7756 Ely Lake Drive
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734
February 6, 2007

William C. Storm, State Planning Director
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

RE: MP and GRE Tower Transmission Lne Project

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am writing to express concern about the use of a section of the Iron Ore recreational snowmobile trail as part of the proposed route for a new electrical transmission line from the Embarrass area to Tower. At the meeting held at the Embarrass Township Hall on February 15, 2007, Mr. Lindholm from Minnesota Power, referred to this trail as a public corridor. This is a gross misconception of the actual situation. The Iron Ore Snowmobile trail is similar to approximately 20,000 miles of recreational snowmobile trails in the State of Minnesota, it exists because landowners have partnered with snowmobile organizations allowing for development of non-permanent trails on their lands. Most of these trails legally exist solely during the winter months, December 1 to April 1.

Prior to my retirement, I was Director of the Trails Division for the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. As part of my role in that position I was involved in various capacities in the development of recreational trails in an effort to help diversify the economy of Northeastern Minnesota. One of the trails developed and subsequently maintained as part of our efforts was the Iron Ore Snowmobile Trail.

The Iron Ore Snowmobile Trail was developed in the mid 1980's as the result of a collaborative effort of several state and local units of government and property owners with the Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club being the lead organization. It was developed under the guidelines of the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program, more commonly referred to as the Grant-In-Aid (GIA) program. For the most part, authorization for use of the properties traversed was in the form of a license/permit which allowed properties to be used for recreational snowmobiling from December 1 to April 1 on an annual basis. Beyond this authorized four (4) month period, no other public use was authorized. Use of this trial is limited to duly licensed snowmobiles. Further, a Trail Permit allowing for use is required since this is a GIA trail. The combination of the type of permit authorizing use of the land, the short duration of the permitted use and the license requirements allowing the participants to use the trail, all suggest that it is not a public corridor in the true meaning of the descriptive phrase, a public corridor.

In regard to winter maintenance of the trail, I was responsible for the overall supervision of the groomer operators and the scheduling of the trail grooming equipment

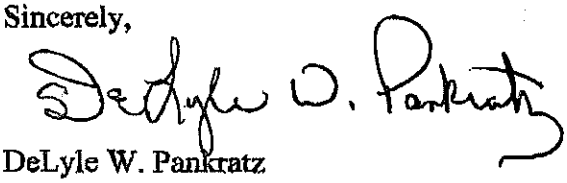
for the first 14 years of its existence. I found that usuable length of the season to be 3 to 4 weeks less than similar trails in the immediate area. This can only be attributed to the type and height of the vegetation growing adjacent to the trail treadway. Through the years, the usuable seasonal length of use increased in a direct relationship to the type, age and density of the vegetation adjacent to the treadway. In part this was due to the amount of shade the vegetation provided. Additionally, it was a reflection of the susceptibility of the trail to ground drifting of the snow. In the more elevated and open areas of the trail the snow depths on the treadway was substantially less than other areas of the trail. Consequently, the reduced length of the season. Alteration of existing vegetation growing adjacent to the trail will reduce the length of the current season.

It is my understanding that based on the input received at the February 15th meeting other siting alternatives would allow for utilization of public lands to the east of the initially proposed route and within the identified 6000' wide corridor. Beyond the easterly corridor siting boundary, there appears to be several options for siting of the line on public lands. I am confident that environmental issues are of a concern in the siting of the line. However, these environmental challenges can be addressed and overcome. It is not uncommon to encounter environmental challenges in this area. Power lines are located in similar types of situations within this immediate area. One such line is the powerline from Babbitt to Embarrass which this proposed electrical transmission line will be interconnected with.

In closing, I would like to urge that alternative routes be considered and utilized for the siting of this proposed powerline, especially those which utilize public lands. Both recreational snowmobile trails and the resultant tourism generated and the need for electrical power expansion are important for the continued diversification of the economy of Northeastern Minnesota.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



DeLyle W. Pankratz
President, Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association, Region II
Director, Iron Range Resources and Rehabiliation Board, Trails Division (Ret.)

Bill Storm

From: sueron@frontiernet.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2007 9:37 AM
To: Bill.Storm@state.mn.us
Subject: Power Line Route

Bill,

We (Ron Norha -- Russ Norha -- Lois Steichen) own 80 acres at 7865 Bergstedt Road.

SEC: 8 TWP: 60.0 RG:15 NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 (40 acres)
SEC: 8 TWP: 60.0 RG:15 SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 (40 acres)

Our property has numerous 100 year old white and red pines that are within 100 feet of the existing Lake Country power line. The proposed Minn. Power route would require that these trees be cut down and would drastically alter our property. Our proposal is to move the proposed line to the east side of Bergstedt Road starting at the junction of East Saari Road and Bergstedt Road. Run the line north to where it would join the north route along Road 590. This would also eliminate a 90 degree turn at Bergstedt Road and Road 590. Also the existing Lake Country power line could be left as is.

Ronald T. Norha
80071 Waters of Vermilion Road
Tower, MN 55790
Telephone: 218-753-4716
E-mail: sueron@frontiernet.net

March 6, 2007

Bill Storm, State Planning Director
Energy Planning and advocacy
Routing & Siting Unit
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-9535

RE: MP and GRE Tower Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am against Minnesota Power's (MP) and Great River Energy's (GRE) proposed power line route, and favor one of the two citizen's routes. The power companies route will split eleven (11) private properties in half. Seven (7) of those properties have homes/cabins on them. Most citizens are in favor of a new power line. However, all of the 100+ citizens at the recent public meetings believe routes are available across nearby public lands.

Additionally, the power companies' route will destroy the elevated sections of the Iron Ore snowmobile trail. This is a valuable connecting trail between the Taconite trail and the Laurentian trail. MP and GRE should be required to add the cost of constructing a new snowmobile trail to their power line proposal. This should be part of the environmental assessment for the power companies' proposed route.

Thank you for requiring MP and GRE to meet with the citizen's group. It has helped the group propose two additional citizen's routes. Since that time the citizen's group has met and has found additional routes that could lower MP's and GRE's costs. We know the process needs to end sometime, but we believe MP and GRE did not review the available options. It was not difficult for an inexperienced citizen's group to find viable routes through available public lands. We have created the new routes through the help of the St. Louis County land department and the Tower office of the Department of Natural Resources. We understand that MP and GRE are not required to search out public lands, but it should be in their best interest. If MP and GRE would take a less impacting approach, private citizens would not look at changing eminent domain legislation. Currently the legislation gives a lot of control to power utilities. This helps infrastructure get created. However, if utilities are allowed to run-over private property at will, when public land is available, then new legislation may be needed.

We are also concerned that the final substation location is not part of the scoping process. It is our understanding that the land purchase has not been finalized and that the Substation near Soudan could be a viable location. Should this not be part of the scoping process?

I have attached our arguments for selecting one of the citizen's routes. I hope this helps with your environmental assessment.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Indihar
Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club

Indiher 2/2

Route	Iron Ore	Citizens B	Citizens A
Description	Snowmobile Trail	Between Snowmobile Trail and Eastern Route	Most East Route
Land Type	Private	Public	Public
Proposed by	MP & GRE	Citizens	Citizens
No. of private parcels split in half	11	1	0
No. of private edge parcels	0	4	2
No. of Homes	5	0	0
No. of Cabins	2	0	0
Total Structures	7	0	0
Expansion	No room for expansion especially near the Milbridge residence	Room for expansion	Room for expansion
Human Health	High risk near structures	None	None
Land Use	Detrimental - destroys a key snowmobile trail link between the Taconite Trail and Luarentian Trail	Undeveloped - timber harvested land	Undeveloped - timber harvested land
Austhetics	Destroys austhetics of rural snowmobile & the view from 11 landowners which includes 7 residences.		
Recreation	Destroys recreation opportunity by making the snowmobile trail unmaintainable. Destroys a tourist opportunity.	Creates new opportunities for hunting and recreation through previously logging only land.	Creates new opportunities for hunting and recreation through previously logging only land.
Cost	Shorter Route / Add new snowmobile trail cost	Medium length route / No snowmobile trail cost	Longest Route / No snowmobile trail cost
Flora / Fauna	Crosses 5 trout streams and a number of wetlands	Crosses 1 trout stream and skirts wetlands	Crosses large tracts of wetlands and high ridges.
Archeological/Historical	Impacts historical railroad route through the area.	Unknown	Unknown
Radio / TV interference	7 homes	0	0

