip: 55709

Email: SNOWTA@USLINK.NET

Comment:

IN SEEING THE NEW ADDITION OF THE RED ROUTE IN ITASKA CO. (SEE MAP BACK SIDE) AS A PROPOSAL, I WOULD WOULD STRONGLY CONSIDERATION OF THIS NEW PROPOSAL, THE HARTLEY LAKE ASSOC. ORIGINALLY PROPOSED USING THE CORRIDOR OF THE EXISTING LINE NEXT TO HWY 65 BUT WERE TOLD AT THE TIME THAT RUNNING THE NEW POWER LINE NEXT TO AN EXISTING ONE WAS NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF A DANGER OF MULTIPLE OUTAGES, HOWEVER, IF IT IS FEASIBLE, I, AND I THINK MOST HARTLEY L. ASSOC. MEMBERS, FEEL IT IS A ROUTE THAT NOT ONLY IMPACTS THE FEWEST PEOPLE, BUT IT ALSO IMPACTS THE ENVIRONMENT MUCH LESS THE TOTALLY NEW ROUTE POSSIBILITIES.

ALSO, I SEE GREAT BENEFIT IN USING THE REST OF THE NEW RED (COMBINED WITH ORANGE PARTLY) LINE SOUTH OF THIS AREA AS IT WOULD FOLLOW A PREVIOUS USED LINE THAT WOULD IMPACT FEWER PEOPLE IN ITASKA COUNTY AND, AGAIN, HAVE LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THAN A NEW ROUTE BEING CREATED.

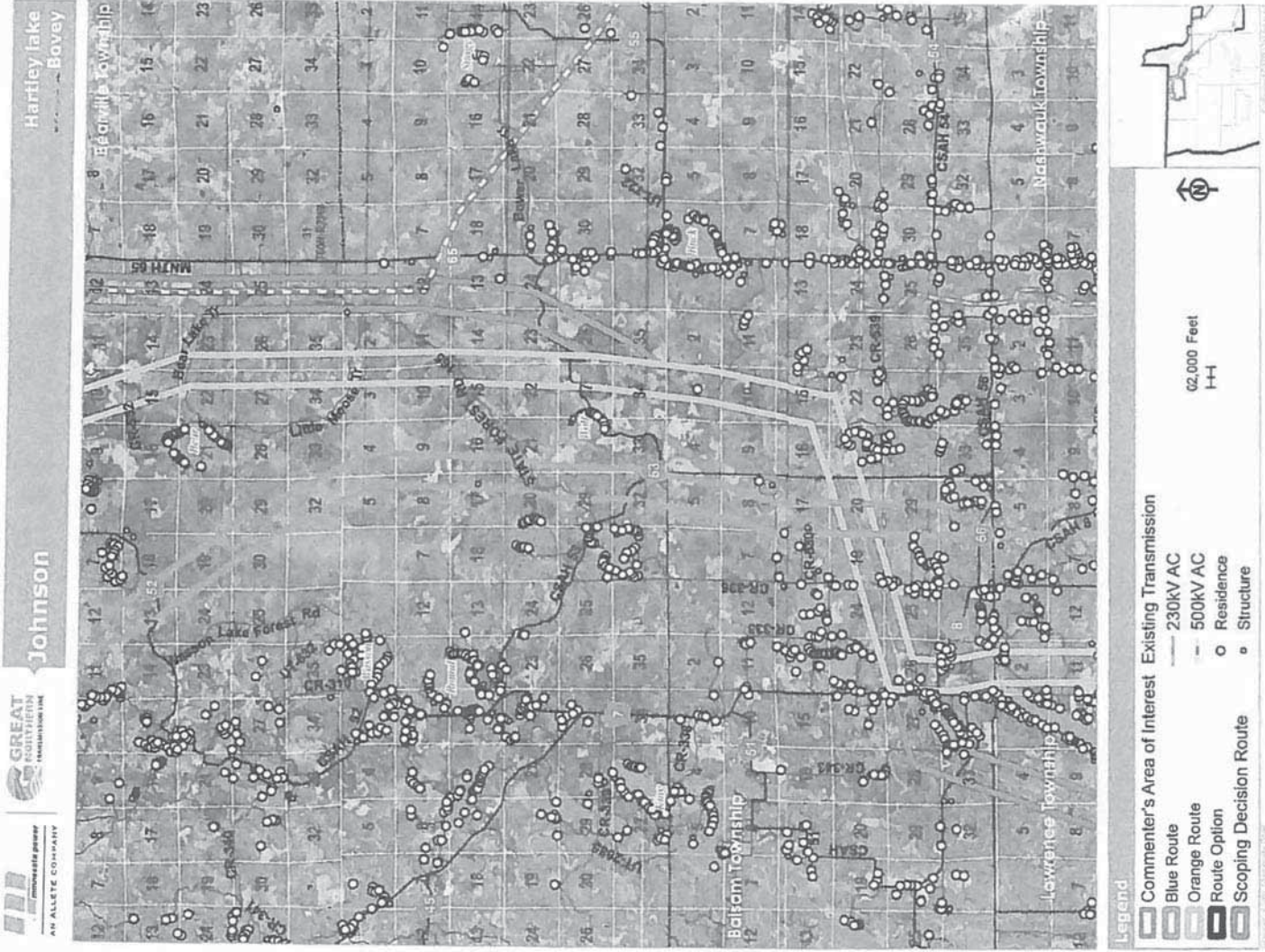
I REALIZE THIS WILL ADD COST, BUT THIS LINE WILL BE IN EXISTANCE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, THAT THE BENEFITS TO THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD VERY WELL BE WORTH IT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Cavin Johnson

0090-1

0090-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.



Johnson

Hartley Lake
Bovey

Legend

- Commenter's Area of Interest Existing Transmission
- Blue Route
- Orange Route
- Route Option
- Scoping Decision Route
- Residence
- Structure

230KV AC
500KV AC

02,000 Feet
1-H



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0091-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Leave a comment! Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Mon, May 4, 2015 at 12:50 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Leave a comment! through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Jon Johnson

Email:
jon.johnson@polaris.com

Comment:
In the scoping area(red) in Falun Township. Not liking what I'm seeing.

| 0091-1

Join our mailing list:
Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347305251>

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line

Docket Number TL-14-21

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Name: JOHN E JOHNSON
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 59255 TONGUES FOREST RD

 City: WILKINSON
 State: MINN
 Zip: 56763
 Email: 218-386-3166

Comment:

I am NOT Agreant This Line
 BUT I DO HAVE CONCERN AS FAR AS IF
 THIS ADDED LINE WILL ROBBER MY PARCELATOR
 THE LINE SUNK AT ME NOW IIS JUST FAR
 ENOUGH THAT I'LL BE ADAPTING. BUT I HAVE TO
 STAY AWAY FROM IT. I CAN'T BE ANY CLOSER
 OR IT WILL CAUSE MY PARCELATOR TO GO OFF.
 THESE ARE MY CONCERNS
 I AM TRYING TO SELL MY PLACE AT THIS
 TIME. IF I SELL NO PROBLEMS

THANK YOU PLEASE
 STAY IN TOUCH

THE TAD PAULS' HAVE ARE LOOKING AT DESIGNING
 WILL BROKER ME
 WOULD THE POWER CO. BE INTERESTED IN
 BUYING MY PLACE



0092-1

0092-3

If the final route crosses your property, you have the right to use the "Buy the Farm" option as cited in Minnesota Statute 216E,12 subdivision 4.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0092-2

0092-3

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0092-3



0093-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Raymond H. Johnson
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 306
City: Little York
State: MIN
Zip: 56653
Email: John@frontier.net

Comment: My preference for the transmission line
location/route is the Orange Dam.

0093-1



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0094-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: John Kennos
Organization (if any): Balsam Twp Supervisor
Mailing Address: 40874 Co Rd. 336

City: Bovey
State: MN
Zip: 55709
Email: JBkennos@northk.com

0094-1
Comment: Balsam Township recommends

The route enter Balsam on the
orange route and then take the
blue route as you leave Balsam
going from North to South.
I, John Kennos, would like to
see the red route along to be
utilized to the north.

JK Kennos

Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21

0095

0095-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: John Kannas
Organization (if any): Balsam Twp. Supervisor
Mailing Address: 40874 Co. Rd. 336
City: Bovey
State: MN
Zip: 55709
Email: jkannas@northk.com

0095-1

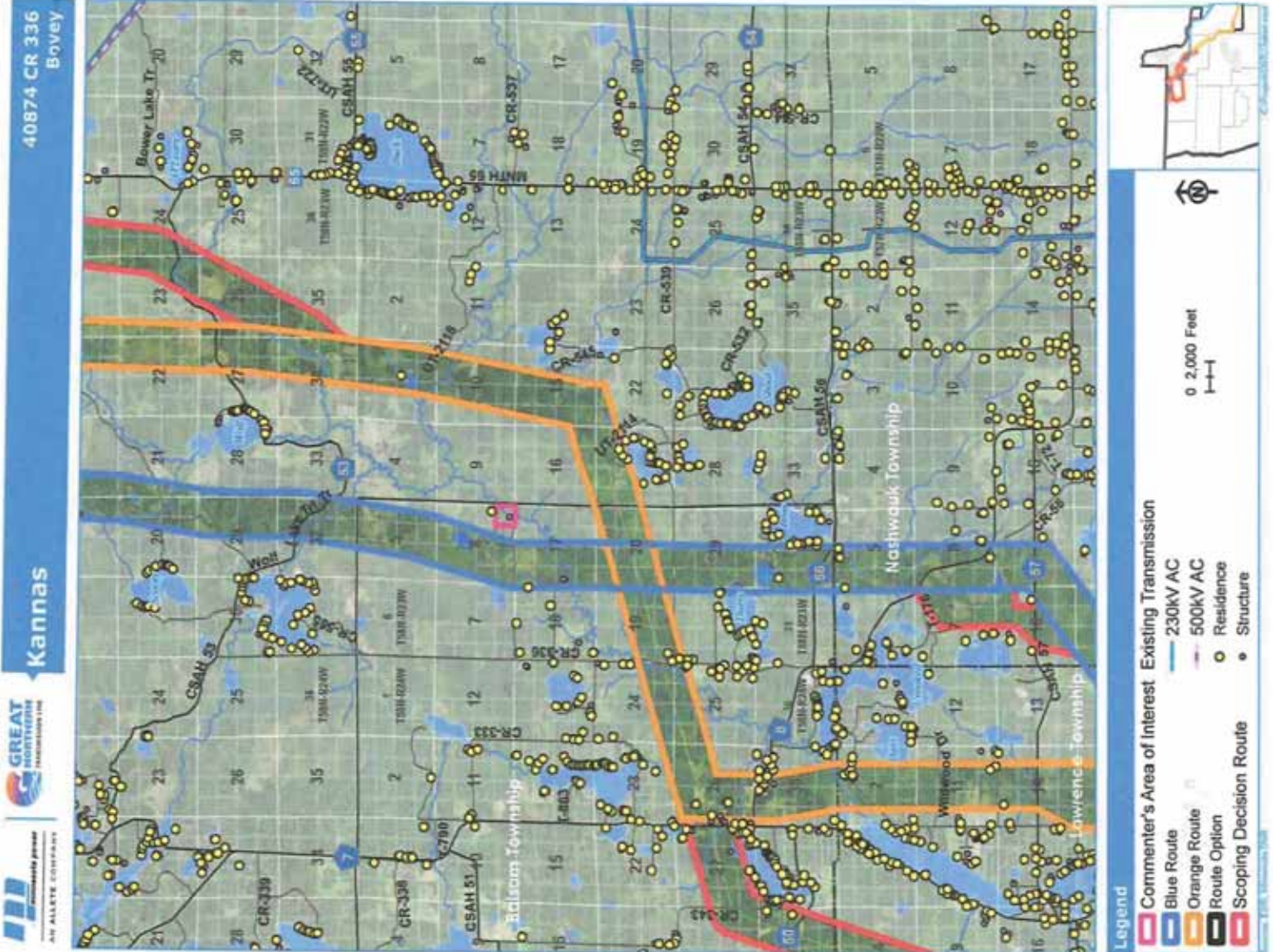
Comment: Balsam Township recommends
The route enter Balsam from the
North on the orange route and then
Take the blue route as you leave
Balsam. We do not want the
red route or the west orange
route utilized.

John Kannas

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM





Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Jon Keener
 Organization (if any): Sterling Lumber
 Mailing Address: 501 151st St
 City: Phoenix
 State: IL
 Zip: 60426
 Email: jonk@sterlinglumber.com

0096-1

Comment: Sterling Lumber supports this project. We understand the need for modern infrastructure development. Our business supports the ecologically sound construction methods that will be needed to complete the project. Many construction / support / materials jobs will be created directly benefiting the region.

In terms of the open house - good format. I liked having a single-point-of contact person guide me through the proceeding. HDR staff were very accommodating.

Thank You

Jon Keener

0096-1
 Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Great Northern Transmission Line GIS Map Comment Form

0097-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Tony Kellin
Address: 20634 County Rd 530 - POC address

City: Bevev
County: Itasca
State: MN
Phone Number: 259-2050 Zip: _____
Email: kellin@prairieoutdoorbrands.com

0097-1

Comment: I am part owner of Prairie River Camp and
we would prefer you go with the orange route.
If you end up going with the blue route, we
would like you to stay west of Christmas Lake.
Our 80 acres is SE of the lake and we
would greatly appreciate it if the line stays
west.

Tony Kellin
TJK

RECEIVED
MAY 19 2015
MAILROOM



Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line

Docket Number TL-14-21

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Name: Thomas M. King
 Organization (if any):
 Mailing Address: 304 Dale Ave. SW
 City: WARRDAND
 State: MN
 Zip: 56763
 Email: tomking@twinkl.com

Comment:

1. IN reference to my family land on: See line on map
 Beltrami North Central Variation I
 My family is completely opposed to the selection of
 our property to cross with the power line for the following:
 1. Would destroy valuable timber that is used for
 recreation use by my family. Also the timber has
 economic value as well.
 2. We personally have planted several thousand
 trees in this area to preserve the forest resources.
 3. It is my hope to be able to leave this
 property to all of my Grandkids one day for
 their recreational use. We don't want to leave
 them a powerline to deal with.
 4. Why not use the existing line site which
 is only about a mile from our property
 5. This makes both economic and conservation
 sense.
 6. I would hope that my state would do
 the best thing to preserve the existing
 natural resources of our state and of
 its citizens property

Tom King

0098-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0098-2
Potential impacts to forests are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0098-3
As stated in Section 5.2.1.9, most recreational activities (e.g., hiking, snowmobiling, mountain biking, bird watching, etc.) can be done safely in transmission line ROWs.

0098-1

0098-2

0098-3

 AN ALLEGE COMPANY
 GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE
 King
 304 Dale Av SW Warroad



Legend
 [Symbol] Commenter's Area of Interest
 [Symbol] Existing Transmission
 [Symbol] Blue Route
 [Symbol] Orange Route
 [Symbol] Route Option
 [Symbol] Scoping Decision Route
 [Symbol] 230kV AC
 [Symbol] 500kV AC
 [Symbol] Residence
 [Symbol] Structure
 0 2,000 Feet
 [Inset Map]



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Barb Kirk
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: 715 5th St
City: Fairfax Falls
State: MM
Zip: 56699
Email: _____

Comment: I prefer MN Power Blue Route that avoids
Little fork. A powerline exists on my land already.
It is adding insult to injury.

0099-1

0099-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0100-1
Maps are updated in the Final EIS to identify the location of your residence.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Scott Kalksted
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: 36998 Starbuck Ln
City: Roseau
State: Mn
Zip: 56751
Email: Scott.Kalksted@sympatico.ca

0100-1
Comment: We would prefer to not have the line cross our private property north of Roseau unless there is a lack of state land to route the line north out our property. Our property is 80 acres north east of Roseau along Sprague Creek. It is a nice developed land with a cabin built like apartment home. Route it Elsewhere! OR Move slightly north of our property.
Scott Kalksted

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Please fold, fasten, and mail. No envelope necessary.