1805 EVERETT BAY RD • TOWER/MN • 55790
PHONE: (218) 753-3127 • UPNORTH1@FRONTIERNET.NET

MIKE MORLEY
8996 HWY 135 N.
TOWER, MN 55790
JAN. 29, 2007

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671	# of pages ▸
To Bill Storm	From Bob L
Co.	Co. MP
Dept.	Phone #
Fax # 651-297-789	Fax #

STATE REP. TOM RUKAVINA
6930 HWY 169
VIRGINIA, MN. 55792

DEAR TOM,

I AM WRITING TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN CHANGING THE ROUTE OF A PROPOSED MINNESOTA POWER HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH OUR PROPERTY. ONCE THIS HVTL IS BUILT, IT WILL BE AN EXISTING CORRIDOR FOR ALL FUTURE UPGRADES AND LARGER CAPACITIES. WE WILL BE IN THE SAME SITUATION THAT THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN ARE IN WITH 200 foot plus TOWERS ON THEIR PROPERTY.

PART OF THEIR PROPOSED ROUTE IS THE ABANDONED DM&IR R.R. GRADE BETWEEN TOWER & EMBARRASS THAT IS NOW PRIVATELY OWNED. M.P. SAYS THEY ARE GOING TO FOLLOW PART OF THIS GRADE BECAUSE IT IS A EXISTING CLEARED RIGHT OF WAY THAT IS NOW A RECREATIONAL TRAIL. IT IS NOT A RIGHT OF WAY; IT HAS NO EASEMENTS AND IT IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE REASON IT IS A CLEARED RECREATION TRAIL IS BECAUSE PERMISSION WAS GIVEN TO THE PENGUIN SNOWMOBILE CLUB (BY THE LANDOWNERS) TO MAINTAIN THE IRON ORE TRAIL. WHAT MESSAGE DOES THIS SEND TO PRIVATE LAND OWNERS WHO ALLOW GRANT IN AID TRAILS ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY. M.P. MAY BE LOOKING THEIR WAY FOR FUTURE HVTL.

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WE FEEL SHOULD BE USED THIS ROUTE IS TO THE EAST OF THE ABANDONED GRADE BETWEEN COUNTY ROAD 26 AND TOWER. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF TAX FORFEITED LAND AND PUBLIC LAND IN THIS AREA. THE REASON MP. WANTS TO FOLLOW THE ABANDONED GRADE IS BECAUSE IT'S EASY

Morley 2/6

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MINNESOTA POWER THAT THIS NEW LINE IS NEEDED BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT ON AREA LAKES, INCLUDING THE 3 BAYS PROJECT ON VERMILLION. ALL OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL MEAN A HUGE INCREASE IN THE TAX BASE FOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY. THIS NEW TRANSMISSION LINE SHOULD BE PUT ON ST. LOUIS COUNTY LAND WHERE EVER POSSIBLE.

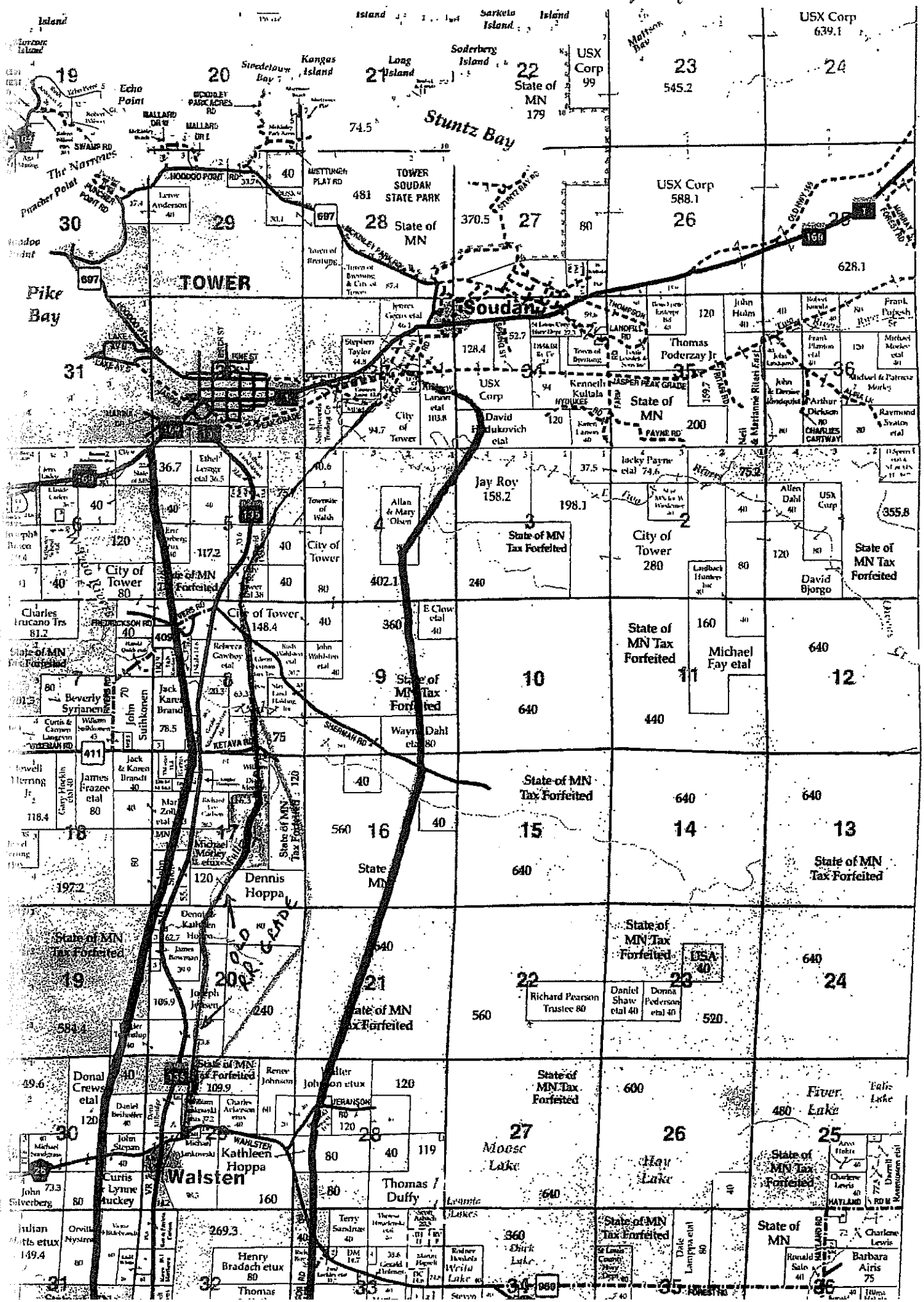
I WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO PUT THIS TRANSMISSION LINE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY WHERE IT BELONGS.

I AM ENCLOSING MAPS SO YOU CAN SEE THE PROPOSED ROUTE + A PLAT MAP OF THE AREA. THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING ON THE TOWER PROJECT WILL BE HELD AT THE EMBARRASS TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7 PM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME A 218-753-2800 AFTER 5

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,
Mike Morley


Stuntz Bay
Pike Bay
TOWER
Soudan
TOWER SOUDAN STATE PARK
The Narrows
Echo Point
Kangas Island
Long Island
Soderberg Island
Sarkela Island
USX Corp 639.1
USX Corp 99
USX Corp 588.1
USX Corp
State of MN 179
State of MN
City of Tower
City of Tower 280
City of Tower 80
City of Tower 148.4
Jay Roy 158.2
Thomas Poderzay Jr
Kenneth Kultala
David Hudukovich etal
Allan & Mary Olsen
Michael Fay etal
Dennis Hoppa
Kathleen Hoppa
Walsten
Thomas Duffy
Henry Bradach etux
Moose Lake
Hay Lake
Fiver Lake
Dark Lake
Weita Lake
Barbara Airis 75
Richard Pearson Trustee 80
Daniel Shaw etal 40
Donna Pederson etal 40
Michael Morley etux
Beverly Syrjanen
Jack Karen Brandt
James Frazee etal 80
Donal Crews etal
Curtis & Lynne Huckey
John Silverberg
State of MN Tax Forfeited
OLD RR GRADE
JASPER PEAK GRADE
SHERMAN RD
KETAVA RD
FREDRICKSON RD
WAHLSTEN
HENDERSON RD
HAYLAND RD
FOREST RD
PAYNE RD
LANDFILL RD
THOMPSON
MICKINLEY PARK RD
MIETTUNEN PLAT RD
HOODOO POINT RD
MALLARD DR
SWAMP RD
PUNCHER POINT RD
697
160
411
409
135
950

Morby 4/6

Bill / Carole / Gary

~~Bill~~ I included my guess for a "People's Choice" route alternative, one which avoids all private land between the Tower Sub site (Dave Desanno) and south to Section 8 - Embarrass Twp.