Place
Stamp
Here

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

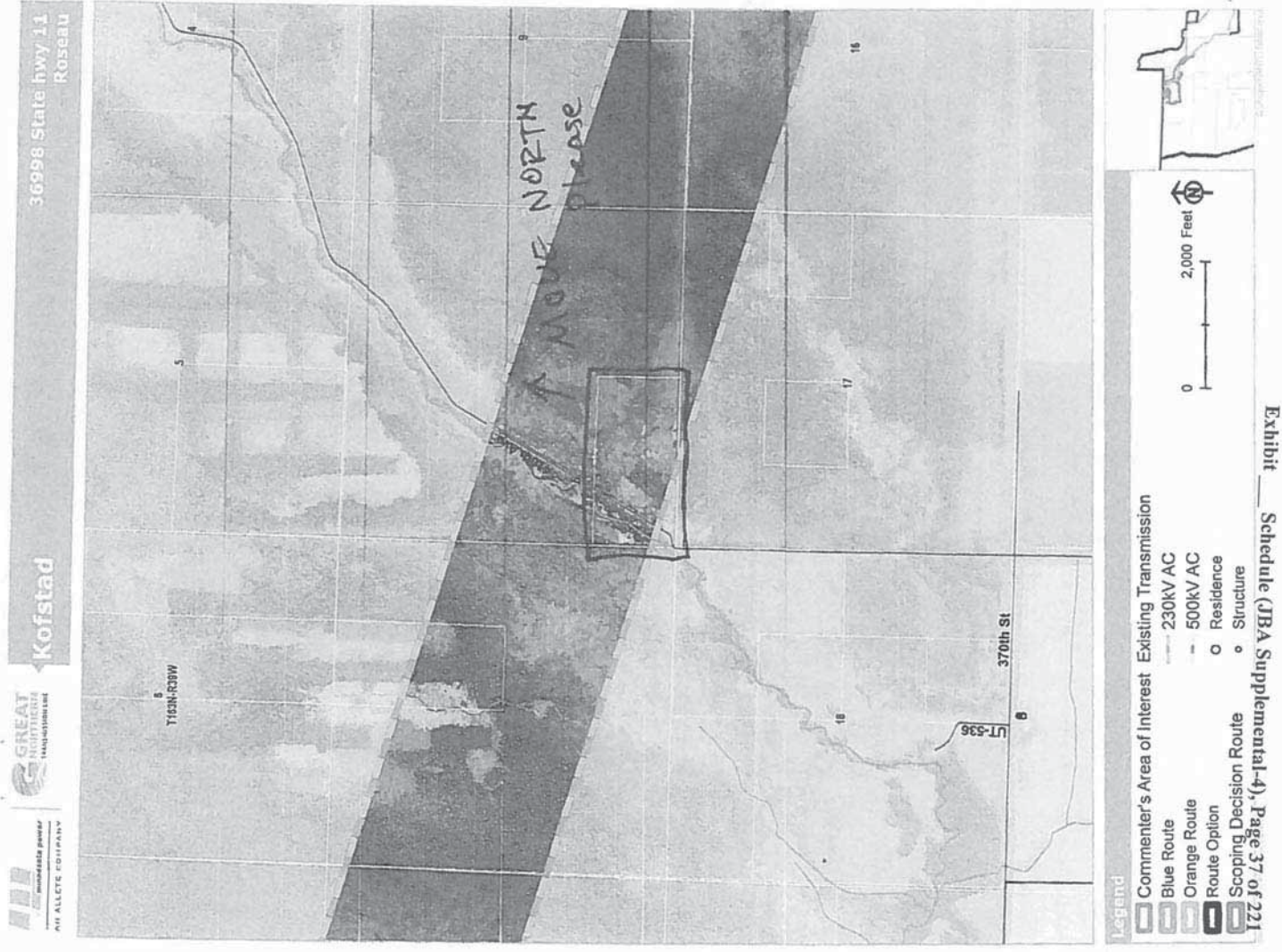


Exhibit Schedule (JBA Supplemental-4), Page 37 of 221

Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>



Contact Us Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Sat, Jul 18, 2015 at 7:10 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Arthur Krahn

Email
artkrahn@wiktel.com

Street Address:
59404 County Road 12

City:
Warroad

State:
MN Minnesota

Zipcode:
56763

Phone:
2183861933

Preferred method of contact:
Email

Inquiry:

I took time off work to go testify at the Roseau meeting, that said it ran from 11-3 but when I got there at 2 everyone was gone. Powerlines going through the forest are a great thing. Hikers birdwatchers hunters forestry workers, game wardens, loggers, search teams firefighters, anyone I know uses and appreciates power lines in the forest. Deer, birds, and all kinds of small game use the clearing and fresh growth the comes from the power lines. Going through private areas and peoples back yards, small woods and food plots is not environmentally beneficial.

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>

0101-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0101-1



**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

0102-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0102-2

Impacts to forests and private property are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

0102-3

Potential impacts to wildlife and forests are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Arthur Kroehn
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 59404 CR 12
 City: Warroad, MN
 State: MN
 Zip: 56763
 Email: _____

0102-1

Comment: The proposed MN Power line is the best route.

0102-2

There are some very serious benefits to running the power line through the forest. Power lines in the forest are loved by wildlife of many kinds including bird, large game, and small game. Wildlife watchers and hunters also love power lines in the forest. Anyone who works in the forest including loggers + DNR workers benefit from and use the clearings of the power lines. They also help many hikers to keep from being lost. Power lines also provide a great help to fire fighters and can potentially save huge amounts of forest from burning.

0102-3

When in the forest people love to find and use the power line clearing. When in fields and small private properties people avoid and are hindered by them. The proposed cedar bend line may even put the country corn maze out of business.



**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

0103-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Mark Lofgren
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: 41366 Scenic Hwy
City: Bovey
State: MN
Zip: 55709
Email: colicmark@gmail.com

0103-1
Comment: Bill - I recommend the Blue route thru Balsam Township. The township park is in the orange route as well as local business like store, etc. The Balsam Bible Chapel Church is in the new Red route as well as close to the orange route parsonage is in both red & orange routes.

Go Blue route thru Balsam Township
Mark

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JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Great Northern Transmission Line Docket Number TL-14-21

0104-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Mark Lofgren

Organization (if any): _____

Mailing Address: 41366 Scenic Hwy

City: Boyer

State: MN

Zip: 55709

Email: colicemark@gmail.com

Comment:

Go Blue route thru Balsam Township —
It has the least impact on property owners
Stay away from the Church, Park + local
business !!

0104-1



Lofgren for Balsam Twnshp Balsam township park
Bovey



Legend

- Commenter's Area of Interest
- Blue Route
- Orange Route
- Route Option
- Scoping Decision Route
- Existing Transmission
- 230KV AC
- 500KV AC
- Residence
- Structure

0

Great Northern Transmission Line Docket Number TL-14-21

0105-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Mark Lotgren
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 41366 Scenic Hwy

 City: Bovey
 State: MIN
 Zip: 55709
 Email: colicmark@gmail.com

Comment:

This area is a township park
 stay away from this area!
 use Blue route

0105-1







Legend

	Commenter's Area of Interest		Existing Transmission
	Blue Route		230kV AC
	Orange Route		500kV AC
	Route Option		Residence
	Scoping Decision Route		Structure





**Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0106-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Mark Lofgren
Organization (if any): _____
Mailing Address: 41366 Scenic Hwy
City: Bovey
State: MN
Zip: 55709
Email: coliemark@gmail.com

Comment: Active Balsam Bible Chapel - church -
Avoid this Church + use the BLUE route

0106-1





Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0107-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Leave a comment! Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Fri, May 15, 2015 at 9:29 AM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdfinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Leave a comment! through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Karen Lucachick

Email:
kato5761@msn.com

Comment:
I am opposed to the Balsam Variation and will provide comments soon!

Join our mailing list:
Yes

| 0107-1

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347305251>

0108-1

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

From: Tom.Lund
To: Storm.Bill.COMM1
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line TL-14-21
Date: Friday, May 15, 2015 2:33:23 PM

Dear Bill Storm,

Our names are Annie and Tom Lund we are land owner in the Cedar Bend WMA Alternative Scoping Decision Route proposed for the Great Northern Transmission Line. We have been following the project and have not had issues with the proposed Blue/Orange route which minimizes issues with private landowners. The Cedar Bend Alternative route could go through our yard. We have three children and we feel these are not safe to have in our yard. Our address is 29856 660 ave. Warroad, MN 56763. Also the Cedar Bend alternative route will go through many acres of private forest and wetlands, state forest and wetlands plus many yards including ours. If you have any questions please contact us (218)386-1193. Please remove the Cedar Bend WMA Alternative route from consideration.

0108-1

Thank you,

Annie and Tom Lund
29856 660 ave
Warroad, MN 56763

0109-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Tom
To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
Cc: Bob Evans; Julie Jorgensen; Dick Stone
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Project
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015 11:44:25 AM

Dear Bill:

Please add Bob Evans and me to your contact/information list. My address is: 708 1st Street N, Suite 421, Minneapolis, MN. 55401.

I have recently advised Minnesota Power that while we have no current objections to the 500kV transmission facilities, we want to be assured that the project will not adversely impact the Mesaba Energy Project facilities in any way. As you know, one of the proposed routes would take the new transmission line on or very close to our designated site.

Thank you for your attention to this. Hope you are well, and please contact Bob or me if you have any questions.

Tom

0109-1

Tom Micheletti | Co-President & CEO | Excelsior Energy Inc | Mobile: 952.250.2252 |

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties

*Board of Managers: Roger Anderson, Jim Kukowski, Jon Vold, Darrel Johnson, Paul Okonawski, Allen Brazier, Daryl Kleegstad
Staff: Dan Money, District Administrator; Matt Thompson, District Technician
410 5th Street S., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843-3333 - Email: daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net*

April 29, 2015

Jim Atkinson
Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802-2093

Dear Mr. Atkinson,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Two Rivers Watershed District regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line Update and the invitation to upcoming open houses. We appreciate the opportunity to review the project and provide comments. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the open house in Roseau and the others are not in close proximity. Therefore we would like to provide the following comments.

The Two Rivers Watershed District is a local unit of government organized under Minnesota Statute 103D. The District is focused on water management in the areas of drainage, flood control, water quality and water quantity. The District performs water quality and quantity studies, performs drainage ditch construction, operation, and maintenance, constructs flood control impoundments, permits for water related activities, and works with local, state, and federal governments and private individuals and entities.

The District operates three flood control impoundments. One of these is located in sections 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, and 34 of Ross Township, Roseau County, Minnesota. The District either owns the land within the impoundment or holds an easement, totaling approximately 2,200 acres. In 2005 a dike was constructed around the perimeter and an outlet structure consisting of a culvert with an operable gate was installed. The District closes the gate when flooding is occurring and up to 3,600 acre feet of water can be stored on the site. The water is stored typically for 4 to 6 weeks and then slowly released to downstream receiving watercourses. This alleviates flooding of public infrastructure, cropland, farmsteads and other property.

It has come to our attention that one of your scoping decision routes intends to traverse this project. We would caution that if this is chosen as the preferred route that you coordinate with us very early in the process. Because of the nature of the impoundment project, when it is impounding water soils will become saturated for extended periods of time and will become soft. This may or may not have an affect on your proposed project. In addition, there is a wetland easement on a portion of the land that is a requirement of a permit that we received from the US Army Corps of Engineers. As such no structures can be erected in it, this wetland cannot be drained or filled and must remain in its natural state. Also, the integrity of the dikes on our project needs to be protected, so we would not want any construction activity on or near these structures.

0110-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0110-1

One other item to note is that the District established the *Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District* in 1981. These Rules require permits for certain activities that alter or affect the water resources within the District. I have included a fact sheet regarding these Rules which explains what types of projects require a permit. Your project may be subject to the Rules, depending on the nature of the work.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to you regarding your project. I would appreciate receiving any future updates. If you have any questions or comments please give me a call at 218-843-3333 or by email at Daniel.money@mn.nacdnet.net. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Dan Money
District Administrator

Two Rivers

Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties

Board of Managers:

Roger Anderson, O'Neil Larson, Richard Novacek, Jim Kukowski, Jon Vold, Darrel Johnson, Paul Olsonawski

Staff: Dan Money, District Administrator; Matt Thompson, District Technician

410 5th Street S., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843-3333 - Fax (218) 843-2020 - Email: daniel.money@mm.nacdnet.net



PROJECTS WHICH REQUIRE A PERMIT FROM THE TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Two Rivers Watershed District amended its rules on June 5, 1997. These rules govern projects which have a potential effect on the water resources of the District and specifically relate to drainage, flood control, water use, and water quality. Projects of this type require a permit from the Two Rivers Watershed District before any work is done. There is no charge for the permit, however projects which are commenced or completed without a permit will require a \$100 fee. **Some of the specific works which require a permit are listed below.** A complete set of Rules and a permit application form can be obtained at the District office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota or by calling the office at (218) 843-3333.

Drainage: Any construction or alteration of any drain tile or drainage ditch that drains an area in excess of 20 acres. Also, any artificial drainageway which delivers water from one sub-watershed to another sub-watershed, and any drainage of water by any means into any legal drainage system from any land not assessed to that drainage system.

Construction: Any construction or alteration of any bridge, dike, culvert, or drain across any drainageway, lake, wetland, or other water body.

Dikes: Any construction, alteration, or removal of any dike or reservoir.

Utilities: Any sanitary sewer system which discharges to surface water, storm sewer, or other major utility project which affects surface water within the District.

Roads: Any street, road, or highway construction project which by means of its construction has any effect on the quality or quantity of water runoff.

Water Appropriation: Any artificial or mechanical transfer of water from a water source including but not limited to gravel pits, ponds, rivers, wetlands, and other reservoirs consistent with the general purposes of the District.

Wetlands: Any works which include draining, filling, excavating, or dredging of any type 3, 4, 5, or 8 wetland as defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *Circular # 39*.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

Name: Brian Moody
Organization (if any): Bear Lake Cabin Owners Assoc.
Mailing Address: 7634 Pine Tree Rd

City: Side Lake
State: MN
Zip: 55781
Email: moody7634@msn.com

Comment: Our Association would prefer the routes
in this order.

#1 Red Scoping Effie variation
#2 Blue Route
#3 Red Scoping East Bear Lake variation
#4 Orange Route

The Association would prefer the routes that
would be less visible from our cabins and the
State campground.

Brian Moody

0111-1

0111-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line

Docket Number TL-14-21

0112

0112-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Anna Muishead

Organization (if any): _____

Mailing Address: 63834 city Rd #2

City: Rosevelt, Minn.

State: MN.

Zip: 56673

Email: _____

Comment:

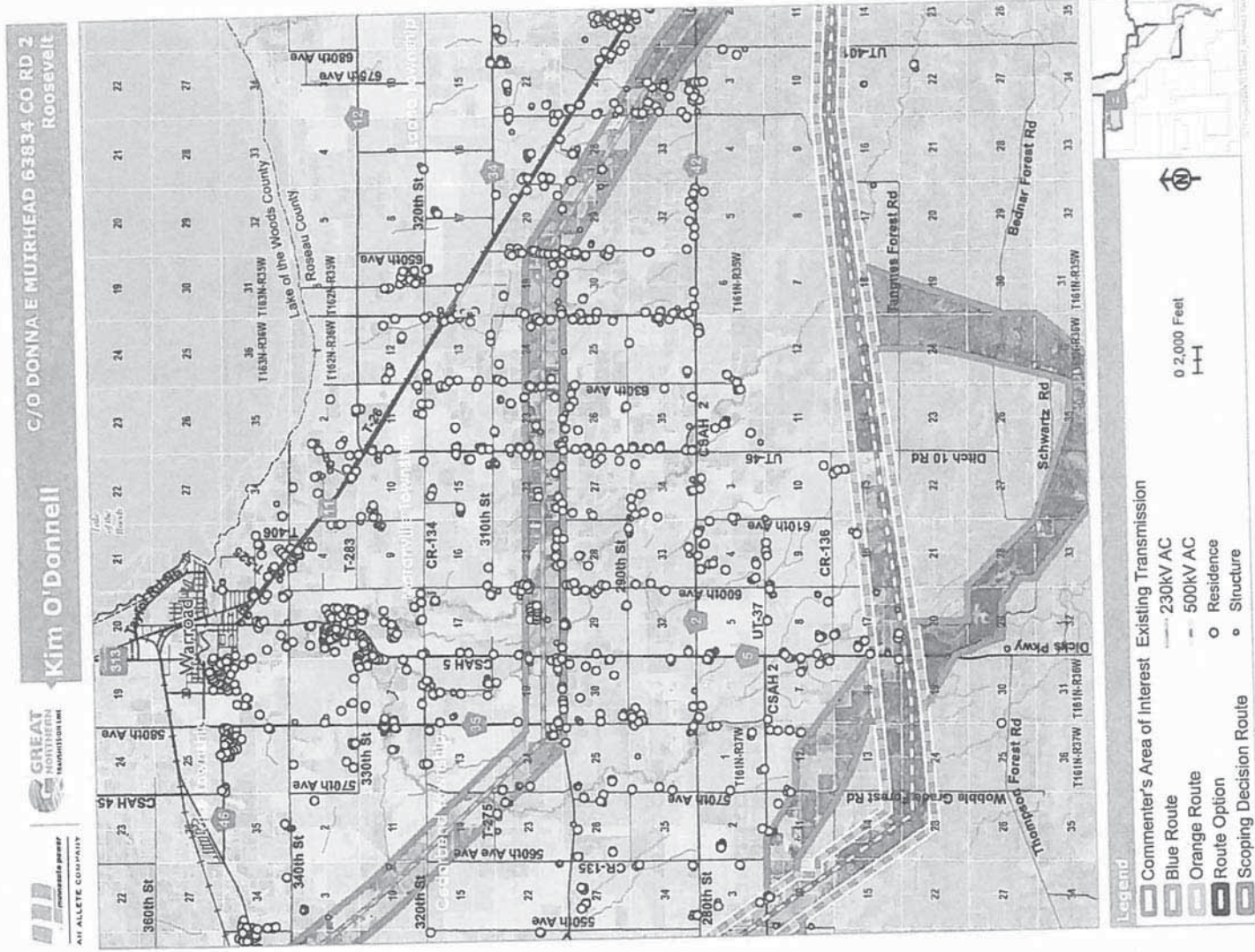
I prefer the main power proposed route
 because alternatives impact more homes
 & people.

0112-1

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM



Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21

0113-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Kari Olson
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 1000 6th St SW
 City: Chisholm
 State: MN
 Zip: 55714
 Email: Kariolson@gmail.com

Comment:

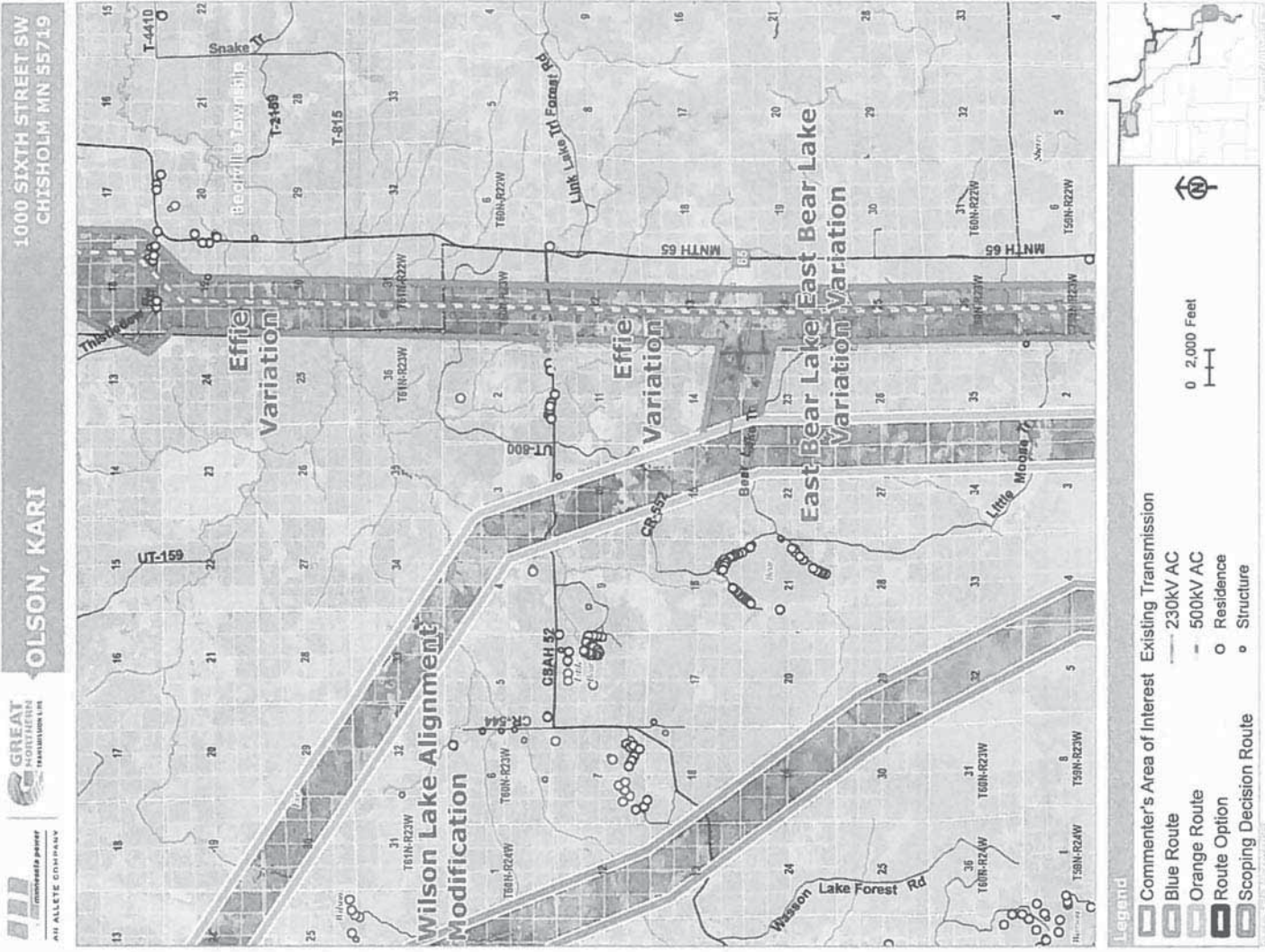
I would prefer you use the blue route. Orange route is second choice. If you use the red route, please go as close to the existing line as you can on the Effie Variation. ~~or~~ Please it goes south on the East Bear Lake Variation.

0113-1

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM



GREAT ENERGY PARTNERS

OLSON, KARI

1000 SIXTH STREET SW
 CHISHOLM MN 55719



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Comment on the Great Northern Transmission Line Docket Number TL-14-21

0114-1 Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Colin Pearson
Organization (if any):
Mailing Address: 107 2nd Ave NW Ste # 1
City: Roseau
State: MN
Zip: 56751
Email:

Comment: Totally opposed to Beltrami N Variation ONE! Reason why follows. My son and I purchased 120 acres of farmland recreational property south of Warroad, MN last fall, Crookston County - Township 161 N - Range 36W - Section 16. The existing powerline is approx. 1/4 mi. S. of us; which leaves a wooded buffer between our property and the existing line. Please adhere to Great Northern's proposed route of the new line being installed south of existing line. IF NOT, we will have 4 wheelers, snowmobiles - hunters right in our backyard totally destroying the sanctity and value of the property.

Thank you
Colin Pearson

0114-1



Board of Commissioners
606 5th Ave. SW, Room #131
Roseau, MN 56751
Phone: 218-463-4248
Fax: 218-463-3252

0115-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Falk and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-02-01

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 kV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County, and residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach has included multiple open houses in Roseau County, and multiple meetings updating Roseau County Commissioners, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line, and the scope of the environmental impact statement for the State route permit and Federal Presidential Permit; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a working group to gather additional public input and two Roseau County Commissioners participated in these working group meetings, and provided input on the proposed routes and border crossing; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

0115-1

District 1, Glenda Phillippe** District 2, Jack Swanson, Chair
District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair ** District 4, Todd Miller ** District 5, Mark Foldesi
An Equal Opportunity Employer

0115-1
Continued

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County, including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Roseau County that impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service effectively negate over three years of good faith participation by Roseau County, and its residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above-referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Roseau County designates Commissioners Roger Falk and Todd Miller as possible participants in the public information meetings on the draft environmental impact statement, and the State route permit public hearings, and may provide written and oral testimony consistent with this Resolution.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF ROSEAU)

I, Jeff Pelowski, County Coordinator in and for Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners on February 10, 2015.

(SEAL)


Jeff Pelowski
Roseau County Coordinator

District 1, Glenda Philippe** District 2, Jack Swanson, Chair
District 3, Roger Falk, Vice-Chair *** District 4, Todd Miller *** District 5, Mark Foldesi

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0116-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Contact Us Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Thu, May 7, 2015 at 9:34 AM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Bruce Sampson

Email
bsampw45@citilink.net

Street Address:
4960 County Road 29

City:
Ray

State:
Mn

Zipcode:
56669-9204

Phone:
2188752609

Preferred method of contact:
Email

Inquiry:

I am in favor of the portion of the proposed scoping route which places the new transmission line adjacent to the west ROW on Mn hwy 65 going south from it's intersection with hwy 1 . We own property in the George Washington State forest to the west of this proposed route and appreciate the fact that the scoping route leaves the area pretty much in a large unbroken tract .

Thank You
Bruce

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>

0116-1



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0117-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Contact Us Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Tue, Apr 28, 2015 at 6:26 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Brad Springer

Email
brdspringer@hotmail.com

Street Address:

City:
Bloomington

State:
Mn

Zipcode:
55437

Phone:

Preferred method of contact:
Email

Inquiry:
I am still 101% opposed to this power line!!

| 0117-1

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0118-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Contact Us Form Submission

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Tue, Apr 28, 2015 at 1:43 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Rod Tuomi

Email
rodneycharlestuomi@yahoo.com

Street Address:
2826 6th Avenue East

City:
Hibbing

State:
MN

Zipcode:
55746

Phone:
218-929-1940

Preferred method of contact:
Phone

Inquiry:
I oppose the Dead Man's Pond Segment extension...one of the scoping surveys putting the possibility of the line further west...by Little Moose Lake in Itasca County. Please contact me...either by email or phone.

| 0118-1

Thank you,
Rod Tuomi

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

0119-1

Potential impacts to wetlands and wildlife are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

Contact Us Form Submission

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

greatno9@box355.bluehost.com <greatno9@box355.bluehost.com> Wed, Apr 29, 2015 at 12:57 PM
Reply-To: Kelly.spitzley@hdrinc.com
To: greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com

There has been a submission of the form Contact Us through your concrete5 website.

Name:
Rodney Tuomi

Email
rodneycharlestuomi@yahoo.com

Street Address:
2826 6th Avenue East

City:
Hibbing

State:
MN

Zipcode:
55746

Phone:
218-929-1940

Preferred method of contact:
Phone

Inquiry:
On the Blue route, the scoping decision route for Dead Mans Pond segment alignment modification by Little Moose Lake.....the whole lowland area from Dead Mans Pond to Crooked Lake is a flourishing nesting area for Geese, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Herons, and other kinds of ducks and waterfowl. It is even more populated during the fall season. This proposed route would cut right through it, and parallel it. Since I have not gotten any response, I will try Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, and MN DNR. Thank you...Rod Tuomi

0119-1

To view all of this form's submissions, visit <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms/?qsid=1347460636>



Great Northern Transmission Line <greatnortherntransmissionline@gmail.com>

Great Northern Transmission Line: Docket Number TL-14-21

Rodney Tuomi <rodneycharlestuomi@yahoo.com> Wed, May 13, 2015 at 10:57 AM
 Reply-To: Rodney Tuomi <rodneycharlestuomi@yahoo.com>
 To: "info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com" <info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com>

I was at the public meeting in Grand Rapids Tuesday May 12, and the MN Power rep encouraged me to send this email in again.

Great Northern Transmission Line: Docket Number TL-14-21

Minnesota Power is building a High Power Transmission Line from Manitoba to Minnesota (greatnortherntransmissionline.com). On the Blue Route Alternative, there is a scoping decision route proposed segment for an alignment modification near Dead Man's Pond (by Little Moose Lake). The wetlands area between Dead Man's Pond and Crooked Lake is a highly used nesting area for geese, mallards, wood ducks (high population), herons, other ducks, other birds, and possibly swans. The lake also houses loons. The fall season brings much duck activity into this area. This proposed segment (one of many alternatives...I am not against the line) would cut right through and parallel this wetlands area. I would think that there would be a better alternative route that would avoid wetlands areas. I have been active for years in putting up wood duck nests, and doing other projects to protect our wetlands, and wildlife.

There is another wildlife issue in this little basin from Dead Man's Pond to Crooked Lake. It is also a little ecosystem where moose live. We have been in that area since

0121-1

Potential impacts to wetlands and wildlife are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1957, and that little self-contained ecosystem has generally had one or more moose that have lived there. One does not even see them very often because they stay in that little basin. I know that the State on Minnesota is working hard to bring back the moose population, and I would find it a tragedy if that ecosystem that not only contains much nesting wetlands waterfowl, but is also a habitat for moose would be violated by a high power transmission line.

In conclusion, this is a unique self-enclosed watershed. Few know it is there, and it is relatively difficult to get into it. I have hiked the greater area around it for over 50 years, and there are very few smaller secluded areas of pristine nature that escape the mainstream of people. It is also heavily used as a nesting area by waterfowl, and other aquatic animals. It is also the only area in that whole vicinity that I know of where moose will live year round and escape the harassment of invading people. There are presently four possible routes for the power line at this latitude, and I am hoping that one of them, or possibly a new addition would be a much better alternative.

I fully support building the power line, but I so strongly believe in preserving our wildlife and wetlands that I have been in contact with the US District Court, and if need be, I would pursue a Federal Injunction to stop any power line from being constructed in this Dead Man's segment.

Thank you,

Rodney Charles Tuomi

2826 6th Avenue East

Hibbing MN 55746

(218) 929-1940

Land owner in the Little Moose Lake Area



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0123-1
Thank you for your comment.

Name: Frank Weber
 Organization (if any): _____
 Mailing Address: 2006 Co Rd 8
 City: MAISHAWAK
 State: MIN
 Zip: 55769
 Email: Fisher@52-115@yehoo.com

0123-1

Comment: *It will be interesting to see how the Certificate of Need is justified as the economy slows and collapse approaches. The arguments for anything but the straightest cord shorts distance are weak and costly simple engineering principles while meeting someone's agenda. If eliminating the use of coal was the goal it should be much easier to swallow. The willingness to continue to destroy and fragment what little forests are left is truly disheartening.*



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

**Comment on the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21**

0124-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Roger Weber

Organization (if any): _____

Mailing Address: 20517 CRA

City: Nashwanak

State: MN

Zip: 55769

Email: Charlie-120RTW@yahoo.com

Comment: The Bakam Variation would be
My Route of Choice. It uses an
existing old line.
Thanks
Roger Weber

0124-1

0125-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

RESOLUTION No. 39-15

SUPPORTING THE GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE AND THE ROUTE PROPOSED BY MINNESOTA POWER

Resolution Offered by Councilor: Jaksa
Resolution Supported by Councilor: Kalar

0125-1

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has served the City of International Falls, its citizens, businesses and industries with reliable electrical energy needed for productive and comfortable living for many decades; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has proposed a new transmission line project to bring renewable, reliable and affordable energy and provide greater commerce in the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been planning and participating in Regulatory Review since the inception of the project in 2012; and


WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has received input from citizens and local units of government through numerous public hearings and has been sensitive to those concerns in developing and scoping the transmission line route; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) under MPUC Docket number E-015/TTL-14-21 is anticipated in June 2015;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of International Falls desires to go on record in support of the route chosen by Minnesota Power and especially its route through Koochiching County and rejects/opposes those alternatives/modifications designed by agencies of government and their personnel that do not reside in Koochiching County and understand our needs and preferences.

Ayes: Briggs, Droba, Jaksa, Kalar, Anderson
Nays: none
Abstained: none
Absent: none

Approved and adopted on this 18th day of May, 2015.


Robert W. Anderson, Mayor

Attest: 
Kenneth R. Anderson, City Administrator

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP
ROSEAU COUNTY
MINNESOTA

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: David Dahlgren
Michelle Mekash
TOWNSHIP CLERK: Shelia Holter

A motion was made by Supervisor Dahlgren, seconded by Supervisor Mekash, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-03-23

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WEAREAS, this voluntary outreach included multiple open houses in Roseau County, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

0126-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0126-1

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Stafford Township in Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Stafford Township in Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Stafford Township residents in Roseau County that the impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized, and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service negate over three years of good faith participation of Roseau County residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Stafford Township in Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October, 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ROSEAU)
STAFFORD TOWNSHIP)

I, Shelia Holter, Clerk of Stafford Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, and we, David Dahlgren and Michelle Mekash, Supervisors of Stafford Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Stafford Township Supervisors

Shelia Holter
Shelia Holter
Stafford Township Clerk
3-23-15

David Dahlgren
David Dahlgren
Supervisor
3-23-15

Michelle Mekash
Michelle Mekash
Supervisor
3-23-15

STOKES TOWNSHIP
ROSEAU COUNTY

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: JUSTIN HOWELL,
ROB DAVY, DAN PENAS.

MINNESOTA

CLERK MARY MONSRUD. TREASURER: CHET CASTLE

A motion was made by Supervisor *Justin Howell*, seconded by Supervisor *Rob Davy* and

carried
unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-03-31

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach included multiple open houses in Roseau County, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau Wildlife Management Area; and

0127-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Stokes Township in Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Stokes Township in Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Stokes Township residents in Roseau County that the impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized, and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service negate over three years of good faith participation of Roseau County residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Stokes Township in Roseau County supports Minnesota Powers preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October, 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

COUNTY OF ROSEAU)

Stokes TOWNSHIP)

I, Mary Monsrud, Clerk of Stokes Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, and we, Justin Howell and Rob Davy, Supervisors of Stokes Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Stokes Township Supervisors.