See you guys on Wed. I plan on looking at the Iron Ore Trail Wed 2/21 in the afternoon. will bring my two snowmobiles. If you want to take a ride come early.

Bill

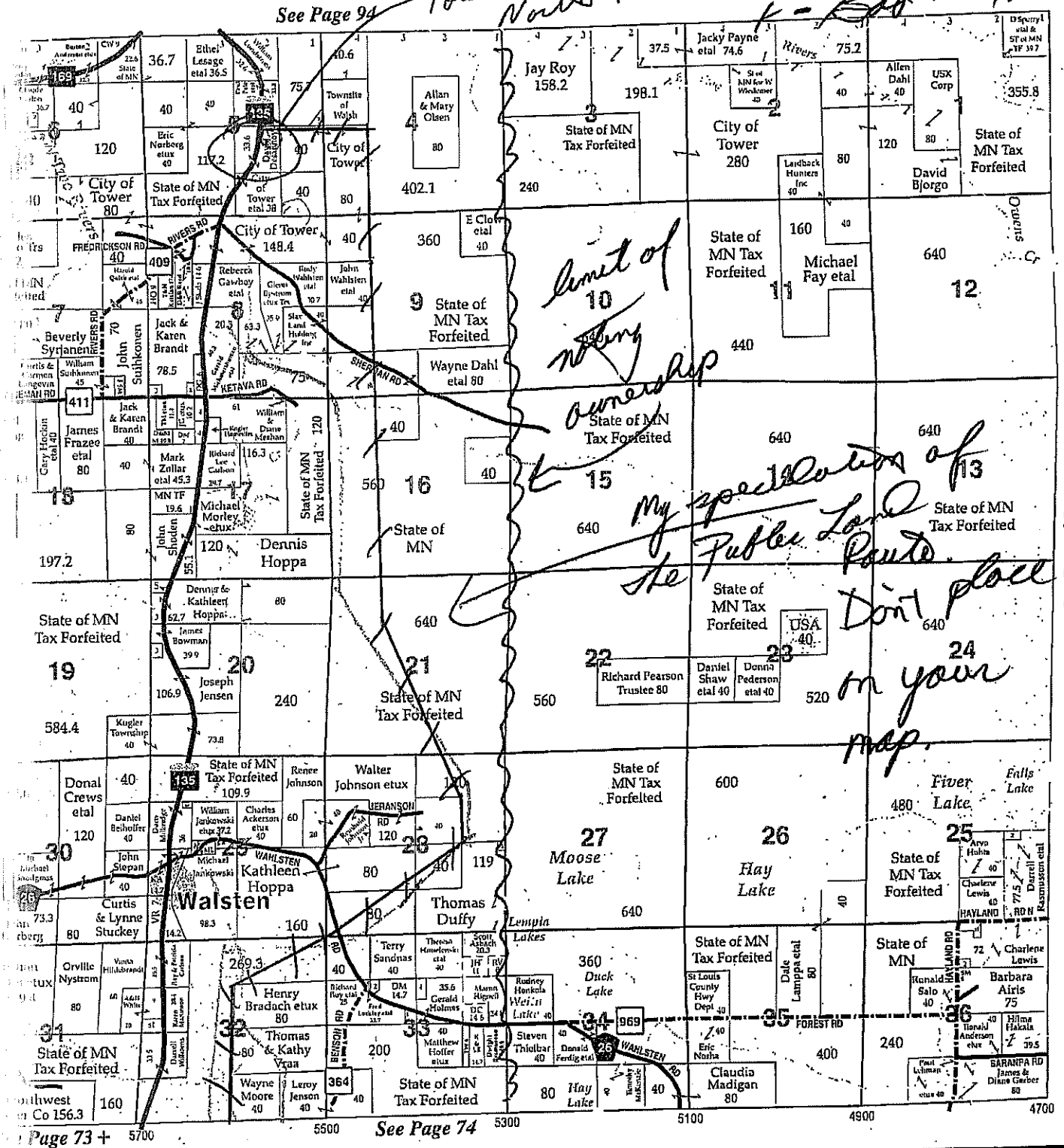
7 Kugler 651-490-2150 To: Brad Dyer

L61N - R15W

©2002 cloud cartographics, inc. st. cloud, mn 56301

Tower Sub North Terminus

F-Bob-MP



limit of nolong ownership

My speculation of the Public Land Route. Don't place on your map.

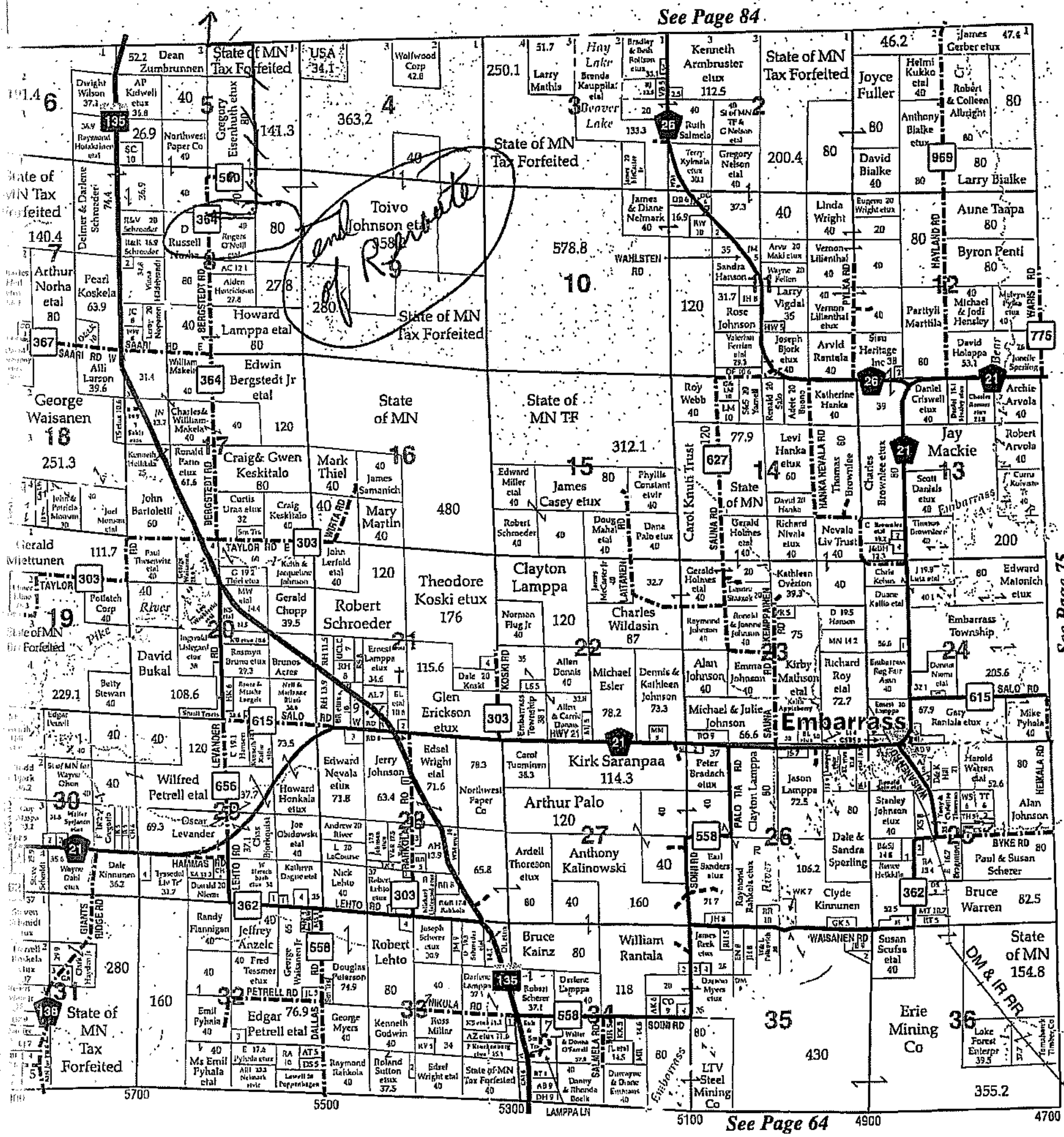
jay steinke
PHOTOGRAPHY

67 Embarrass

T60N - R15W

©2002 cloud cartographics, inc. st. cloud, mn 56301

See Page 84



See Page 75

See Page 64

EMBARRASS VERMILION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

CU ®

Box 98
Embarrass, Minnesota 55732
Phone: (218) 984-3501

Box 433
Tower, Minnesota 55790
Phone: (218) 753-4311

Not For Profit...
Not For Charity...
But, For Service

F.I. SALTER CO., INC.

"Serving Northern Minnesota for over 110 years."

Specializing in:
Commercial Real Estate
Property Management
and Appraisals

F.I. SALTER
EST. 1890

(218) 722-5556
www.fisalter.com

Bill Storm

From: dwmeehan@frontiernet.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 10:03 PM
To: Bill.Storm@state.mn.us
Subject: Proposed 115 kV Transmission Lin in the Tower/Embarrass Area

From: William Meehan
PO Box 546
Tower, MN 55790

Subject: Proposed 115V Transmission Line in the Tower/Embarrass area

Mr. Storm, I want to go on record as opposing the placement of the northern portion of the proposed transmission line on the abandon rail grade. Since its abandonment over twenty years ago the rail grade has turned into a privately owned walking trail. It is not a public route of transportation. The land owners give the snowmobile club permission to use the route for their trail. One point that is very disturbing is the fact that this route cuts through the middle of many private properties. It doesn't follow survey lines or normal edges of property. Cutting through the middle of a forty acre lot is way too much to ask of private landowners, especially when there is an alternate route on public land. There are twelve landowners on the northern end of the proposed route and all of them are opposed to this plan. That's 100%. As you know some of the landowners have negotiated two alternate rotes. I believe these routes should be considered because they were developed with the power companies and the local county representatives. At this meeting everyone in the room agreed to some degree that these were viable routes and other then cost there should be no problem with them. This in my mind was an agreement between all parties.

This old rail grade has caught the attention of the power company as a route because of its ease to construct. This is troublesome to the local landowners that fear that more and larger lines will soon follow. In fact a number of the landowners, including myself will not give permission to the snowmobile club next year if the power line goes on the grade. According to the snowmobile club members this will force them to look for funding of an alternate route, and may cause a negative economic impact on the area if no funding is available. We can live with the snowmobile trail, but we can't live with anyone thinking they can use this land for power poles, lines, gas lines, and bike trails just because it's a snowmobile trail.

I also think the power companies are going to use the added cost of the two alternate routes to disqualify them. This is not right.
They should not be allowed to just choose the easyest route for themselves and then claim added costs. This would mean that whatever route they choose first will always win out.

I know you are aware of these issues and I am sending this for you to use as public input and as a matter of record. I thank you for helping out all parties in this issue and find your involvement very professional.

The Evangelical
Free Church
of Embarrass

EFCE One Another People

Transformed lives; fully devoted followers of Christ.

Committed to
Edifying the Saints,
Equipping Workers,
And Evangelizing the World
So that Christ may be
Exalted.

RECEIVED
FEB 16 2007
MN Dept of Commerce
Mailroom

February 15, 2007

Dear Mr. Storm:

My name is Marlin Bjornrud, and I am pastor at the Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass. Please find enclosed, a comment sheet concerning a proposed project in our area: MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project, PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624.

Thank you,

Pastor Bjornrud

Pastor Marlin Bjornrud
Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass

EFCE
5606 Taylor Road
Embarrass, MN 55732
(218) 984-3402
www.efreechurch.com

Bjornrud 2/2

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: PASTOR MARLIN BJORNRUD

Representing: The Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass

Adress: 5606 Taylor Rd.
Embarrass, MN 55732

Email: embfree@rangenet.com

Comment:

The old power line that is to be replaced is only about 30 feet east of our church building and one of it's entrances.

We are concerned that the new proposed line will come even closer, having an impact on parking and children at play during outdoor church activities. It would also seem to come close to the high peak of our building.

We suggest moving the line as far east as possible, since that land is swampy woods.

Mr. Gary Ostrum met with us on Feb. 14 and looked at the situation. He felt that the line could be moved as far east from our property as was possible.

We encourage you to make this change, since we are a public facility, used by many people on a regular basis.

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Thank you!
Pastor Bjornrud

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

3-7-07

Steven Lotz
9388 Holter Road
Tower, MN 55790

Bill Storm
MN DOC

Re: Tower Transmission Project – Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Storm,

The following are specific impacts and mitigative measures that should be covered in your environmental review for the Tower Transmission Project.

1) The statutory township of Kugler (T 61, R 15) consists of approximately 7,686 acres of privately owned land and approximately 15,354 acres of publicly owned land. The publicly owned land is not parkland. Over 86% of the public land in Kugler is State of Minnesota tax forfeited land administered by St. Louis County (13,240 acres). As suggested by the fact of prior tax forfeiture this is not prime land. The balance of public land is City of Tower (1080 acres), State (820 acres), Town of Kugler (120 acres), Federal (40 acres), and St. Louis County Highway Department (40 acres). The preferred alignment would divide or otherwise impact privately owned parcels of 1,080 acres, 14% of the privately owned land in Kugler Township. What impacts can be expected and how might the route be altered to minimize impacting such a large portion of the property tax base in Kugler Township?
2) The preferred alignment follows a recreational trail for approximately 5.5 miles. This existing trail is considered the most likely route for the Mesabi Trail extension to Tower and Ely. The Mesabi Trail is a paved, multiuse trail. Minnesota Power has stated that the existing railroad grade in this portion of the alignment would be a beneficial access to the adjacent proposed power line (2-21-07, DNR-Tower). Since MP/GRE expects to use the grade for maintenance and repairs then the grade must be within the easement area. Heavy utility equipment and a paved trail cannot be expected to be compatible uses of the narrow grade. Therefore the assessment must include a review of the possible use of this corridor for a Mesabi Trail extension and the impacts of the loss of this trail corridor for use as a Mesabi Trail route including additional acquisition and construction costs for an alternative trail location.
3) William Storm (DOC) stated that trails, especially mechanized trails, and power lines are not incompatible (2-13-07, Embarrass Town Hall). This sets aside the fact that, while power lines may be very similar, trails differ from one to another in many ways; aesthetics, terrain, openness, the *feel* of the trail. The assessment must include a discussion of possible impacts of an immediately adjacent power line on an existing trail, with the trail being taken up in the easement, including

possible future uses of the trail, through a forested area with a very limited amount of current development impacts.

4) It is reasonable to expect that the simple proposal of this power line alignment on this trail corridor has already negatively impacted the process of obtaining trail easements for clubs and government agencies. What increased impacts or additional impacts may be expected on the process and ease of obtaining trail easements from private land owners by clubs and government agencies if approval is granted for the preferred alignment?
5) The preferred alignment parallels Fuller Creek, a designated trout stream, for almost a mile and one half as the stream meanders from on side of the grade to the other (T61 R 15,sections 8, 17, & 20). What impacts can be expected on the stream and the watershed from the close proximity for this extended distance, during installation and with ongoing repairs and maintenance?
6) The preferred alignment appears to either repeatedly cross or run adjacent to the Pike River (T60 R 15, section 20). What impacts can be expected environmentally, recreationally, aesthetically, and archaeologically and how might these impacts be mitigated?