0127-1



Mary Monsrud

Stokes Township Clerk



Justin Howell

Supervisor



Rob Davy

Supervisor

Scott Johnson, Chairman	Jennifer Moser, Clerk
Wilfred Moser, Vice-Chairman	Florence Rygh, Treasurer
Eugene Krzoska, Supervisor	

TOWN OF FALUN
47600 225TH STREET
ROSEAU, MN 56751-8636

24 March 2015

The Town of Falun board passed the following resolution on March 24th, 2015.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE
PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES**

Town of Falun Resolution #2015-02

A motion was made by Supervisor EUGENE KRZOSKA, seconded by Supervisor WILFRED MOSER, to adopt the following resolution:

MPUC DOCKET NO: E015/TL-14-21
OAH CASE NO: 65-2500-31637
DOE OE DOCKET NO: PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WEAREAS, this voluntary outreach included multiple open houses in Roseau County, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line; and

WHERAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau Wildlife Management Area; and

TOWN OF FALUN
47600 225TH STREET
ROSEAU, MN 56751-8636

Scott Johnson, Chairman
Wilfred Moser, Vice-Chairman
Eugene Kzoska, Supervisor

Jennifer Moser, Clerk
Florence Rygh, Treasurer

0128-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Falun Township in Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Falun Township in Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Falun Township residents in Roseau County that the impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized, and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service negate over three years of good faith participation of Roseau County residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Falun Township in Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

Adopted by the Falun Town Board, March 24th, 2015

Signed by:

Chairperson

Attested to by:



0128-1

ROSS TOWNSHIP
ROSEAU COUNTY
MINNESOTA

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: Jon Johnson
Mitch Magnusson
Sheldon Larson

ROSS TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO.E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach included multiple open houses in Roseau County, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

0129-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Ross Township in Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Ross Township in Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Ross Township residents in Roseau County that the impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized, and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service negate over three years of good faith participation of Roseau County residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Ross Township in Roseau County supports Minnesota Power's preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October, 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ROSEAU)
ROSS TOWNSHIP)

Adopted by:


Jon Johnson
Supervisor


Mitch Magnusson
Supervisor


Sheldon Larson
Supervisor

3-30-15

0129-1

DIETER TOWNSHIP
 ROSEAU COUNTY
 Pearson, Warren Stoe
 MINNESOTA
 Elton

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS: Steve Lee
 Casey

TOWNSHIP CLERK: Marlin
 Elton

A motion was made by Supervisor Lee, seconded by Supervisor Pearson, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2015-03-23

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA POWER'S GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

MPUC DOCKET NO. E015/TL-14-21

OAH CASE NO. 65-2500-31637

DOE OE DOCKET NO. PP-398

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the 500 KV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Manitoba/Minnesota international border in Roseau County to the Blackberry Substation in Itasca County by June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power is partnering with Manitoba Hydro to build this line that will deliver, clean renewable hydropower from northern Manitoba to Minnesota and the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Power has been working with Roseau County residents and landowners in Roseau County, for over three years to develop and refine a route for this project that provides the least impact to residents and landowners; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary outreach included multiple open houses in Roseau County, in addition to the required legal notices to Roseau County and multiple public hearings on the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, Minnesota Power submitted to the United States Department of Energy an amendment to its border crossing based on consultation with landowners and stakeholders in Roseau County that the originally proposed border crossing was no longer feasible given constraints from the future expansion of the Piney-Pinecreek Border Airport and the Roseau Wildlife Management Area; and

0130-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

WHEREAS, with this new information, Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro reached an agreement on a new border crossing that would originate at the Minnesota-Manitoba border roughly 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County. It would proceed southeast 0.2 miles and then travel south 2.3 miles to 390th Street and turn east following Minnesota Power's proposed Blue and Orange Routes as proposed in its April 15, 2014 Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications; and

WHEREAS, during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement, additional border crossings were proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and private landowners, and four of these additional border crossings were carried forward by the Minnesota Department of Commerce into the scope of the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, Dieter Township in Roseau County supports the amended border crossing proposed by Minnesota Power as the only feasible border crossing given the agreement between Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS, Dieter Township in Roseau County opposes the proposed route alternatives in Roseau County, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that were done without input from Roseau County including the Roseau Lake WMA Alternative, due to more impacts on private landowners and agricultural land use and interfering with a public airport; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Dieter Township residents in Roseau County that the impacts to agricultural land uses and human settlements be minimized, and Minnesota Power's proposed route appears to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, the route alternatives submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service negate over three years of good faith participation of Roseau County residents, in working collaboratively with Minnesota Power to route the Great Northern Transmission Line in a manner that attempts to provide the least impact to residents and landowners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Dieter Township in Roseau County supports Minnesota Powers preferred route as submitted on April 15, 2014 in the above referenced dockets and Minnesota Power's proposed border crossing as submitted in October, 2014 to the United States Department of Energy.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ROSEAU)
DIETER TOWNSHIP)

0130-1

I, Marlin Elton, Clerk of Dieter Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, and we, Steve Lee and Casey Pearson, Supervisors of Dieter Township in Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a part of the proceedings adopted by the Dieter Township Supervisors

Marli Elton

Steve Lee

Casey Pearson

Marlin Elton

Dieter Township Clerk

Date: 3-30-15

Steve Lee

Supervisor

Date: 3-30-15

Casey Pearson

Supervisor

Date: 3-30-15

0131-1

For all alternatives proposed during the scoping process, residences, agriculture, land use (including forests), and land ownership are evaluated in Chapter 6 of the EIS.

As discussed in Section 1.3.4.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0131-1

From: Tom Johnson
To: Storm, Bill (COMMA)
Subject: TL-14-21
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:43:43 PM

Dear Bill Storm,

My name is Tom Johnson and I am a landowner within the Beltrami WMA Alternative Route. In particular I own land in sections 23 & 24 of Stafford Township in Roseau County. I am writing you today to voice my deep concern over this proposed alternative route of the power transmission line and think it is not in the best interest of the residents of Stafford Township nor the best use of the land.

There are several observations I would hope you to consider: 1) It is well known that Stafford Township is considered the bedroom community of Roseau. It has a beautiful landscape which is host to a large number of residences of people who mainly work at many of our outstanding industries in Roseau County and the townships vision is to encourage more development of nice building sites. It is apparent that when looking at the map of the southern proposed alternative route it would travel thru and disrupt many residents along this route versus nearly none along the northern routes. 2) Agriculture is also a big deal in our township and the southern alternative route will clearly be disruptive to many of the farmers like myself who try to make a living off the crops we raise. Trying to farm around these structures is going to place a monetary burden on these farmers year after year. 3) A large amount of wooded land, land in which would be very desirous in which to locate a home, would be greatly affected by this southern alternative route. In particular on land I own in Section 24 it would cut across a half mile of my woods which holds great value not only to incredible building sites but also greatly contributes to the wonderful game this area produces. I would be very saddened to see this disappear.

I have followed along with this process the best I could and have voiced my concerns at several meetings. It was mentioned several times that a minimization of impacts to private land and landowners was a priority. Therefore I appeal to your senses and to please remove the Beltrami WMA Route Alternative from your consideration. If you would wish to discuss this with me directly you may reach me on my cell (218) 469-9357. Call anytime.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Johnson
24506 State Hwy. 89
Roseau, MN 56751

0132-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Coleen Lofgren
To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
Subject: The Great Northern Transmission Line Docket No. TL-14-21
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 8:03:02 AM

41366 Scenic Highway

Bovey, MN 55709

May 19, 2015

Dear Mr. Storm,

My name is Coleen Lofgren. My husband and I have 40 acres in Itasca County (sec 26, T58N, R24W) we have owned this property since the 1970's. If the orange route is chosen, it will go right through the center of our property. The orange route will also go close to our local township park, community center, volunteer fire department, church, local convenience store, café, medical clinic, chiropractic clinic and peoples' homes.

We don't want to move and would like to live out our lives here, but if the line comes through, we will be forced to do the "buy the farm" option.

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CHOOSE THE BLUE ROUTE. Please remove the orange and red route from consideration.

Respectfully,

Coleen Lofgren

0132-1

01333-1

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

To Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place Ease, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

From: Gerald Krahn
59450 County Road 12 (300th St.)
Warroad, MN, 56763
05/11/2015

My name is Gerald Krahn and I have farmed in four sections of Moranville township along the Cedar Bend WMA for many years as well as the Beltrami WMA in Clear River township the past few year. I will address the Beltrami route first.

I attended one of the first meetings concerning the route for the Great Northern Transmission line and gave my input as a farm operator along the Beltrami route. Some time later I visited with my land lords, Bill and Jeff Thompson, and we agreed that the power company had indeed done their homework well with the route chosen. It appeared to be very environmentally friendly going over Jeff's property. The remaining land would then be taken out of crop production and planted to grasses and legumes This would leave some excellent wild life habitat adjacent to Beltrami State Forest. It would also leave no actively farmed crop land under the power line in Clear River township. I own two parcels of land in Clear River township and have farmed in the area going back into the 1950's. The route going South and then circling back around looks to me like there would be substantial increased original construction cost as well as added up keep for all the corners and extra distance.

While I think the Beltrami alternative is poor, the Cedar Bend route is much worse. While my son now owns the half mile in section 20 under the current line I still own three quarters of a mile in section 29 right on the South side of the right of way. I also continue to rent land under the Cedar Bend route.

I started farming with a ten foot cultivator, currently my biggest one is 53 feet although I mostly use a 40 foot near the big power towers. In some places it is hard to get between the power tower and the property line. I hire professional operators to do my spraying and they use up to a 120 foot booms. You can imagine the challenges this causes. Last year I had to have some spraying done by air and ended up paying a premium because of the location of the power line. While training farm equipment operators I try to stay out of the fields with large power towers. Those I have included neighbors, children, grandchildren, and if I make it a few more years maybe even a few great grandchildren. In section 20 if you go on the South side it will go right over The Country Corn Maze and if you go to the North It will impact homes.

The proposed Blue/Orange Route minimizes impact to homes and private land use. Please remove the Cedar Bend WMA variation and the Beltrami Alternative from consideration.

Sincerely

Gerald Krahn



01333-1

Dear Bill Storm

my name is Mike Hardszus, I and my son ISAAC have a farm located within the boundaries of Pine Island State Forest. we purchased the property in 11-1-13 and we did not receive any notice of a transmission line being proposed in the area until April 25th 2015, this is the reason we have not given input at any of the public information meetings held prior to this date.

As you can see with the enclosed copy of the proposed route, it would impact our Land completely, going from north to south which would totally destroy the value of the Land and severely restrict it's use. we have plans for a small cabin, which now would be located directly in the path of the transmission line.



0134-1

0134-2

All comments on the Draft EIS are part of the record that will be reviewed by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) before a route permit decision is final. The comments about your property and home will be included in this review. There is flexibility in final design and permitting so that if the Blue Route is selected, the Applicant will work with you to minimize impacts to your property. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0134-2

All comments on the Draft EIS are part of the record that will be reviewed by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) before a route permit decision is final. The comments about your property and home will be included in this review. There is flexibility in final design and permitting so that if the Blue Route is selected, the Applicant will work with you to minimize impacts to your property. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0134-2 cont'd

0134-3

The Applicant would likely develop a vegetation management plan through the permitting process. This management plan will include information on control of invasive species and treatment of certified organic farms. Once a route is selected, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns, including use of herbicides.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0134-2
Continued

We have invested considerable resources to acquire this land with the intentions of preservation and passing it on to future generations.

It is my understanding that, when a transmission line is built, they clearcut a 200' wide path where the line would go, and approximately every three years, that area is sprayed with a herbicide to kill any type of vegetation that might try to grow back.

Now the full 640 acres of our property could be certified organic, as it has not had chemicals on it prior to this time. This would ruin that if this transmission line were allowed to be built here.

This is a very fragile ecosystem with standing water on most of the property most of the year and with the peat holding the water year round.

0134-3

0134-4

Chapter 6 of the EIS discusses potential impacts to forests, rare communities, wetlands, and wildlife for each alternative. The EIS also discusses avoidance and minimization measures for these resources in Chapters 2 and 5.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0134-4

0134-4 cont'd

0134-4
Continued

Enclosed are photos of the property, and as you can tell it is a very sensitive area.

This is one of the reasons we chose this property, because of the remote location and by being surrounded by state forest on three sides, we felt that it would prevent any encroachment from outside sources.

We have seen moose tracks, Amphibia, wolf tracks, and various fowl etc., this is one of the major concerns with spraying these chemicals and the effect it would have on animals as well as humans since the water table is on or next to the surface.

As you may already know this land is surrounded by scientific and natural areas, also thousands of conifer and deciduous trees would be destroyed, not only on our property but throughout the Pine Island

0134-4 cont'd

0134-5

All comments on the Draft EIS are part of the record that will be reviewed by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) before a route permit decision is final. The comments about your property and home will be included in this review. There is flexibility in final design and permitting so that if the Blue Route is selected, the Applicant will work with you to minimize impacts to your property. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0134-4
Continued

State Fonnest that surrounds our property. You could not bring in heavy equipment into this area without totally uprooting and destroying the sensitive soil and peat that ties this ground together.

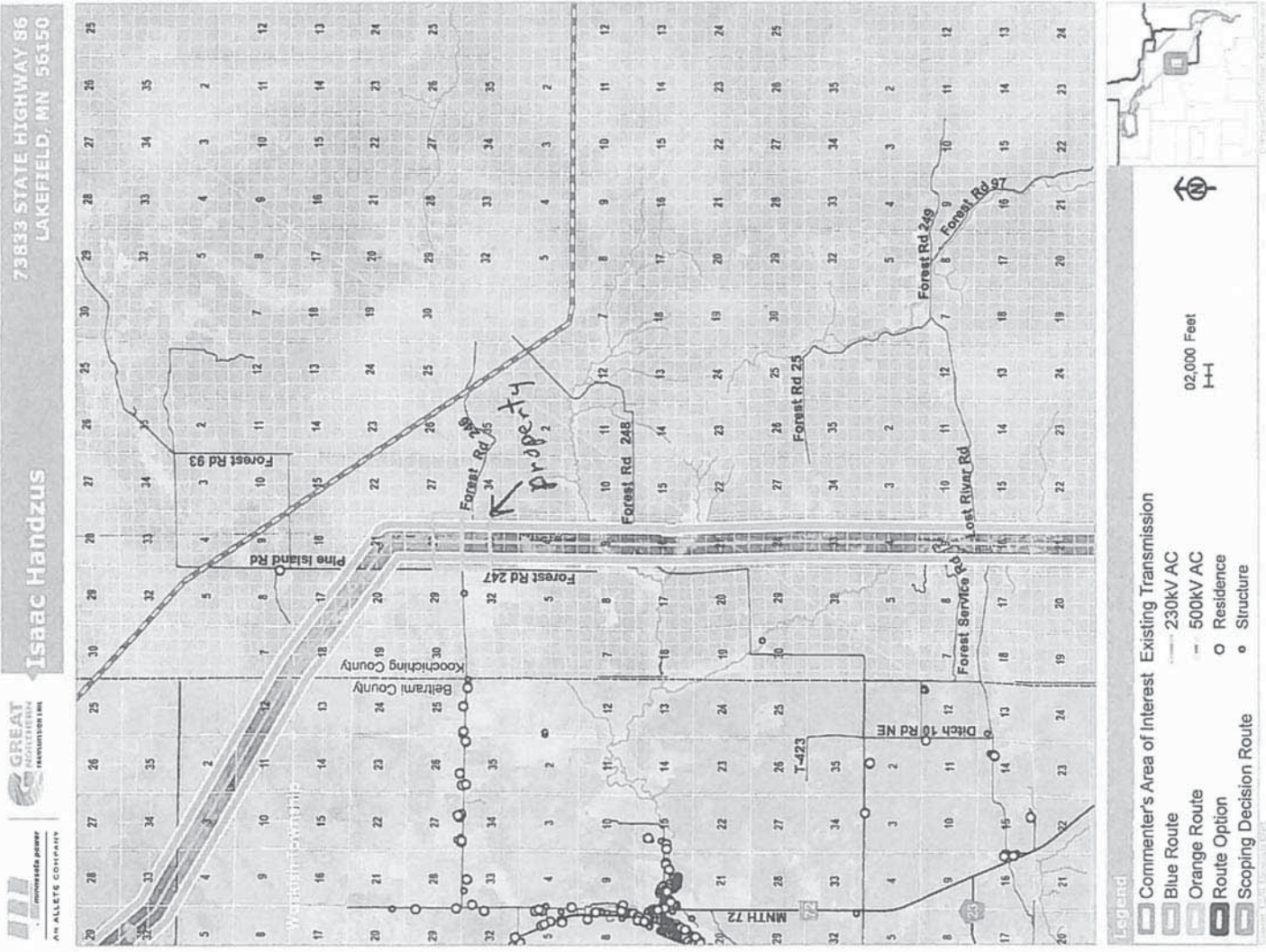
In summary the proposed orange route would be devastating to the whole ecosystem of the area, plus ruin our hopes and plans for keeping a pristine area protected from pollution and outside development, so that it could be maintained and passed on to future generations.

Therefore any action that you can take to exempt the orange route from consideration as a possible route is most greatly appreciated.

Siwory
Mike Handzus
73833 State Hwy 86
Lakefield, MN 56150

Directions or concerns please 507-662-5264

0134-5





Peat Bogs Help to Mitigate Climate Change

Peat bogs play an essential role in mitigating climate change by keeping billions of tons of carbon buried beneath them.

June/July 2001

<http://www.motheearthnews.com/nature-and-environment/peat-bogs-help-to-mitigate-climate-change-zmaz01jzsel.aspx>

By J. E. Sadowski



Peat bogs are diverse ecosystems that form solely from surface water and precipitation.