Alternative routes have been proposed by members of the public. The following may be considered reasons in support of these alternate routes:

1) Fully two thirds of the land in Kugler Township (T61, R 15) is public land. The alternate routes utilize this public land to avoid bisecting private holdings and to impact many fewer private landowners and have impacts only at private parcel boundaries. Thus impacts would be reduced on residents, private landowners, and the property tax base.
2) The alternative routes eliminate impacts on over 5.5 miles of recreational trail and impact the trail in only two crossings. The trail corridor is also preserved for future use as a paved, multiuse portion of the Mesabi Trail system.
3) The alternative routes eliminate impacts on Fuller Creek and eliminates at least 3 crossings, while the preferred route parallels Fuller Creek for over a mile and a half as the creek meanders from one side of the alignment to the other.
4) While portions of the alternate routes are a little over a mile from intersecting roads, portions of the preferred route (both North and South) are also over a mile from intersecting roads. In fact the South portion of the preferred route runs cross-country in a fashion very similar to the alternative routes.
5) The alternative routes would prevent additional negative impacts on the ability to obtain future trail easements locally, regionally, and statewide.
6) The alternate routes can accommodate expansion of transmission line capacity with minimal additional impact and with no impact to human settlement.
7) The alternative routes minimize negative effects on; human settlements, public health and safety, land based economies (specifically tourism), archaeological and historic resources, and the natural environment.

Steven Lotz

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: EJAY DAWSON

Representing: SNOWMOBILERS

Address: 4488 WOODLAWN AVE E. Email:
Eveleth, MN.
55734

Comment: Because the Iron Ore Trail & the individual property owners would strongly be effected by this power line, I strongly support the Citizens Choice route.

The land to the East is all tax forfeited which belongs to the county and would have no effect on the snowmobilers & individual property owners.

Again - please go with the Citizen's Choice Route.

Thank you,

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Ryan Dethloff **Representing:** Snow Mobiling

Adress: 711 5th Street South Email: Ry340Starfire@Hotmail.com
Virginia MN 55792

Comment: I strongly support the Citizens choice route. Representing the Snowmobilers.

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Tony Vita **Representing:** (Snowmobiles)

Adress: 1003 N. 14th St
Virginia, MN. 55792

Email:

Comment:
I strongly support the citizen's choice route.

Anthony J. Vita

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Robert Arola **Representing:** Snowmobilers

Address: 7354 W. Donnywood Rd
Britt MN 55710 Email:

Comment: I feel that the proposed powerline to be built on the Iron Ore snowmobile trail would be a waste of past state funding money and a "Plow" to all the volunteers who put hard long hours into getting the trail put together. This would be another blow to the hard working snowbilers & would be another trail "taken away!"

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: PETER KRASAWA

Representing:

Address: 827 12 ST N
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

Email:

Comment: I FEEL THAT THE PROPOSED POWER LINE TO BE BUILT ON THE "IRON ORE" SNOWMOBILE TRAIL WOULD DO HARM TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND SNOWMOBILE BUSINESS ON THE IRON RANGE. THE IRON ORE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL WAS BUILT ON PRIVATE LAND AND IT TOOK A LOT OF HARD WORK TO BUILD THE TRAIL AND GET EASEMENTS.

Peter Krasawa
2-21-07

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Casey Alum

Representing: snowmobilers

Address: 1103 10th Ave So
Virginia, MN 55792

Email:

Comment: I support the citizen's choice route for the new power line because as a snowmobiler who frequently uses the ~~trees~~ trail, I do not want to see anything happen to it. I think the citizens choice route would be alot better for the property owners also.

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Jeff Palo

Representing:

Adress: 703 Northcourt
Eveleth MN 55734

Email:

Comment: The Citizen's choice Route is The best plan for the new proposed Power Line, The Citizen's choice Route would not effect Property owners or The Iron Ore Snowmobile trail. I understand that the property to the east is all tax forfeited that the county owns. This would be the perfect location for the proposed Power line.
Please Support The "Citizen's Choice" Route

Jeff Palo

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: RORY RING

Representing: MSU

Adress: 9550 WEST TWO DRIVE
MT. IRON, MN. 55768

Email:

Comment:

I support the citizens choice Route

Rory T. Ring

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: GREG MOORE

Representing:

Adress: 5234 Hwy 25
Mt. IRON MN
55768

Email:

Comment: I support the citizens committee in their efforts to save the IRON ORE TRAIL and the private LANDOWNERS EFFORTS to keep their LAND private.
NO LOSS of RECREATION

Greg Moore

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: LOREN FILTER **Representing:** SNOWMOBILER'S

Adress: HEAVEN'S highway
149 Route
BRITT MN. 55710

Email:

Comment:

AFTER SURVEYING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN M.P. + THE SNOWMOBILER'S! I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CITIZENS CHOICE ROUTE- IT WOULD MAKE THE PROPERTY OWNER'S HAPPY ALSO.

Loren Filter

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: ROBERT DETHLOFF **Representing:** SNOWMOBILERS

Address: 6902 STOCKLAND Rd.
VIRGINIA MN. 55792

Comment: I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CITIZEN'S CHOICE ROUTE AS IT WOULD NOT EFFECT THE IRON ORE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL AND ALL THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER'S THAT THE PROPOSED POWERLINE WOULD NOW GO THRU. ALSO THE LAND TO THE EAST IS ALL TAX FORFEITED THAT BELONGS TO THE COUNTY! THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR THIS SECTION OF THE PROPOSED SECTION OF THE POWERLINE AS IT WOULD HAVE "NO" EFFECT ON PROPERTY OWNER'S OR SNOWMOBILER'S — PLEASE SUPPORT THE "CITIZENS CHOICE" ROUTE

Robert Dethloff

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Dan Theel

Representing: self

Address: 4745 Waisaman Rd
Embarrass, MN

Email:

Comment: I support leaving the IRON ore trail where it is and put the power line on the tax forfeit land on that section of trail

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: **Representing:**

Wallace & Beverly Heinrich

Address: Email:

7495 E. Donnywood Circle
Britt, MN 55710-8018

Comment: We support the Citizen's Choice Route as chosen by the individual landowners and the Iron Ore Snowmobile Clubs.

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: LOUIS B URBIHA

Representing:

Address: 612 A AVE
EVELETH, MN 55734

Email:

Comment: I STRONGLY SUPPOURT THE CITIZENS CHOICE ROUTE, WHAT THEY PROPOSE MAKES GOOD SENSE AS IT WOULD NOT EFFECT THE TRAIL OR PROPERY OWNES. SUPPORT THE CITIZENS CHOICE ROUTE

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Louis B Urbiha

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: MiKE Hocking

Representing:

Adress: P.O BOX 642
Gilbert Mn
55741

Email:

Comment:

I Strongly Support The Citizens Choice Route. As It would NOT Effect The IRON ORE Snowmobile Trail And All Property owners. Also The land TO THE EAST is All TAX Forfeited That Belongs To The County which would be the Perfect location FOR This section of Powerline As It would HAVE No effect ON Property owners OR Snowmobilers Please Help and support The citizen choice Route.

Mike Hock

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Jerry Kujala

Representing: Mesabi Snow Voyageurs

Adress: 4951 Spirit Lake Rd
Mountain Iron, MN 55768

Email:

Comment: I support the Citizen's Choice Route as the best choice for the Iron Ore snowmobile trail. There is ample tax forfeit land adjacent to this route to accomodate a proposed power line.

Jerry D Kujala

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

2/26/07

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Mike Mattson **Representing:** Snowmobiler

Adress: 8675 S. Iron bowl LN. Email:
Iron, Mn. 55751

Comment: I strongly support the Citizens Choice route as it would effect the Iron Ore snowmobile trail and the Individual Property owners the county land would be a perfect location

Mike Mattson

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Kevin Anderson

Representing: Snowmobiler

Adress: 4031 N PEARY Rd.
Eveleth MN. 55734

Email:

Comment: I strongly support the citizens choice route as it would effect the Iron ore Snowmobile trail and the Individual property owners the county land would be a perfect location

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Ken C JACOBSEN

Representing: Snowmobiler

Adress: PO BOX 504
5738 Mineral Ave
Mt IRON, MN 55768

Email:

Comment: I strongly support the citizen's choice route as it wouldn't effect the IRON ORE Snowmobile trail and all the individual property owners that the proposed power line would go thru. The land to the east is all County tax forfeited land this would be an ideal location for the line as it wouldn't effect the Snowmobile trail or all property owners

Ken C

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

2-26 07

Name: STEVE CARRON

Representing:

Adress: 5487 CARNATION AVE
VIRGINIA MN 55792

Email:

Comment: I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CITIZEN'S CHOICE ROUTE AS IT WOULD NOT EFFECT THE IRON ORE SNOW MOBILE AND ALL THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS THE COUNTY LAND WOULD BE THE PERFECT LOCATION

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CITIZENS CHOICE ROUTE

Steve T. Carron

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Paul Skubic

Representing:

Address: 3217 Strandlie Lane
Tower, Minnesota
55790

Comment:

I would like to offer my support for the citizens choice route. this appears to be what the people want & the snowmobile trail is a valuable assett to the local communities. I strongly urge you to support the citizens choise route - thanks.

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Jon Perpich **Representing:**

Adress: 5757 Echo Pt Rd Email:

Tower, MN 55790

Comment:

I support the citizens choice route as it will not effect the Iron ore trail & property owners that the proposed Powerline line would go thru. The land is east is all TAX forfeited that belongs to the county. This in my opinion would be a perfect location of the power line as it would have no effect on the property owners & the snowmobile trail.

Please support the citizens choice route.

Jon Perpich

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Chris Surface **Representing:**

Address: 904 Jones St Email:
Eveleth MN 55734

Comment: I support the Citizens Choice Route. Closing the iron ore trail would have an impact on snowmobilers and business and also tax payers along the snowmobile trail!

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: BRET HESTETVNE

Representing:

Address: 1009 No. 17TH STREET
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

Email:

Comment:

I SUPPORT THE CITIZENS CHOICE ROUTE, CLOSING THE IRON ORE TRAIL WOULD HAVE A BAD EFFECT ON SNOWMOBILERS WHO USE THE TRAIL, AND TAX PAYING PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG THE TRAIL

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

RECEIVED
MAR - 5 2007
MN Dept of Commerce
Mailroom

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: JIM SKUBIC

Representing:

Address: 417 6TH St. So.
VIRGINIA, MN. 55792

Email:

Comment:

Please support the citizen's choice route, I do not want to see the IRON ORE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL CLOSED! You have several other options for this power line project than to use the snow mobile trail. PLEASE SUPPORT THE "CITIZENS CHOICE" ROUTE

Jim Skubic

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: Ryan Perpich

Representing:

Adress: 8367 Spruce Dr
Mountain Iron, Mn 55768

Email:

Comment: I support the citizens choice route, as it would not affect the Iron Ore Trail along with the adjacent property owners that the proposed powerline would go through. The tax forfeited land to the east belongs to the county and would make a better location as it would not impact adjacent property owners and the existing Iron Ore Trail (snowmobile trail.)
Please support the Citizens choice Route!!

Ryan Perpich

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

Minnesota Department of Commerce

February 16, 2007

Mr. Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Sir:

Re: PUC Docket #E 105/TL-06-1624
Tower Transmission Project

The attendance at your meeting held at the Embarrass Town Hall on Tuesday Evening February 13, 2007 was very encouraging. It turned out to be a very active meeting with so much participation that there were those who weren't able to get a word in edge-wise. Therefore, I am writing to you to consider these sideline remarks important as well.

Our thoughts lean toward the current (proposed) location of the new Tower Substation which Minnesota Power intends to construct somewhere east of Highway 135. Landowners in that vicinity are having a problem with the possibility of this location. Should the snowmobile group be given consideration for their "adjusted" route for the transmission line, perhaps the new Tower Substation could, also, be situated North of that route. I'm not exactly familiar with the lay of the land there, but am hoping toward this possibility. Please give this your consideration.

Thank you,
Anne S. Pyhala

PYHALA
5604 Petrell Rd.
Embarrass, MN 55732

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name:
NANCY RIIHILUOMA

Representing:
8760 HWY 135
WHERE I LIVE

Comment:
ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PARTS OF OUR PROPERTY WILL BECOME CONTAMINATED + WORTHLESS — INCLUDING PONDS. 4 OF OUR BUILDINGS ARE BUILT SUCH THAT THEY CANNOT BE TAKEN APART OR MOVED. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE WORK + EXPENSE? NONE OF US WOULD SURVIVE THAT. YOU SHOULD BUY OUT THE "ONLY 6 AFFECTED PROPERTIES" FOR WHAT THE OWNERS HAVE INVESTED IN THEIR PROPERTY + BUILDINGS, + FIND THEM A PROPERTY JUST LIKE WHAT THEY NOW OWN + YOU COULDN'T — THEY'RE ALL ONE OF A KIND SPECIAL PROPERTIES. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOOK AT A 115 KV POWER LINE OUT OF OUR WINDOWS. THAT IS NOT THE VIEW WE WANT. WE WOULD **NEVER** HAVE BOUGHT THIS PROPERTY IF WE HAD KNOWN THIS. YOU KEPT A LID ON YOUR

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Richlwoma 2/2

Comments Continued:

DECEPTIVE WAYS, THEN SPRANG IT ON THE PEOPLE. OR DID WIND OF THIS LEAK OUT TO THE PREVIOUS OWNERS? WE DID NOT NEED THIS STRESS IN OUR LIVES AT THIS STAGE OF OUR LIVES. LET IT BE DOCUMENTED RIGHT HERE THAT MY HUSBAND HAS HAD + SURVIVED 2 HEART ATTACKS + THE STRESS OF THIS WILL BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO HIS FUTURE HEALTH. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TERRIBLE UNCALLED FOR STRESS ON BOTH OF US. WALK IN OUR SHOES! IF ONE OF OUR PRECIOUS GRANDSONS WAS ALIVE HERE ON EARTH TODAY, HE WOULD HAVE LOVE + COMPASSION + BE STICKING UP FOR HIS GRANDPA + GRANDMA. I CAN JUST HEAR HIM SCOLDING YOU WITH "BAD, BAD, BAD!" WHO IS STICKING UP FOR ALL OF US? HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO YOU WILL "STICK IT TO"? WHO DECIDES WHO YOU WILL NOT "STICK IT TO"? YOU MIGHT BE AGAINST US NOW, IN THIS TOPSY TURVY UPSIDE DOWN WORLD, BUT THANKS BE TO OUR DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, OUR DEAR LORD JESUS, + OUR DEAR HOLY SPIRIT, WE KNOW WHO WINS IN THE END. DO YOU HAVE A CONSCIENCE? GIVE ALL THE COMMENT SHEETS, FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE AGAINST THE STRANGE ROUTE IDEAS, TO THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS! LISTEN TO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WITH INPUT FROM JOHN WAYNE! THEY PLAY IT ON XM RADIO, OPEN ROAD CHANNEL, BILL MACK SHOW, WHICH COMES ON AT 11 AM WEEK DAYS M-F.

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name: NORM RIIHILUOMA

Representing: FULLER CREEK INC

P.O BOX 448
TOWER MN 55790

Comment: ON TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE SELECTION

A - EFFECTS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT
THIS IS NOT IMPORTANT TO YOU - WHEN IT GOES ½ MILE ON FULLER CREEK INC PROPERTY - RIGHT DOWN THE CENTER

B - HEALTH AND SAFETY
IT WILL NOT BE SAFE TO GATHER

C - EFFECTS ON LAND BASED ECONOMIES
MY ECONOMY WILL BE GREATLY AFFECTED IF I AM FORCED OFF MY PROPERTY

D - HISTORIC
THE FIRST IRON ORE TRAIN IN MN WENT ON THIS SITE

E - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
YOU CROSS 5 TROUT STREAMS ON YOUR ROUTE — ONLY 1 IF YOU MOVE EAST A MILE OR SO

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Ruhiluoma 2/2

Comments Continued:

H- SURVEY LINE
USE SECTION LINES ON STATE LAND
M- STATES ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED
IT CAN BE AVOIDED BY GOING EAST A MILE OR SO

ALSO, THE ST LOUIS COUNTY ATLAS HAS NO REFERANCE TO A RAILROAD IN KUGLER OR EMBARRASS TOWNSHIP — JUST PRIVATE PROPERTY, STATE LAND ETC.