Photo courtesy CORBIS

One step forward for wetlands, but two steps back for peat bogs? For a while there, it appeared that wetland conservation was on the upswing, experiencing an 80 percent reduction in annual loss of acreage over the last decade. But last winter, the Supreme Court decided to limit the scope of the Clean Water Act and exclude wetlands that are not attached to another body of water—a ruling that may have a devastating effect on those peat bogs that accumulate water exclusively by precipitation.

Wetlands act as buffers between land and liquid, working like sponges to moderate flood control, water quality and coastal erosion. The peat bogs that rim the Northern hemisphere may also play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. "There are lots of intersections between global warming and wetlands," says Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Program. Fluctuating sea and lake levels could have devastating effects on the wetlands, he says, which could result in dire global consequences since wetlands are also storage tanks for carbon.

Peat bogs contain sphagnum moss, sometimes many feet thick. In the oxygen-poor environment of a bog, the moss remains stable. But when phenol oxidase goes to work breaking peat down into humus, between 20 and 75 percent of the moss's carbon mass is released as carbon dioxide. New Scientist

Exhibit ____ Schedule (JBA Supplemental-4), Page 85 of 221

magazine reports that the 455 billion tons of carbon buried in peat bogs worldwide would release the equivalent of 70 years of industrial emissions. Scientists disagree on whether changing water levels or pH stimulate the enzyme, but some worry that drying wetlands would belch greenhouse gases and cause temperatures to climb even higher.

Amid increasing reports that global warming is real and occurring faster than predicted, drying out wetlands seems like a step in the wrong direction.

Bog

[Previous \(Boer Wars\)](#) ([/entry/Boer_Wars](#))

A bog is a freshwater wetland ([/entry/Wetland](#)) characterized by acidic ([/entry/Acid](#)) peat ([/entry/Peat](#)) deposits and by moisture provided by precipitation (rain ([/entry/Rain](#)), and snow ([/entry/Snow](#))) rather than groundwater or interior drainage. The precipitation leaches nutrients from the soil ([/entry/Soil](#)), while acid is produced from the decomposing organic material (Finlayson and Moser 1991). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers the bog one of the four general categories of wetlands, the others being marshes ([/entry/Marsh](#)), swamps ([/entry/Swamp](#)), and fens ([/entry/Fen](#)) (EPA 2004), although categorization of wetlands varies widely.

Bogs provide many ecological ([/entry/Ecology](#)), commercial, archaeological, and recreational benefits. As a unique habitat, they serve as a biogenetic reservoir for many rare and protected plant and animal species. They are a source of peat, which can be dried and burned as an energy source and alternatively used as a soil amendment. Bogs are also a very early stage in the formation of coal deposits. Bogs serve as a carbon ([/entry/Carbon](#)) store, and afford aesthetic enrichment and renewal. Archaeologically, they have been known to preserve mammalian ([/entry/Mammal](#)) bodies extremely well for millennia.

Despite these valuable aspects of bogs, many people consider them to be wastelands that can better be converted to some "useful" purpose, such as reclaimed land for intensive agricultural or residential use. Many bogs have been lost, including an estimated 94 percent of the original bogs in the United Kingdom ([/entry/United_Kingdom](#)) (RSPB 2007).

Overview and description

A bog is a type of wetland. A wetland is a transitional environment between permanently aquatic and terrestrial environments that shares characteristics of both environments and where water ([/entry/Water](#)), which covers the soil ([/entry/Soil](#)) or is near the surface for substantial parts of the year, is the key factor in determining the nature of the ecosystem ([/entry/Ecosystem](#)) and soil. Although wetlands have aspects similar to both wet and dry environments, they cannot be classified unambiguously as either aquatic or terrestrial (Barbier et al. 1997).

A bog is a wetland type that accumulates acidic ([/entry/Acid](#)) peat ([/entry/Peat](#)). Peat is the dark, fibrous accumulation of partially decomposed and disintegrated organic matter ([/entry/Biological_tissue](#)) found in wet areas, usually residues of plants ([/entry/Plant](#)) such as mosses ([/entry/Moss](#)), but also including sedges, trees ([/entry/Tree](#)), and other plant and even animal matter. It is generally light and spongy in consistency and dark brown or black in color ([/entry/Color](#)). Many North American bogs are characterized by *Sphagnum* ([/entry/Sphagnum](#)) moss.

[Next \(Bogota, Colombia\)](#) ([/entry/Bogota,_Colombia](#))



[/entry/File:L%C3%BCt-Witt_Moor-2.jpg](#)

Lüt-Witt Moor, a bog in Hensted-Utzburg in northern Germany ([/entry/Germany](#)).

Contents

- 1 Overview and description
- 2 Distribution and extent
- 3 Importance
 - 3.1 Biodiversity
 - 3.2 Commercial uses
 - 3.3 Archeology
 - 3.4 Other uses
- 4 References
- 5 External links
- 6 Credits

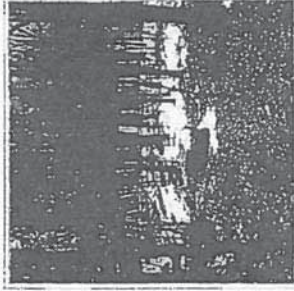
Bogs are not the only peat-forming wetland. For example, a fen is a freshwater, peat-forming wetland with chemically basic (/entry/Base_chemistry)) (which roughly means alkaline (/entry/Alkali)) ground water. This means that it contains a moderate or high proportion of hydroxyl ions (pH (/entry/PH) value greater than seven).

In bogs, moisture is provided essentially by precipitation, and for this reason bog waters are acidic and termed ombrotrophic (or cloud-fed), which accounts for their low plant nutrient status. Excess rainfall outflows, with

dissolved tannins from the plant matter giving a distinctive tan color to bog waters.



(/entry/File:Raselink.jpg)
Sphagnum (/entry/Sphagnum) bog vegetation



(/entry/File:Brown_Lake_Bog_OH.jpg)
Virgin boreal acid bogs at Brown's Lake Bog, Ohio. The tree cover is not typical of a bog.

and fens. Finlayson and Moser (1991) state that bogs are formed when rain and snow feed directly into an area with an already high water table, with nutrients being leached from the soil and acid being produced as organic material slowly decomposes. They distinguish bogs from fens by stating that fens are fed by ground water or by interior drainage into a hollow rather than by precipitation; fens are higher in nutrients and lower in acidity than bogs, but can still produce peat.

The EPA notes that bogs often are formed in old glacial lakes and characterized by spongy peat deposits, evergreen trees and shrubs, and a floor covered by a thick carpet of sphagnum (/entry/Sphagnum) moss (EPA 2004).

Distribution and extent

Bogs are widely distributed in cold, temperate climates, mostly in the northern hemisphere (Boreal). The world's largest wetlands are the bogs of the Western Siberian Lowlands in Russia (/entry/Russia), which cover more than 600,000 square kilometers. Sphagnum (/entry/Sphagnum) bogs historically were widespread in northern Europe, and Ireland (/entry/Ireland) once was more than 15 percent bog. Achill Island off Ireland remains 87 percent bog.

There are extensive bogs in Canada (/entry/Canada) and Alaska (/entry/Alaska) (labeled muskeg), Scotland (/entry/Scotland), Denmark (/entry/Denmark), Estonia (/entry/Estonia) (20 percent boglands), Finland (/entry/Finland) (26 percent), northern Germany (/entry/Germany), the Netherlands (/entry/Netherlands), and Sweden (/entry/Sweden). There are also bogs in the Falkland Islands (/entry/Falkland_Islands).

Ombrotrophic wetlands (that is, bogs) are also found in the tropics, with notable areas documented in Kalimantan; these habitats are forested so would be better called swamps (/entry/Swamp). Extensive bogs cover the northern areas of the U.S. states of Minnesota (/entry/Minnesota) and Michigan (/entry/Michigan), most notably on Isle Royale in Lake Superior (/entry/Lake_Superior). The pocosin of the southeastern United States is like a bog in that it is an acidic wetland but it has its own unusual combination of features. In certain areas such as Ireland and Scotland, coastal bogs are frequently intruded upon by low lying dunes called *Machairs*.

Importance

Bogs provide innumerable benefits. Nonetheless, many have been drained or otherwise converted to intensive agricultural, residential, or commercial use. It is estimated that more than 90 percent of the United Kingdom's lowland peat bogs have been damaged or destroyed (BBC 2004; RSPB 2007).

Biodiversity

Bogs are recognized as a significant habitat type by a number of governmental and conservation agencies. For example, the United Kingdom (/entry/United_Kingdom) in its Biodiversity Action Plan establishes bog habitats as a priority for conservation. Bogs are challenging environments for plant life because they are low in nutrients and very acidic. Furthermore, the absorption of water by sphagnum moss reduces the amount of water available for plants. As a result of these unique conditions, many unique flora and fauna may be found. Carnivorous plants have adapted to the low nutrient conditions by using insects (/entry/insect) as a nutrient source. Some bog plants, such as Leatherleaf, have waxy leaves to help retain moisture. English (/entry/England) bogs are home to the boghopper beetle and a yellow fly (/entry/fly) called the hairy canary.

Many rare and protected plant and animal species are found on bogs. These include the Greenland white-fronted goose, which relies on bogs for feeding and roosting, and the bog moss *Sphagnum imbricatum* is entirely restricted to bogs (PCC 1996).

Commercial uses

Peat, which is characteristic of bogs, is a very early stage in the formation of coal (/entry/Coal) deposits. Indeed, peat can be dried and burned and thus is used as an energy source, such as for home heating or even for power stations. More than 20 percent of home heat in Ireland comes from peat, and peat is also used for fuel in Finland (/entry/Finland), Scotland (/entry/Scotland), Germany (/entry/Germany), and Russia (/entry/Russia). Russia is the leading producer of peat for fuel at more than 90 million metric tons per year.

The other major use of dried peat is as a soil amendment (sold as *moss peat* or *sphagnum*) to increase the soil's capacity to retain moisture and enrich the soil. It is also used as a mulch, although this generally is not advisable since it can repel water when dried. Some distilleries (/entry/Distillation), notably Laphroaig, use peat fires to smoke the barley (/entry/Barley) used in making scotch whiskey. This gives Scotch whiskey its distinctive smoky flavor, often called "peatiness" by its aficionados.

Blueberries (/entry/Blueberry), cranberries, cloudberries, huckleberries, wild strawberries, and lingonberries are harvested from the wild in bogs. Bog oak, wood that has been partially preserved by bogs, has been used in manufacture of furniture (/entry/Furniture).

Archeology

The anaerobic acidic bogs are known to preserve mammalian (/entry/Mammal) bodies extremely well for millennia, making them a valuable archaeological resource.

During prehistoric times, peat bogs had considerable ritual significance to Bronze Age and Iron Age peoples, who considered them to be home to (or at least associated with) nature gods or spirits. The bodies of the victims of ritual sacrifices have been found in a number of locations in England (/entry/England), Ireland (/entry/Ireland), and especially northern Germany (/entry/Germany) and Denmark (/entry/Denmark), almost perfectly preserved by the tanning properties of the acidic water. Some bogs have preserved ancient oak (/entry/Oak) logs useful in dendrochronology



(/entry/File:BogHBy.jpg)
Bog Huckleberry at Polly's Cove,
Nova Scotia (/entry/Nova_Scotia)

([entry/Dendrochronology](#)), and they have yielded extremely well-preserved bog bodies, with organs, skin, and hair intact, buried there thousands of years ago after apparent Germanic and Celtic human sacrifice. Excellent examples of such human specimens are Haraldskær Woman and Tollund Man in Denmark. Both of these specimens retained remarkably intact skin, internal organs, and skeletons.

The discovery of several victims of ritual sacrifice by strangulation during the Iron Age culture of Denmark has been recorded (Glob 1968). The corpses were thrown into peat bogs where they were discovered after 2000 years, perfectly preserved down to their facial expressions, although well-tanned by the acidic environment of the Danish bogs. The Germanic culture has similarities to the characteristics of the probably Celtic Lindou man found at Lindou Common and with the Frisian culture described in the story of St. Wulfram. In Ireland, at Ceide fields in County Mayo, a 5000 year old neolithic ([entry/Neolithic](#)) farming landscape complete with field walls and hut sites has been found preserved under a raised blanket bog.

Other uses

Carbon store. Worldwide, peat contains an estimated 550 gigatons (one gigaton = one billion metric tons) of carbon ([entry/Carbon](#)), which is equivalent to 30 percent of all global soil carbon, 75 percent of all atmospheric carbon, and twice the carbon stock of the world's forest biomass (Joosten 2007).

Recreational. Sphagnum ([entry/Sphagnum](#)) bogs are used for sport, but this can be damaging. All-terrain vehicles are especially damaging to bogs. Bog snorkeling is popular in England and Wales. Llanwrtyd Wells, which claims to be the smallest town in Wales, hosts the World Bog Snorkeling Championships. In this event, competitors with mask, snorkel, and scuba fins swim along a 60-meter trench cut through a peat bog.

Aesthetic. The value of bogs as an aesthetic resource is difficult to quantify, but for many people bogs' uniqueness and biodiversity helps to make them places of beauty.

Agriculture. The blanket bogs of the west of Ireland have been used year round for grazing cattle and sheep (IPCC). Blanket bog habitats cover about ten million hectares of the earth's surface with Ireland claiming about eight percent of the total (IPCC).

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Larix laricina

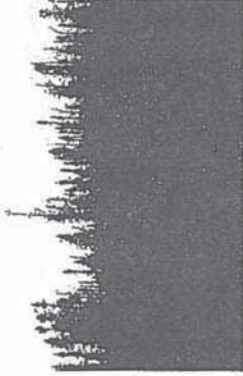
"Tamarack" redirects here. For other uses, see *Tamarack (disambiguation)*.

"Hackmatack" redirects here. For the balsam poplar species, see *Populus balsamifera*.

This page has some issues

Larix laricina, commonly known as the **tamarack**,^[2] **hackmatack**,^[2] **eastern larch**,^[2] **black larch**,^[2] **red larch**,^[2] or **American larch**,^[2] is a species of larch native to Canada, from eastern Yukon and Inuvik, Northwest Territories east to Newfoundland, and also south into the northeastern United States from Minnesota to Cranesville Swamp, Maryland; there is also a disjunct population in central Alaska. The word *tamarack* is the Algonquian name for the species and means "wood used for snowshoes."

Tamarack larch



Tamarack larch in fall colors, with black spruce

Conservation status

Extinct (EX) Threatened (EW) (CR) (EN) (VU) (NT) (LC) Lower Risk

Least Concern (IUCN 2.3)^[1]

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
 Division: Pinophyta
 Class: Pinopsida
 Order: Pinales
 Family: Pinaceae
 Genus: *Larix*

Species: *L. laricina*

Binomial name

Larix laricina

(Du Roi) K. Koch



Natural range of *Larix laricina*

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Flowering and fruiting

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Reaction to competition

Damaging agents

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■ Description

It is a small to medium-size boreal coniferous and deciduous tree reaching 10–20 metres (33–66 ft) tall, with a trunk up to 60 centimetres (24 in) diameter.

Tamaracks and Larches (*Larix* species) are deciduous conifers. The bark is tight and flaky, pink, but under flaking bark it can appear reddish. The leaves are needle-like, 2–3 cm (0.8–1.2 in) short, light blue-green, turning bright yellow before they fall in the autumn, leaving the pale pinkish-brown shoots bare until the next spring. The needles are produced spirally on long shoots and in dense clusters on long woody spur shoots. The cones are the smallest of any larch, only 1–2.3 cm (0.4–0.9 in) long, with 12–25 seed scales; they are bright red, turning brown and opening to release the seeds when mature, 4 to 6 months after pollination.

Key characteristics:^[3]

- The needles are normally borne on a short shoot in groups of 10–20 needles.
- The larch is deciduous and the needles turn yellow in autumn.
- The seed cones are small, less than 2 cm (0.8 in) long, with lustrous brown scales.
- Larch are commonly found in swamps, bogs, and other low-land areas.

■ Distribution and ecology

It is very cold tolerant, able to survive temperatures down to at least −65 °C (−85 °F), and commonly occurs at the arctic tree line at the edge of the tundra. Trees in these severe climatic conditions are smaller than farther south, often only 5 m (16 ft) tall. Tamarack can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions but grows most commonly in swamps in wet to moist organic soils such



Tamarack larch foliage and cones in August. The lighter brown cones are from the current season; the darker brown cones are mature cones from

as sphagnum peat and woody peat. The tree is found on mineral soils that range from heavy clay to coarse sand; thus texture does not seem to be limiting. Although tamarack can grow well on calcareous soils, it is not abundant on the limestone areas of eastern Ontario.

Tamarack is commonly an early invader.^[4] Tamarack is generally the first forest tree to invade filled-lake bogs. In the lake states, tamarack may appear first in the sedge mat, sphagnum moss, or not until the bog shrub stage. Farther north, it is the pioneer tree in the bog shrub stage. Tamarack is fairly well adapted to reproduce successfully on burns, so it is one of the common pioneers on sites in the boreal forest immediately after a fire.