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

Name:
NANCY RIIHILUOMA

Representing:
8760 HWY 135
WHERE I LIVE

Comment:
ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PARTS OF OUR PROPERTY WILL BECOME CONTAMINATED + WORTHLESS — INCLUDING PONDS. 4 OF OUR BUILDINGS ARE BUILT SUCH THAT THEY CANNOT BE TAKEN APART OR MOVED. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE WORK + EXPENSE? NONE OF US WOULD SURVIVE THAT. YOU SHOULD BUY OUT THE "ONLY 6 AFFECTED PROPERTIES" FOR WHAT THE OWNERS HAVE INVESTED IN THEIR PROPERTY + BUILDINGS, + FIND THEM A PROPERTY JUST LIKE WHAT THEY NOW OWN. YOU COULDN'T — THEY'RE ALL ONE OF A KIND SPECIAL PROPERTIES. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOOK AT A 115 KV POWER LINE OUT OF OUR WINDOWS. THAT IS NOT THE VIEW WE WANT. WE WOULD **NEVER** HAVE BOUGHT THIS PROPERTY IF WE HAD KNOWN THIS. YOU KEPT A LID ON YOUR

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Rehiloma 2/2

Comments Continued:

DECEPTIVE WAYS, THEN SPRANG IT ON THE PEOPLE. OR DID WIND OF THIS LEAK OUT TO THE PREVIOUS OWNERS? WE DID NOT NEED THIS STRESS IN OUR LIVES AT THIS STAGE OF OUR LIVES. LET IT BE DOCUMENTED RIGHT HERE THAT MY HUSBAND HAS HAD + SURVIVED 2 HEART ATTACKS + THE STRESS OF THIS WILL BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO HIS FUTURE HEALTH. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TERRIBLE UNCALLED FOR STRESS ON BOTH OF US. WALK IN OUR SHOES! IF ONE OF OUR PRECIOUS GRANDSONS WAS ALIVE HERE ON EARTH TODAY, HE WOULD HAVE LOVE + COMPASSION + BE STICKING UP FOR HIS GRANDPA + GRANDMA. I CAN JUST HEAR HIM SCOLDING YOU WITH "BAD, BAD, BAD!" WHO IS STICKING UP FOR ALL OF US? HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO YOU WILL "STICK IT TO"? WHO DECIDES WHO YOU WILL NOT "STICK IT TO"? YOU MIGHT BE AGAINST US NOW, IN THIS TOPSY TURVY UPSIDE DOWN WORLD, BUT THANKS BE TO OUR DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, OUR DEAR LORD JESUS, + OUR DEAR HOLY SPIRIT, WE KNOW WHO WINS IN THE END. DO YOU HAVE A CONSCIENCE? GIVE ALL THE COMMENT SHEETS, FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE AGAINST THE STRANGE ROUTE IDEAS, TO THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS! LISTEN TO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WITH INPUT FROM JOHN WAYNE! THEY PLAY IT ON XM RADIO, OPEN ROAD CHANNEL, BILL MACK SHOW, WHICH COMES ON AT 11 AM WEEK DAYS M-F.

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007
MN DEPT OF COMMERCE
FINANCE

Name:

NANCY RUHILUOMA
P O BOX 448
TOWER MN 55790

Representing:

8760 HWY 135 PROPERTY
WHERE I LIVE

Comment:

STRANGE ROUTES HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE 115 KV POWER LINE. NO, THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. THE LAW YOU ARE TRYING TO GO BY WAS FOR A SITUATION IN SOUTHERN MN & NOT FOR A SITUATION IN NORTHERN MN. IT SADDENS & ALARMS ME WHEN YOUR MEETING PRESENTERS USE INTIMIDATING EMINENT DOMAIN BULLYING, GIVE SARCASTIC RESPONSES, USE PSYCHOLOGICAL GAMES, GIVE CONTRADICTING STATEMENTS, MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS, CIRCLE AROUND PEOPLES QUESTIONS WITHOUT GIVING ANSWERS, & SHOW NO RESPECT FOR FINE CONCERNED CITIZENS WHEN THEY ARE SPEAKING. IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO BE DISRUPTIVE & TALK AMONGST THEMSELVES. A PRESENTER WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD LIKE IT ON HIS PROPERTY OR

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Comments Continued:

IF HE WOULD LIVE BY ONE + HE ANSWERED "NO". MN POWER, GREAT RIVER ENERGY, MN DEPT OF COMMERCE, (+ WHOEVER ELSE) CAN CHOOSE A ROUTE OFF OF PRIVATE (WHICH INCLUDES PEOPLE WHO CAN'T EVEN BE BY A MICROWAVE OVEN, LET ALONE A 115KV POWER LINE) + CHURCH PROPERTY. SHAME ON YOU - WHERE IS COMMON SENSE, WHEN MAPS SHOW HUGE SECTIONS OF TAX FORFEIT STATE LAND? YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PULL THIS STRESSFUL / DEPRESSING GRAB ON ALL OF US. THERE IS STILL RIGHT + WRONG. AND THIS IS WRONG. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD GREED FOR OUR LAND, WHERE FOLKS HAVE BEEN SETTLED + ESTABLISHED FOR YEARS + WHERE THE HISTORIC ABANDONED RAILROAD BED IS, THAT TRAINS HAULED THE FIRST IRON ORE OUT OF HERE ON, WHEN THE STATE HAS PROPERTY. CAUSES ONE TO LOSE RESPECT FOR ALL OF YOU. IF YOU PUSH THIS ON US, I WILL NOT STAY. YOU WILL BE FORCING ME TO WALK AWAY (ABANDON), HAVE FINANCIAL RUIN, + GATHERING (OFF OF OUR PROPERTY) RUIN. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN WAY TOO MUCH CONTROL + POWER TO RUIN. PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT YOU DEEP DOWN WANT TO DO TO EVERYONE AFFECTED. THEN YOU ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF RUINING. AND YOU DON'T VALUE PEOPLE. DOES IT MAKE YOU HAPPY TO BE INVOLVED IN FINANCIALLY RUINING PEOPLE + MAKING THEIR UNIQUE PROPERTIES (THAT THEY WORKED HARD + LONG TO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE) (GOOD WORK ETHIC PEOPLE) WORTHLESS?

Comments Continued:

CIRCUMSTANCES DO ARISE WHEN PEOPLE NEED TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY (NO ONE WOULD BUY AFFECTED PROPERTY). DO YOU CARE? WE WERE FREE TO CHOOSE WHERE WE DREAM TO LIVE, SPECIFICALLY, NEAR THE LAURENTIAN DIVIDE + LAKE VERMILION. PLEASE, KINDLY, KEEP THE 115 KV POWER LINE AWAY FROM WHERE FOLKS + CHURCH ARE ESTABLISHED + SETTLED, PLEASE, PLEASE CARE. YOU KNOW YOU CAN PUT THIS LINE WHERE PEOPLE AREN'T!