The central Alaskan population, separated from the eastern Yukon populations by a gap of about 700 kilometres (430 mi), is treated as a distinct variety *Larix laricina* var. *alaskensis* by some botanists, though others argue that it is not sufficiently distinct to be distinguished.

■ Associated forest cover

Tamarack forms extensive pure stands in the boreal region of Canada and in northern Minnesota. In the rest of its United States range and in the Maritime Provinces, tamarack is found locally in both pure and mixed stands. It is a major component in the SAF forest cover types Tamarack and black spruce-tamarack.

Black spruce (*Picea mariana*) is usually tamarack's main associate in mixed stands on all sites. The other most common associates include balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*), and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the



Young tree with fall colors

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix_laricina

boreal region. In the better organic soil sites in the northern forest region, the most common associates are the northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), balsam fir, black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). In Alaska, quaking aspen and tamarack are almost never found together. Additional common associates are American elm (*Ulmus americana*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Kenai birch (*B. papyrifera* var. *kenaica*), and yellow birch (*B. alleghaniensis*).

Tamarack stands cast light shade and so usually have a dense undergrowth of shrubs and herbs. Because the tree has an extensive range, a great variety of shrubs is associated with it. Dominant tall shrubs include dwarf (resin) and low (swamp) birch (*Betula glandulosa* and *Betula pumila*), willows (*Salix* spp.), speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*). Low shrubs include Labrador-tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), bog-rosemary (*Andromeda glaucophylla*), leather leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), and small cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*). Characteristically the herbaceous cover includes sedges (*Carex* spp.), cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.), false Solomonseal (*Smilacina trifolia*), marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*), and bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Ground cover is usually composed of sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) and other mosses.

■ Flowering and fruiting

Tamarack is monoecious. Male and female flowers are small, either solitary or in groups of 2 or 3, and appear with the needles. Male flowers are yellow and are borne mainly on 1- or 2-year-old branchlets. Female flowers resemble tiny roses. They are reddish/maroon in color, have needles at their base which are shorter and bluer than the other needles on the tree. They are borne most commonly on 2 to 4-year-old branchlets, but may also appear on branchlets 5 or more years old. Cones usually are produced on young growth of vigorous trees. On open-grown trees, cones are borne on all parts of the crown. Ripe cones are brown, oblong-ovoid, and 13 to 19 mm (½ to ¾ in) long.

■ Uses

The wood is tough and durable, but also flexible in thin strips, and was used by the Algonquian people for making snowshoes and other products where toughness was required. The natural crooks located in the stumps and roots are also preferred for creating knees in wooden boats. Currently, the wood is used principally for pulpwood, but also for posts, poles, rough lumber, and fuelwood; Not a major commercial timber species.^[5]



Larix laricina bonsai

It is also grown as an ornamental tree in gardens in cold regions. Several dwarf cultivars have been created that are available commercially.^[6]^[7] Tamarack is commonly used for bonsai.^[8]

Tamarack poles were used in corduroy roads because of their resistance to rot. Tamarack trees were used before 1917 in Alberta to mark the northeast corner of sections surveyed within townships. They were used by the surveyors because at that time the very rot-resistant wood was readily available in the bush and was light to carry.^[citation needed] Their rot resistance was also why they often used in early water distribution systems.

The aboriginal peoples of Canada's northwest regions used the inner bark as a poultice to treat cuts, infected wounds, frostbite, boils and hemorrhoids. The outer bark and roots are also said to have been used with another plant as a treatment for arthritis, cold and general aches and pains.^[9]

Wildlife use the tree for food and nesting.^[citation needed]

■ Reaction to competition

Tamarack is very intolerant of shade. Although it can tolerate some shade during the first several years, it must become dominant to survive. When mixed with other species, it must be in the over story. The tree is a good self-pruner, and boles of 25- to 30-year-old trees may be clear for one-half or two-thirds their length.

Because tamarack is very shade-intolerant, it does not become established in its own shade. Consequently, the more tolerant black spruce eventually succeeds tamarack on poor bog sites, whereas northern white-cedar, balsam fir, and swamp hardwoods succeed tamarack on good swamp sites. Recurring sawfly outbreaks throughout the range of tamarack have probably speeded the usual succession to black spruce or other associates.

Various tests on planting and natural reproduction indicate that competing vegetation hinders tamarack establishment.

The shade-intolerance of tamarack dictates the use of even-aged management. Some adaptation of clear cutting or seed-tree cutting is generally considered the best silvicultural system because tamarack seeds apparently germinate better in the open, and the seedlings require practically full light to survive and grow well. Tamarack is also usually wind-firm enough for the seed-tree system to succeed. Satisfactory reestablishment of tamarack, however, often requires some kind of site preparation, such as slash disposal and herbicide spraying.

■ Damaging agents

The tamarack has thin bark and is therefore highly susceptible to fire damage, except perhaps in older, upland stands. However, the habitat of tamarack, especially south of the boreal forest, is normally wet enough to protect the tree from fire. The tamarack is also susceptible to high winds. Strong winds can uproot large tamarack trees growing in swamps or other wet-land sites where rooting is shallow. It has also been discovered that abnormally high water levels often kill tamarack stands. Those that survive under such conditions usually grow very slowly. Other effects of high water include dieback and the

development of adventitious roots and shoots. Wetland road crossings and beaver damming are the primary causes of flooding.

Many insect species are known to be destructive to tamaracks. The larch sawfly is the most destructive. Epidemics occur periodically across Canada and the northern United States and have caused tremendous losses of merchantable tamarack throughout most of the tree's range. Indications are that radial increment declines markedly after 4 to 6 years of outbreak. After 6 to 9 years of moderate to heavy defoliation, the trees die. In southeastern Manitoba and northern Minnesota, however, imported parasites of the sawfly have become established and should reduce the frequency and duration of future outbreaks. Another serious defoliator is the larch casebearer *Coleophora laricella*. The larch casebearer attacks tamarack of all ages, and several severe outbreaks have caused extensive mortality in some areas. Outbreak severity has lessened in recent years, however, probably due to imported parasites of the casebearer that have become widely established.

Only a few other insects and related organisms (such as mites) that feed on tamarack are known to sometimes cause serious injury. During an outbreak, the spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) can severely damage tamarack. The larch-bud moth (*Zeiraphera improbana*) has had occasional short epidemics, and the spruce spider mite (*Oligonychus ununguis*) is occasionally found in large numbers on tamarack. The larch-shoot moth (*Argyresthia laricella*) is widely distributed, but serious injury is unusual. One of the most common bark beetles attacking tamarack is the eastern larch beetle (*Dendroctonus simplex*), but it feeds mainly on weakened, dying, or dead trees.

Tamarack is a host to many pathogens, but only one cause diseases serious enough to have an economic impact on its culture, the *Lachnellula willkommii* fungus. It is a relatively new pathogen in Canada, first recorded in 1980 and originating in Europe. The fungus cause large cankers to form and a disease known as Larch Canker which is particularly harmful to the tamarack larch, killing both young and mature trees.^[10] Apart from this, the only common foliage diseases are rusts, such as the leaf rust in eastern and central North America. However, this rust, caused by the fungus *Melampsora medusae*, and

other rusts do little damage to tamarack. The needle-cast fungus *Hypodermella laricis* has attacked tamarack in Ontario and has the potential for local damage.

■ See also

- Larch ball

■ References

1. Conifer Specialist Group (1998). *Larix laricina*. 2006. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. [redacted]. Retrieved on 12 May 2006.
2. Earle, Christopher J. [redacted]. *Gymnosperm Database*. Retrieved 2011-05-28.
3. Barnes, Burton V.; Wagner Jr., Warren H. (September 15, 1981), *Michigan Trees*. University of Michigan Press. ISBN 978-0-472-08018-2.
4. Hogan, C. Michael (November 24, 2008). [redacted]. *GlobalTwitcher.com*. Retrieved 2011-05-28.
5. Uchytel, Ronald J. (1991). [redacted]. [redacted]. US Forest Service.
6. [redacted]. University of Connecticut. "Dwarf forms include: 'Blue Sparkler', with bluish foliage; 'Deborah Waxman', which reaches 4' in time; 'Lanark', which grows very low and wide; and 'Newport Beauty', a tiny form probably never exceeding 2' tall and wide."
7. [redacted]. *Encyclopedia of Conifers*. Royal Horticultural Society.
8. Joyce, David (2006). [redacted]. [redacted]. Sterling Publishing Company. p. 154. ISBN 9781402735240. "As bonsai, they are my favorite genus because of their speed of growth, hardiness, ease of wiring and shaping, and, most of all, for their beautiful foliage color in spring and autumn."

9. Marles, Robin James (2009). *Aboriginal Plant Use in Canada's Northwest Boreal Forest*. Canadian Forest Service. ISBN 9780660198699.

10. [REDACTED] Natural Resources Canada

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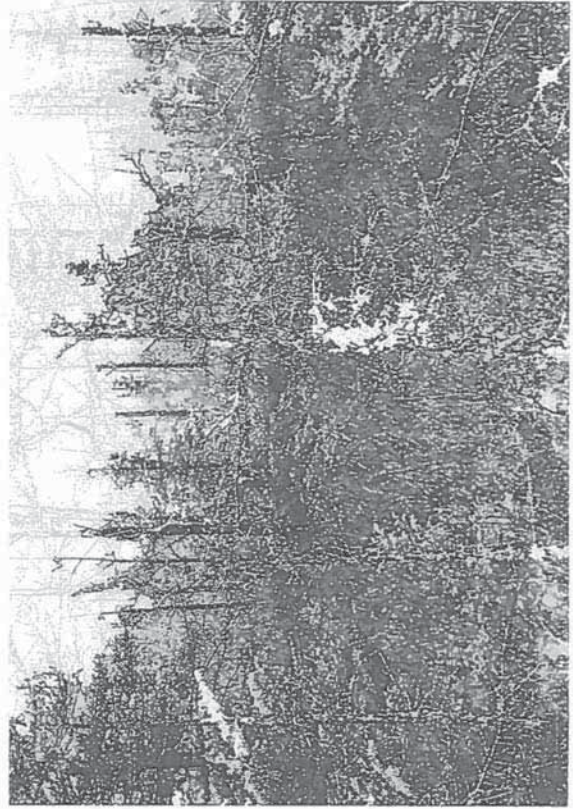
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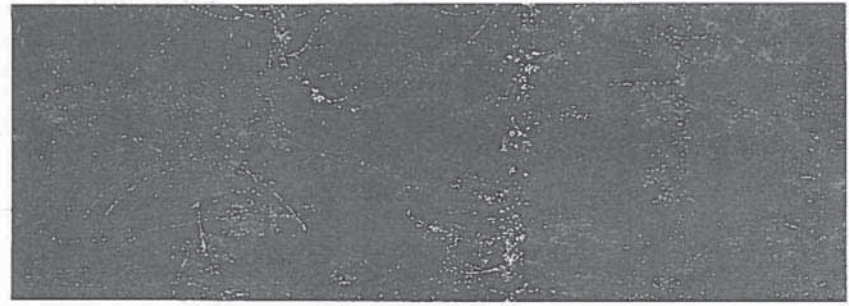
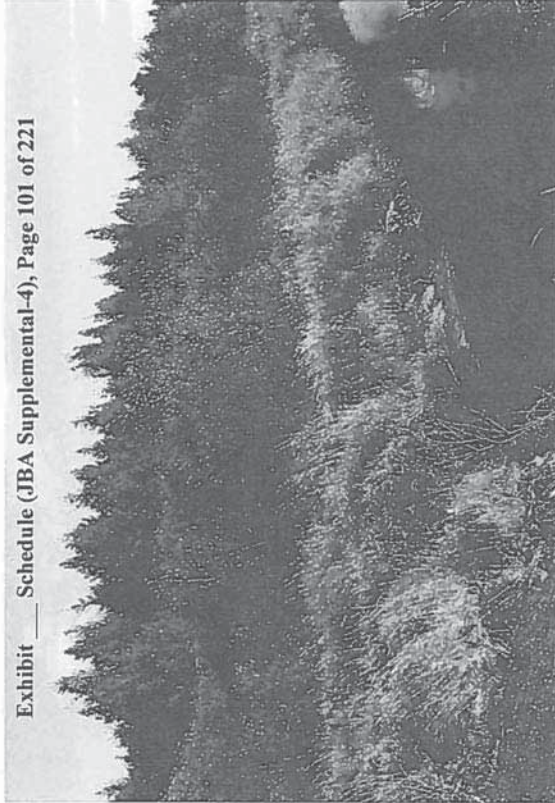
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Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Comment on the Great Northern Transmission Line Docket Number TL-14-21

0135-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: Mark Coss

Organization (if any): _____

Mailing Address: 27350 Eden Loop Road

City: Bovey

State: MN

Zip: 55709

Email: _____

Comment: To whom it may concern:
This line comes close to both home
near Twin lakes and cabin at Bear Lake. For
me the blue line route seems to be the most
reasonable.
Thank you,
Mark Coss 5-17-2015

0135-1

0136-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Dear Bill Storm,

Scott Habstritt and I (Charles Habstritt) are landowners within the Beltrami WMA Route Alternative Scoping Decision Route proposed for the Great Northern Transmission Line. We have worked with the Minnesota Power staff to remove the area that includes our property (Township: Spruce Valley, Sections: 20,29) for the following reasons.

0136-1

1. The land is peat (organic soil) farmed and can be a fire hazard.
2. The cropping systems in this area require field burning to control trash, diseases, and insects.
3. Because of the texture of the soil, fields have to be sprayed by **Arial Application**.
4. Power lines give off electrical magnetic frequencies that may be a hazard to humans, livestock, and the land through electrical, fire, and biological hazards.

In summary of the above points, if the Beltrami BMW route Alternative crosses the peat lands that are being farmed a detrimental effect in agriculture production will be the result i.e. No Arial application or field burning will cause a decrease in yields and in land values.

The proposed Blue/Orange Route Alternative would minimize impacts to home, humans, livestock, and private land use.

The Advisory Task Force appointed for this project indicated that minimization of impacts to private land and landowners was a priority and the Beltrami WMA Route Alternative developed during Scoping does not satisfy this recommendation.

Please remove the Beltrami WMA Route Alternative from consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Habstritt

Scott Habstritt

PO Box 148

Roseau MN

56751

DOCKET NUMBER 1421

0137-1

Thank you for your comment.

Bill Storm
MN Department Of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

The U.S. DOE does not have the authority to site electric transmission lines in any of the states or in a sovereign country. The EIS addresses these limitations in Section 1.4.2 of the EIS, which provides a discussion of the siting and review process in Canada.

Terry Kveen
N69 W20473 Orchard Ct
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Dear Bill Storm,

My Name is Terry Kveen and I am a landowner located within the east to west Scoping Decision Route on and south of the Roseau River near roads 28 and 123. I would ask that my property be removed from the route for consideration. I do however question why the route is being run into the United States in the manner it is. It would seem to me it would be better to run through the land in Canada East to West before needing to be run South through private land in the United States. This would remove the majority of the privately owned land inside the United States and remove a majority of the objections of the landowners affected by this.

0137-1

I do realize the Advisory Task Force is attempting to minimize the impacts to private landowners and I hope my recommendation assists in this. Under the current route I have several properties, including a quonset with nearby homes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Terry Kveen

Terry Kveen

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MAY 21 2015

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DOCKET NUMBER 1421

0138-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Bill Storm
MN Department Of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jessica Kveen
1920 Sunkist Ave
Waukesha, WI 53188

Dear Bill Storm,

My Name is Jessica Kveen and I am a landowner located within the east to west Scoping Decision Route on and south of the Roseau River near roads 28 and 123. I would ask that my property be removed from the route for consideration. I do however question why the route is being run into the United States in the manner it is. It would seem to me it would be better to run through the land in Canada East to West before needing to be run south through private land in the United States. This would remove the majority of the privately owned land inside the United States and remove a majority of the objections of the landowners affected by this.

I do realize the Advisory Task Force is attempting to minimize the impacts to private landowners and I hope my recommendation assists in this. Under the current route I have several properties, including a Quonset with nearby homes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Kveen



0138-1

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0139-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

From: Gary Johnson
To: Storm, Bill (COMMA)
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line TL-14-21 routing
Date: Saturday, May 30, 2015 2:22:33 PM

Dear Bill Storm,

My name is Gary Johnson and I own seasonal property on Napoleon Lake in Itasca County. First, thank you to Minnesota Power and the Bigfork Edge Center for the May 12th open house and the opportunity to speak with various representatives. My comments concern the blue and orange route alternatives within Itasca County between hwy 1 and CR52. Using either of these two routes would drastically change the face of several large and beautiful wildlife recreation areas. Construction of the blue route would have the more negative impact of these two routes. The western-most blue route would pass through very heavily used public and Blandin land that is used for everything from hunting and fishing to berry picking. This is due to the accessibility provided by CR 342/Wilson Lake Rd, many existing trails, the OHV on-road accessibility (corridor access trail) and a public access on Wilson Lake. The latest recommended red route alternative, which routes near existing power lines, would preserve this area. I firmly believe the preservation of the aforementioned area is more important than a diverse route based on unlikely scenarios and potential issues created by having two large and one small power line in close proximity.

Sincerely,
Gary Johnson

0139-1

Comment on the

Great Northern Transmission Line

Docket Number TL-14-21

0140-1
Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Name: JOHN & JANILE HIATT RECEIVED

Organization (if any):

Mailing Address: 21301 N. THIRTY LKDR

JUN 05 2015

MAILROOM

City: BAVEY

State: MN

Zip: 55709

Email: jbihatt@northic.com

Comment:

We would prefer the Balsam Variation.
The blue line would run on view on
property that has been in family
since the 1930's.

0140-1



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MAY 01 2015
RECEIVED

May 27, 2015

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85-7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Comment on Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket Number TL-14-21

From:
John Wahlberg
309-7th Ave. SE
Roseau, MN 56751
Email: jwahlberg@wiktel.com

Comment:

I am a landowner located in the Red corridor Scoping Route. This Scoping Route is located on my property directly East of Highway 310. This affects my valuable crop producing agricultural land for a distance of 2 miles along 360th St.

In addition it also affects the same type of agricultural land to the East of 410th Ave. All of this land is currently in crop production and has been for many years.

I feel a better place for this corridor would be East of Highway 310 and North of 370th St. parallel with (J. D. 61) Easterly to and crossing 410th Ave. onto DNR Sections 17, 16, and 15. This would then connect with the Blue/Orange Route. Or simply use the entire original Blue/Orange Route.

These changes would have less effect on valuable private crop producing agricultural land versus land that is mainly covered in brush and marginal timber. I would hope that the final decision would favor valuable crop land.


John Wahlberg

0141-1

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.4.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0141-2

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0141-1

0141-2

June 23, 2015

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JUN 29 2015

MAILROOM

Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21

Dear Bill Storm,

With all due respect, I oppose the Minnesota Public Utility Commission's proposed Balsam Variation alternative route of the Great Northern Transmission Line for the following reasons:

1. The Balsam Variation route is not cost effective compared to Minnesota Power's preferred Blue Line route. The Blue Line route, as you know, is a straight line route. The Balsam Variation route zig-zags to take advantage of a 65 foot right-of-way that currently exists. However, an additional 135 feet of right-of-way will still have to be cleared to accommodate the new transmission line.
2. The Advisory Task Force appointed for this project indicated that minimization of impacts to private land and landowners were a priority and the Balsam Variation route developed during Scoping does not satisfy this recommendation. The Balsam Variation route would impact a lot more private land and landowners than the Blue Line route.
3. Also, the Balsam Community Center, Balsam Volunteer Fire Department, Balsam Bible Chapel, parsonage, community playground, tennis courts, softball/baseball field would all be included in the middle of the Balsam Variation right-of-way.
4. As a part owner of 84 acres of undeveloped property located entirely within the Balsam Variation right-of-way, which includes approximately 3,000 feet of undeveloped lakeshore, I am concerned about the impact this new transmission line would have the valuation of our property.
5. In addition, I would like to know what impact this transmission line would have on our ability to sell our property at fair market value should we decide to sell at some point in the future.
6. Minnesota Power's intent was to design the transmission line route to maximize separation from existing homes and cabins. The Blue Line accomplishes that goal. The Balsam Variation route right-of-way would run right behind my family's hunting shack which is on a hill overlooking Snaptail Lake.
7. The transmission line is capable of producing an audible noise produced by corona discharges from transmission line conductors. Minnesota Power states that this noise, which resembles a subtle crackling sound is typically only within the threshold of human hearing during rainy or foggy conditions. They also stated that during light rain, dense fog, snow and other times there is moisture in

0142-1

The EIS provides cost comparisons for the Proposed Routes compared to the variations in Chapter 6. All alternatives will require new ROW for its entire length. While some alternatives parallel existing transmission lines, none of the alternatives share ROWs with existing transmission lines.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-2

The EIS analyzes potential impacts to land use and land ownership for each alternative.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-3

Thank you for your comment. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to land use and land ownership for each alternative.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-1

0142-2

0142-3

0142-4

0142-5

0142-6

0142-4

A discussion about the potential effects of transmission lines on property values is included in the EIS in Section 5.2.1.4. This includes a summary of the potential range of property value effects attributed to transmission lines. Further, Appendix J, Property Values Supplement provides a summary of the literature regarding the relationship between transmission lines and property values used to develop the property values analysis in Section 5.2.1.4.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-5

Thank you for your comment. For all alternatives proposed during the scoping process, impacts to property values are evaluated in the EIS. A discussion about the potential effects of transmission lines on property values is included in the EIS in Section 5.2.1.4.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-6

Noise is discussed in Section 5.2.1.2 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

the air, the proposed transmission lines may produce audible noise higher than the background noise levels in some rural areas. Deer hunting on our property has been a tradition for over 50 years and I am concerned how this will impact my family's deer hunting success in the future.


8. From a health and safety point of view, Minnesota Power also refers to "induced voltage", which occurs when an electric field reaches a nearby conductive object, such as a vehicle or metal building and it induces a voltage on the object. Then, if the object is insulated or partially insulated from the ground and a person touches that object, a small current would pass through the person's body to the ground. This might be accompanied by a spark discharge and mild shock, similar to what can occur when a person walks across a carpet and touches an object. Minnesota Power states induced voltage normally is not a problem. Again, this transmission line will impact my family's hunting land due to the fact that it will reduce the amount of land my family will be able to hunt on.

Summarizing noise and potential voltage (shock) issues, we find it hard to believe that these are NOT health issues. One of our deer hunters was never comfortable with the emissions from the old power line and a new higher voltage power line would, in her mind, make that area unusable for anything including deer hunting.

9. When Minnesota Power removed the existing transmission line, they told us we could do whatever we wanted to do with our property, such as plant trees. Trees along with an apple orchard were planted and we had every intention of using our property to its fullest. Now, once again, we face the threat of not being able to use our property the way we want to.
10. There is an existing osprey nest on the property adjoining our property and if you were to drive where roads/highways intersect with the proposed power line right-of-way, you would see a great number of nesting sites.

Based on the reasons stated above, I am respectfully asking you to remove the Balsam Variation from consideration for the Great Northern Transmission Line.

Thank you!



Karen Lucachick
18469 Sugar Lake Trail
Cohasset MN 55721

41259 Scenic Highway
Bovey MN 55709

0142-6 cont'd

0142-6
Continued

0142-7

Section 5.2.2.4 in the EIS discusses induced voltage. Section 5.2.1.2 of the EIS presents the estimated audible noise levels from the from the proposed 500 kV transmission lines under rainy conditions (worst case scenario for noise generated from corona effect). Section 5.2.2.8 of the EIS discusses public safety hazards associated with the proposed Project including electrical shocks.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-8

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-9

As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices to minimize impacts to migratory birds, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0142-8

0142-9

Northwestern,
TRANSMISSION
LINE

0145-1
The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

Bill Storm
MN Department Of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, Minn. 55101

Patricia Kveen Beaumont
5258 S. 22nd Place
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Docket # TL-14-21

Dear Bill Storm;

My name is Patricia Kveen Beaumont and I am a landowner within the east to west Scoping Decision Route on and south of the Roseau River near roads 28 and 123 and Hwy. 16. As a teenager I belonged to Jadies Jets 4-H. My parents lived there until 2002 and are buried at Rose church with the rest of my family. We have deep roots in this community. My brother still has a home there which he lives in for part of the year.

I would ask for the route for consideration near my property be removed from consideration. These lands were homesteaded by our great-grandparents and has been in our family for generations. The route I choose is the orange and blue route. The other routes will reduce the income that I need to live on and will reduce the value of the surrounding lands.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kveen Beaumont

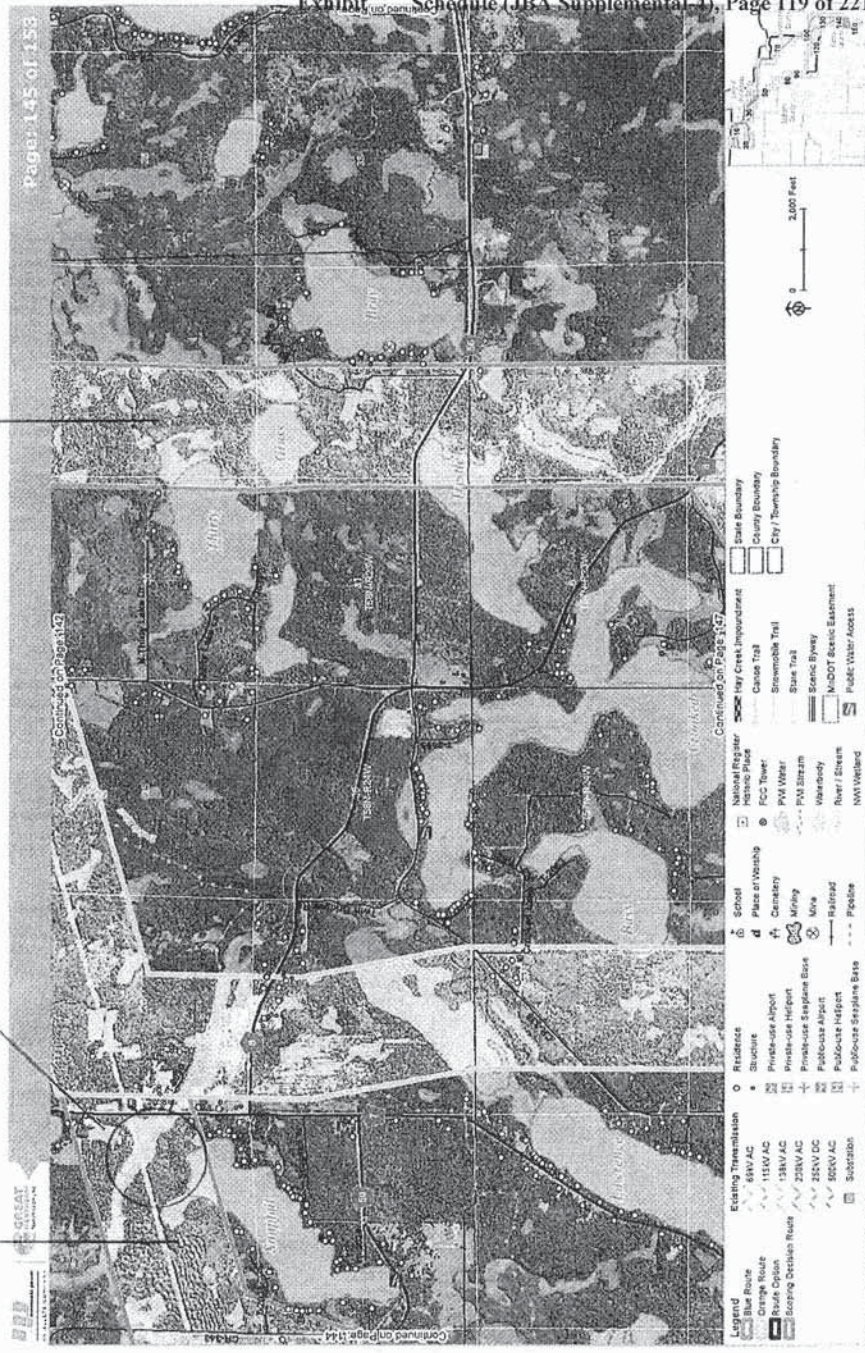
0145-1

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Blue House

Barbara Vermario Our property

Exhibit Schedule (JBA Supplemental D), Page 119 of 221



0149-1

The scoping process provides the opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to residences and land use and land ownership for each alternative.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0149-1

RECEIVED

2015 JUN -8 AM 7:45

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

To: Ann O'Reilly, Administrative Law Judge

Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line: TL-14-21

Dear Judge O'Reilly:

My name is David Lund. I am a homeowner and landowner having both agricultural and forest-tree plantation land through which one of the Scoping Decision Routes, if chosen, would pass. I actively participated in meetings held in Roseau, MN, that led to our concluding recommendation: Our consensus was that the new transmission line should more or less follow the corridor established by the existing line, that is, the Blue/Orange Route that minimizes the impact on homes and private land use, unlike the Scoping Decision Routes that do just the opposite, at least in some places. I will support and illustrate this claim with that section of the (Scoping Decision) South Route (in the area between Roseau and Warroad) just before it turns north and then soon turns east to subsequently cross the Blue/Orange Route, thereby establishing *Beltrami North Variation 1* as it continues in a south-easterly direction.

At the point this Route turns 90 degrees to the north, it could have instead continued east 3.5-4 miles through almost entirely unfarmed and uninhabited public land until it reached the Blue/Orange Route Corridor. After turning, it continues north about 2 miles until it turns 90 degrees to the east, then proceeds about three miles east where it encounters the Blue/Orange Route, crossing farmland and homes all the way. But at this point, instead of proceeding southeast in the Corridor of the existing Line, it simply ignores that Corridor and forms *Beltrami North Variation 1* as it proceeds in a diagonal direction across my entire farm, consisting entirely of farmland, numerous coniferous tree plantations, and managed (deciduous) woodland. This corridor also includes my newly constructed farm home.

These plantations range from about 38 years to 1 year old. I have brought them into existence over the years, replaced sizeable areas when necessary, nurtured, tended, and protected these plantations for about 38 years! Working with them has been one of the abiding passions of my life. I thought of them as part of my legacy -- testimony to the fact that I once lived and to how I lived. But the crossing of the proposed transmission line would destroy much of it and then continuously prevent any such use of it. Such is the enormous cost to the tree planter. I can still farm around the towers and under the lines, however inconveniently, but the right-of-way of the Line creates a permanent death zone for trees.

The reader is now in a position to understand that I was baffled and (I confess) outraged by the proposal to ignore the Blue/Orange Line Corridor in simply sending the Line across it and across my plantations, with no apparent concern for the staggering price I must pay for bearing the burden of the Line. What makes this proposal so outrageous is not only the devastation of my plantations but the realization that it is entirely unnecessary. The two opportunities to take an alternative (more practical) route to the Blue/Orange Corridor were so obvious that they virtually beckoned for attention. Had the first one been taken, this section of the Scoping Decision Route would have avoided the charge that it reversed the priority recommendation it was supposed to heed, instead giving priority to public land. As such it is an affront to that priority agreement, and I recommend that it be given no further consideration.

0149-2

Potential impacts to forests are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

As discussed in Section 1.3.4.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0149-2

Before closing I will comment on (1) the value this land and the numerous coniferous tree plantations growing on it have for me, (2) the value such areas along with the activity needed to produce them should be deemed to have when viewed as a societal good, and (3) the implications (both specific and general) of sending the Line through this land. In so speaking, I don't mean to suggest that the people entrusted to decide where the line should be located are poised to send it through *Beltrami North Variation 1*. Yet its going through this area is a possibility I must acknowledge.

It is already clear that the location of the proposed line, especially in the area I have been discussing, is a matter of great personal concern to me. As I mentioned, the passage of this line across my farm would destroy much of the (primarily) coniferous forest that I have strived to bring about and then nurtured in an extraordinarily persevering way over the last 38 years; and I still plant 2-5 thousand seedlings each year as I fill in and expand some of the plantations. In addition to planting and replanting as needed, I found that fencing was also necessary to protect the young trees. To minimize the damage caused largely by deer but also by the snowshoe hare, I have fenced all of my recent plantations, despite the great expenditure of time and labor (as well as some money) required to build and then maintain the fences over the years and in all seasons of each year. When I consider the thousands of hours of my life that I have devoted to these living things over the years, in conjunction with my continuing interest in their welfare, my finding so disturbing the possibility of the entirely unnecessary intrusion and destruction brought by a huge transmission line is something the reader is likely to understand.

Of course, I am only one individual, but there are some broader concerns that many others might share. The Scoping Decisions Routes are presented under the auspices of an Environmental Impact Statement. This indicates a concern for the environment; and so I infer that, other things being equal, the selected Route should have less negative effect on the environment than its competitors. But a route for a line that results in devastation of well-tended forest-tree plantations and other areas managed to grow forest-trees incurs a substantial loss of environmental benefit in so doing. To my knowledge, no form of terrestrial plant life provides greater benefits to the environment than does forest-trees. In addition to such well known benefits as holding the soil and preventing wind and water erosion, along with their role in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, they play the most important role (due to their large size) in replenishing the vital oxygen in the air. Moreover, they are unexcelled in their capacity to capture carbon. But my intention here is not to inform but to remind -- to remind us that these great benefactors of life would have to be destroyed and then kept from existing for as long as the Line is in place, thereby creating a permanent uninhabitable zone for trees.

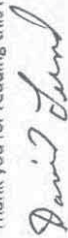
But there is another societal good that strikes me as substantial yet largely unnoticed. It results from, or is exhibited by, the activity of forest-tree planting. It seems to me that, apart from my passion for these living things, planting forest-tree seedlings and then nurturing them, even after one has grown old, is a somewhat noble activity. In any case, it encourages those who practice it to leave behind the self-centeredness and the short-sightedness that seem so prominent in the culture of our time. If it does so, our society benefits, even if only by a tiny amount. This matter is well expressed by an Ancient Greek Proverb: *A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.*

The broader ramifications of running the Line over this land seem to be entirely negative. Of course, this is largely due to the prominence of two better alternative routes that were ignored, each of which upholds the priority directive. I have already spoken of the enormity of the blow this would be to me, the sacrifice I would be expected to make for no good reason whatsoever that I can detect. But I should add that I would have difficulty seeing how this entirely unnecessary action does not amount to a (perhaps unintended) mockery of my prolonged striving to bring about coniferous forest when led to realize that the result of my labors apparently has so little value to the final decision makers that it would be chosen to make the sacrifice required to bear the Line instead of an un-farmed, uninhabited, relatively un-forested and untended public land alternative route.

There are broader ramifications that might be even more unfortunate. Such an action might well serve as a warning to those younger people who have the interest, the energy, and the commitment to embark on a project similar to mine -- a warning that their projects might continuously be in jeopardy, always subject to the invasion of irresistible powers that might be neither rational nor humane in their intent to require the devastation of a significant portion of that for which they have labored, despite the conspicuous presence and availability of better alternatives. And those who didn't engage in such a project, even if never tempted to proceed with it, might congratulate themselves on their wisdom in not doing so. These might well be overstatements, and yet they could describe the extreme reaction some will have to the action they have witnessed.

I will end these lengthy comments on an uplifting note. I don't really believe that the Transmission Line will be crossing my land. I think that the people entrusted with the responsibility of making the final decision will decide, after careful consideration of the numerous factors that must be taken into account, that there are much better alternative locations for the Line. Still, my concern is so great that I wished to think through this highly important issue and to put into high relief what is at stake.

Thank you for reading this letter!



David Lund,
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Warroad, MN 56763
Telephone: 218-386-9439
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30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / fax: 218-723-3955 /www.allete.com

David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney
218-723-3963
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May 4, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Re: *In the Matter of the Request by Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the
Great Northern Transmission Line
Midwestern Governors and Manitoba Transmission Siting Protocol*
MPUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21
OAH Case No. 65-2500-31637

Dear Judge O'Reilly:

Please find enclosed to be included for consideration in the above-reference Docket a document entitled "Protocol Among the Midwestern Governors Regarding the Permitting and Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Lines in the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada" that was executed in July 2005 by Midwestern governors, including Minnesota's, and the Premier of Manitoba. The Protocol includes a commitment in Paragraph 3(D) by each signatory to "support efforts to improve coordination and cooperation on the evaluation and processing of applications for electric transmission projects that cross state and national boundaries." This Protocol came to Minnesota Power's attention when the document and the Great Northern Transmission Line were both cited in the recently issued United States Department of Energy's Quadrennial Energy Review: Energy Transmission, Storage and Distribution Infrastructure, Chapter IX Siting and Permitting of TS&D Infrastructure (April 2015) available at: <http://energy.gov/epso/downloads/quadrennial-energy-review-full-report>

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney
Minnesota Power

DRM:sr
Enc.

0159-1

Thank you for submitting the Protocol Among Midwestern Governors Regarding the Permitting and Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Lines in the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0159-1

PROTOCOL AMONG THE MIDWESTERN GOVERNORS REGARDING THE PERMITTING AND SITING OF INTERSTATE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES IN THE MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES AND MANITOBA, CANADA

A. Background

1. A reliable and low-cost electric transmission system is the backbone of a strong economy. A robust electric transmission system is necessary for the delivery of electricity from a variety of electric generation sources to customers throughout the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada.
2. Generation capacity has grown significantly since 2000, both nationally and in the Midwest.
3. Transmission investment has not kept pace with increased generation capacity in the Midwest and has remained essentially flat since 2000.
4. As a result, the Midwest transmission grid has become more congested. FERC estimated that transmission constraints cost customers over \$1 billion during the summers of 2000 and 2001. Curtailment of scheduled transmission transactions in the Midwest has more than tripled from 2000 to 2004.
5. Since the Manitoba transmission system is interconnected with that of the Midwestern United States, we have a common interest in supporting a reliable, robust electric transmission system.
6. Although transmission projects within each Midwestern state and Manitoba have continued to be permitted and constructed, there is additional need for closer cooperation among the Midwestern states and Manitoba on permitting and siting of transmission projects that cross state and national boundaries.

B. Importance Of Midwest Transmission Infrastructure

1. The Midwestern United States and Manitoba currently have over 200,000 megawatts (MW) of low-cost power generation, including 161,000 MW of coal, 26,000 MW of nuclear, and 13,000 MW of hydro. In addition, the Upper Midwest could become a substantial provider of wind-generated electricity, which is cost-effective and essentially pollution-free.
2. Since this power is not always produced where it is needed, a robust electric transmission grid is particularly important to the Midwest because it is essential for delivery of this low-cost and renewable power to customers.
3. Both short-term and long-term benefits accrue from building transmission infrastructure, including a more reliable electric grid, ability to access low-cost generation, more diverse supplies of

0159-1
Continued

electricity leading to lower costs, environmental benefits from improved access to renewable generation, economic and job growth, and an expanded tax base.

C. Existing Work To Coordinate And Cooperate On Regional Transmission Planning And Siting Activities

1. Regional transmission organizations, such as the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO), the PJM Interconnection, and the Southwest Power Pool, have begun to plan and operate regional electric transmission systems. Other regional organizations, both existing and in development, also coordinate regional planning and reliability.
2. The Organization of MISO States (OMS), a regional organization of state utility regulators from 14 Midwestern states and Manitoba, is an example of governments working to better coordinate and cooperate on permitting and siting activities related to proposed transmission projects that cross state and national boundaries.
3. Some of these activities include learning about each other's permitting and siting requirements and exploring ways that state and provincial regulators can better coordinate their respective permitting and siting activities when applications for transmission lines crossing state and provincial boundaries are filed.
4. The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) has issued sample legislation to give state permitting and siting authorities explicit authority: a) to effectively coordinate and cooperate with other states on permitting and siting activities regarding proposed electric transmission lines that cross state and national boundaries; and b) to consider both state and regional needs and planning when evaluating whether a proposed electric transmission line should be approved.

D. Signatory Commitments

1. Each signatory to this Protocol recognizes the need for a robust, reliable electric transmission system.
2. Each signatory to this Protocol supports additional investment in the electric transmission grid when such investment is needed and in the public interest.
3. To the extent possible under his or her respective state laws and considering the rights of all potential parties to electric transmission line proceedings, each signatory to this Protocol will support efforts to improve coordination of and cooperation on the evaluation and processing of applications for electric transmission projects that cross state and national boundaries.

0159-1
Continued

4. Each signatory to this Protocol will support legislation to give state permitting and siting authorities explicit authority: a) to effectively coordinate and cooperate with other governmental permitting and siting authorities on permitting and siting activities regarding proposed electric transmission lines that cross state and national boundaries; and b) to consider both state and regional needs and planning when evaluating whether a proposed electric transmission line should be approved.
5. The signatories to this Proposal support a regional, cooperative approach to solving problems associated with improvement of the Midwestern electric transmission grid.

E. Administrative Provisions

1. Nothing in this Protocol shall be construed to limit, repeal, or in any manner modify the existing legal authorities, rights, privileges, and duties of the signatories to this protocol.
2. The Governors intend that all the states in the Midwest sign the protocol.
3. The Governors will give a copy of this Protocol to state agencies with responsibilities for the review of transmission proposals.
4. Any party to this Protocol may unilaterally withdraw its participation in the agreement.
5. The Protocol may be amended or modified if all parties agree.
6. Upon signature, the Protocol will be immediately effective and will be posted on the Midwestern Governors Association website.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)
 AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE VIA
 ELECTRONIC FILING AND
 U.S. MAIL

Susan Romans of the City of Duluth, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, says that on the 4th day of May, 2015, she served Minnesota Power's Letter to the ALJ in OAH Case No. 65-2500-31637 and PUC Docket No. E015/TL-14-21 regarding Midwestern Governors and Manitoba Transmission Siting Protocol on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Resources Division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce via electronic filing. The remaining parties on the attached service list were served as indicated.

Susan Romans

 Susan Romans

Exhibit Schedule (JBA Supplemental-4), Page 185 of 221

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Burt W.	Haar	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Linda	Jensen	linda.s.jensen@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
David	Moeller	dmoeller@alltel.com	Minnesota Power	30 W Superior St Duluth, MN 558022093	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Ann	O'Reilly	ann.oreilly@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO Box 84620 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Sie 122 9100 W Bloomington Pkwy Bloomington, MN 55431	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Tracy	Smetana	tracy.smetana@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
William	Storm	bill.storm@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	Room 500 65 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List
Eric	Swanson	eswanson@winthrop.com	Winthrop Weinstine	225 S 6th St Ste 3500 Capella Tower Minneapolis, MN 554024639	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_14-21_Official CC Service List

Exhibit Schedule (JBA Supplemental-4), Page 186 of 221

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Sarah	Belmers	sarah.belmers@mhs.org	Minnesota Historical Society	345 Kellogg Boulevard West St. Paul, MN 55102	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Tamara	Cameron	tamara.cameron@usace.army.mil	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	160 5th St. # 700 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Travis	Germundson	travis.germundson@state.mn.us		Board of Water & Soil Resources 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Brooke	Haworth	Brooke.Haworth@state.mn.us	Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Susan	Helfron	susan.helfron@state.mn.us	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Kari	Howe	kari.howe@state.mn.us	DEED	332 Minnesota St. #E200 1ST National Bank Bldg St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Ray	Kirsch	Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	65 7th Place E Ste 500 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Stacy	Kotich	Stacy.Kotich@state.mn.us	MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	385 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Debra	Moynihan	debra.moynihan@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	385 John Ireland Blvd MS 620 St. Paul, MN 55155-1899	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21
Bob	Pallon	bob.pallon@state.mn.us	MN Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Repts 14-21

Exhibit Schedule (JBA Supplemental-4), Page 187 of 221

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Margaret	Rheude	Margaret_Rheude@ws.gov	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office 4101 American Blvd. E. Bloomington, MN 55425	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21
Michelle	Ross	michelle.ross@state.mn.us	Department of Health	625 N Robert St Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21
Jamie	Schrenzel	jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21
David	Seykora	dave.seykora@state.mn.us	MN Department of Transportation	395 John Ireland Boulevard Mail Stop 130 St. Paul, MN 55155-1899	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21
Bruce	West	Bruce.West@state.mn.us	Department of Public Safety	Box 145 444 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55151	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21
Jonathan	Wolgram	Jonathan.Wolgram@state.mn.us	Department of Public Safety	445 Minnesota Street Suite 147 St. Paul, MN 55101-1547	Electronic Service	No	SPL_SL_14-21_Agency Reps 14-21

From: Doug Shaw [mailto:dshaw@TNC.ORG]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Storm, Bill (COMM)
Cc: juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov; Meredith Cornett
Subject: RE: Comments from The Nature Conservancy re: Docket Number 14-21

Resending our comments with attachments referred to below, including our March 10, 2014 letter.

Thanks

Doug Shaw

From: Doug Shaw
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 3:47 PM
To: 'bill.storm@state.mn.us'
Cc: 'juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov'; Meredith Cornett (mccornett@TNC.ORG)
Subject: Comments from The Nature Conservancy re: Docket Number 14-21

Docket Number 14-21

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) respectfully submits these comments for the public record on the Draft EIS for the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL).

TNC's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Consistent with our letter of March 10, 2014 (on PUC Docket Number E-015/CN-12-1163, attached), our comments are focused on maintaining critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities, and are grouped here under the recommendations we provided in that letter:

- o Target existing major roads and transmission corridors (Map 1)
 - Overall, TNC favors the Blue Route in the West and Central Sections, as it adheres most closely to the principle of following major roads and transmission corridors, therefore minimizing impacts to critical habitats. In the East Section, neither the Blue nor the Orange Route satisfies this criterion.
 - 1. West Section. At the northern end, the proposed routes miss the opportunities to make use of existing major corridors, such as State Highway 89 or 310 as border crossings and State Highway 11 to travel East. Even more efficient would be to use the existing Border Crossing 500kV Variation and/or the Border Crossing 230 kV Variation.
 - 2. East Section. East Bear Lake Variation Area.
 - We support the Effie Variation in that makes use of the State Highway 65 Corridor.
 - We also support the East Bear Lake and Balsam Variations, both of which make use of existing power corridors.
 - o Avoid TNC Ownerships and Easements (Map 2)
 - West Section. We were pleased to find that Kittson County and Marshall County have been dropped from the possible routes under consideration in the EIS. The Nature Conservancy has selected areas of high biodiversity significance on which to acquire land in fee or place conservation easements. Therefore, routing the line through areas owned by the Conservancy or subject to a conservation easement, as well as areas managed for natural resource value by DNR, will have disproportionate impact on natural resource values, and should be avoided.
 - East Section. Unfortunately, both the Orange and Blue Routes traverse significant acreage of conservation easements held by TNC on DNR Forestry land in northeastern Itasca County (Segment ET). Please see Map 1 for our preferred route, which makes use of State Highway 1 to traverse east across the northern side of the easement lands and then South on State Highway 65. This is consistent with the Effie Variation identified above.
 - o Avoid Areas of Outstanding and High Biodiversity Significance
 - Again, many of the Areas of Outstanding and High Biodiversity Significance are concentrated in Kittson County and Marshall County. We are therefore glad to see that this area is no longer being considered as a possible route due to likely impacts on these natural areas.
 - In addition, we support the Variations that circumvent other ownerships with significant habitats, such as Wildlife Management Areas and other state and federal ownerships identified in the draft EIS.
 - o Minimize use of TNC conservation portfolio sites: where portfolio sites cannot be avoided, direct the new transmission line to existing major roads and transmission corridors (Maps 1 & 2).
 - We support the C2 Variation option as it does the best job of minimizing impacts to TNC's Black River portfolio site as well as following an existing transmission line corridor.

TNC will continue to coordinate closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Douglas T. Shaw, Ph.D
Assistant Chapter Director

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nature.org

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0160-1

Additional border crossing alternatives would not address DOE's Purpose and Need to respond to a Presidential permit application. As stated in Section 1.2.2.1 of the EIS, DOE is considering whether or not to issue a Presidential permit for the proposed border crossing contained in the Applicant's October 2014 amended Presidential permit application. The scoping process provided opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the Draft EIS. Alternatives to the proposed border crossing under consideration by DOE are presented in the EIS in response to scoping comments from resource agencies and the public, however, those alternatives are included for the purposes of analyses only.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0160-2

Potential impacts to conservation easements, MnDNR Sites of Biodiversity Significance, and Wildlife Management Areas for each alternative variation are evaluated in the discussion of resources in the West and East Sections analyzed in Chapter 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0160-3

As discussed in Section 1.2.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a Route Permit is issued by the MN PUC, the Applicant would contact all landowners or those holding an existing easement for conservation purposes, including but not limited to The Nature Conservancy, to gather information about their property, their concerns and to discuss how best to microsite the ROW across any property or conservation easement.

Section 6.3.5 of the EIS in which the C2 Variation is analyzed for comparative environmental consequences, is updated to indicate that the C2 variation has the greatest potential to minimize impacts to The Nature Conservancy's Black River portfolio site of all variations in that area of the proposed Project.

0160-1

0160-2

0160-3

0160-4

Thank you for your comment. Your concerns are addressed throughout Chapter 6 of the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

March 10, 2014

Re: PUC Docket Number E-015/CN-12-1163

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Storm:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL). We are pleased to provide these comments as part of the public record.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our comments are therefore focused on maintaining critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities while also accommodating the energy needs that the GNTL helps our region to address.

The Nature Conservancy acknowledges that addressing the energy needs of northern Minnesota and Manitoba will call for an “all of the above” solution, and the GNTL project may have a role to play in such a strategy.

The GNTL environmental report should pay particular attention to selecting a route alternative that avoids adverse and unnecessary impacts to critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities. The Nature Conservancy has provided detailed comments and data layers on the proposed routing alternatives, and proposed a route that meets both energy and habitat conservation needs (see attached letter and maps dated 6/17/2013 and attached e-mail to Jim Atkinson dated 2/28/2014). We request that the environmental report carefully analyze the ability of the GNTL to: 1) Follow existing major roads and transmission corridors (Map 1); 2) Avoid Conservancy Ownerships and Easements (Map 2); 3) Avoid Areas of Outstanding and High Biodiversity Significance (Map 2); 4) Minimize use of Conservancy conservation portfolio sites; where portfolio sites cannot be avoided, direct the new transmission line to existing major roads and transmission corridors (Maps 1 & 2).

Again, The Nature Conservancy believes that the proposed GNTL can be part of a total energy solution for the region. **The proposed project is not a stand-alone, nor should it be; GNTL is but one of many sources that can contribute to the region’s energy needs.** As society moves away from our reliance on coal and fossil fuels and embraces conservation measures as well as a greater number of sources for clean, sustainable energy, projects like the GNTL can help with the transition. However, it is critical to conserve the area’s unique natural resources wherever possible; the Conservancy is pleased to offer guidance on how to accomplish both objectives.

We coordinate closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Both partners are therefore copied on this letter. NCC is working with

0160-4