Public Comment Sheet
MP & GRE Tower HVTL Project
PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624

RECEIVED
MAR 7 2007
MN Dept of Commerce

Name: NANCY RIIHILUOMA
P O BOX 448
TOWER MN 55790

Representing: 8760 HWY 135
PRIVATE PROPERTY WHERE
I LIVE

MARCH 2007

Comment:
RED FLAGS COME UP ALL OVER THE PLACE. ALL SITUATIONS ARE NOT THE SAME. EACH SITUATION IS DIFFERENT + SHOULD BE TREATED INDIVIDUALLY. IN THIS SITUATION, IN KUGLER, THE 115 KV, + MORE, + MORE POWER LINES CAN BE OFF EAST BY THEMSELVES. ARROGANT INTIMIDATING BULLYING EMINENT DOMAIN CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR VOCABULARY IN THIS SITUATION. EMINENT DOMAIN TO ME EQUALS LIE, CHEAT, ROB, STEAL, DESTROY. WHERE WERE THE GREAT MINDS OF YOU PLANNERS? HOW CAN YOU, WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, JUSTIFY GOING OVER HOUSES, DOWN THE MIDDLE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, NEXT TO A CHURCH ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS TAX FORFEIT + STATE LAND IN THIS SITUATION. YOUR 2ND + 3RD SWATH WILL BE ON OUR HOUSE. ON THE TAX FORFEIT + STATE LAND YOU HAVE ROOM FOR

Please submit comments to meeting moderator or send to:

William Cole Storm
MDOC
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
Voice: 651-296-9535
Fax: 651-297-7891

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Comments Continued:

1ST, 2ND, 3RD SWATHS, DID WIND OF THIS LEAK OUT TO 1 OR 2 OR MORE PREVIOUS OWNERS OF OUR PROPERTY + OTHER PROPERTIES? THOSE SELLERS GOT THEIR $ (DOLLARS). THEN YOU WANT TO FORCE US TO ABSORB FINANCIAL RUIN (I DON'T THINK SO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!) IN WHAT MANY FROM AROUND THE USA DESCRIBE NORTHERN MN AS ALREADY HAVING — A DOWN/POOR ECONOMY, WHILE YOU PICK + CHOOSE + MAKE DEALS WITH OTHERS. THE ABANDONED HISTORIC RAILROAD BED REVERTED BACK TO PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS. SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATLAS GIVES NO REFERENCE TO A RAILROAD IN KUGLER — JUST PRIVATE PROPERTY, TAX FORFEIT, STATE LAND, ETC. FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF ON THE EXPLOSION AT EVELETH TACONITE + THE AMOUNT OF POWER INVOLVED + WHAT IT DID TO THAT YOUNG ENGINEER (IT CREMATED HIM AT HOW MANY TIMES MORE HEAT THAN IS USED AT CREMATION PLACES?). DO THE MATH ON WHAT THE 115 KV POWER LINE WOULD BE. DO THE MATH ON THE POWER INVOLVED IF IT WAS DOUBLED + TRIPLED. WE WOULD BE EXPOSED TO THAT DAY IN + DAY OUT BECAUSE THAT IS OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY. I AM NOT WILLING TO BE A HUMAN EXPERIMENT. I DON'T WANT FAMILY + FRIENDS EXPOSED EITHER. OUR TIME, ENERGY, HEALTH, MONEY AT THIS STAGE OF OUR LIFE SHOULD NOT BE SPENT FIGHTING LAWS/COMPANIES/PRESENTERS/CORPORATIONS WHO ARE ONLY OUT TO LIE, CHEAT, ROB, STEAL, DESTROY OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY, OUR HEALTH, OUR BUILDINGS, OUR FINANCES, OUR WATER SUPPLY SOURCES,

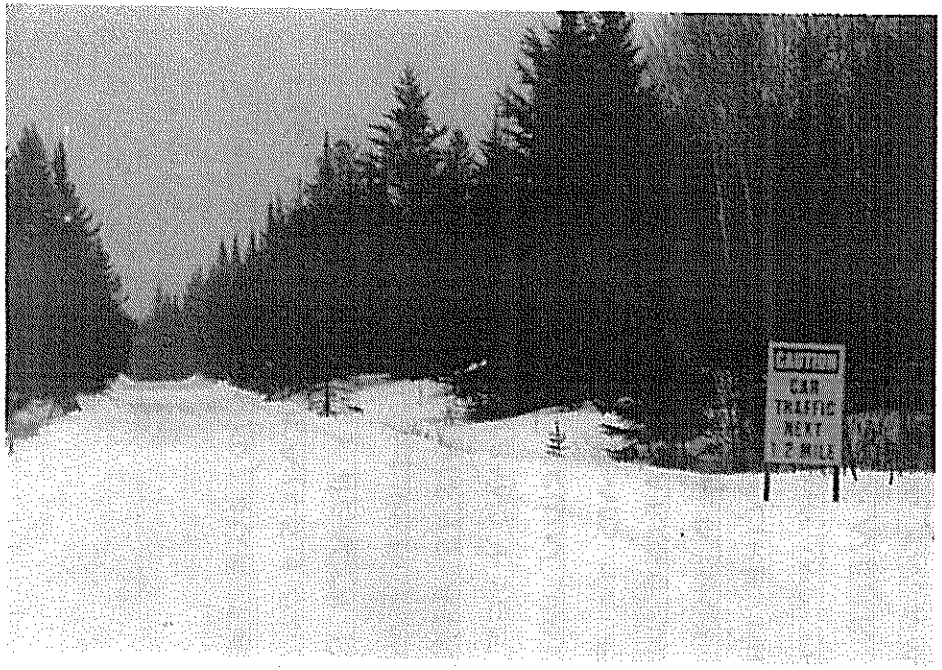
Comments Continued:

OUR LEECH POND, OUR TAMARACKS + CLEANSING/ FILTERING CATTAILS + FEN, OUR GATHERING, OUR VIEW. THERE IS ALREADY HEALTH RUIN FROM THE STRESS. THIS IS ALREADY DRAINING OUR ENERGY. THIS IS ALREADY TAKING UP OUR TIME. THIS IS ALREADY CAUSING ADDED EXPENSE. I LOOK AT MY HUSBAND + SEE SADNESS. CONTAMINATED PROPERTY EQUALS RUIN WHICH LEADS TO WORTHLESS PROPERTY WHICH LEADS TO FINANCIAL RUIN BECAUSE IF CIRCUMSTANCES AROSE WHERE AN OWNER CHOSE TO SELL – NO ONE WOULD BUY IT – NO ONE WOULD TOUCH IT – IT WOULD BE LIKE THERE IS LEPROSY HERE. WHY DO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD NOT WANT THESE KIND POWER LINES NEAR PEOPLE? WE SNOWMOBILE. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR SNOWMOBILE TRAILS TO BE BY 115 KV + MORE KV'S + MORE KV'S POWER LINES. ALL THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER TO YOU AS LONG AS YOU ARE COMFY COZY IN YOUR HOUSES. SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS SCENARIO. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF "GONE AMUCK". LOOK PAST YOUR AGENDA TO PUSH ONLY YOUR WAY + GET BACK TO THE TRUTH THAT THERE IS TAX FORFEIT + STATE LAND. WE'RE TOLD BY PRESENTERS TO GO TO SAINT PAUL MEETINGS – TAKING UP OUR TIME, ENERGY, HEALTH, MONEY – ONLY TO FIND OUT IN JULY – IT WAS CRAMMED DOWN OUR THROATS – IT WAS TIME, ENERGY, HEALTH, MONEY WASTED. WHO STICKS UP FOR WE THE PEOPLE? GET OUR COMMENT SHEETS OUT TO INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS, +, +, + TO GET SOMEONE TO COME TO OUR AID + HELP US GET THE COMMON SENSE POSITIVE RESULTS WE WANT.

Riihiluoma 4/4

MARCH 2007

TO: WILLIAM COLE STORM
MDOC
85 7TH PLACE EAST
SUITE 500
SAINT PAUL MN
55101-2198



THIS IS ½ MILE OF OUR DRIVEWAY— ABANDONED RR BED — NOW PRIVATE PROPERTY

THIS IS OUR FEN. IT HAS NO INLET OR OUTLET & HAS A PH AROUND NEUTRAL. WATER LEVEL ALWAYS ABOUT THE SAME, THERE ARE LEECHES LIVING IN IT. IT IS THE LEVEL OF OUR WELL WATER, WE THINK IT IS THE SAME WATER TABLE + WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE A CHANGE TO RUIN THAT BY CONSTRUCTION AND SPRAYING LATER.

FROM: NORMAN + NANCY RIIHILUOMA
8760 HWY 135
TOWER MN 55790

Michael E. Morley, Jr.
1104 North Fayal Avenue
Eveleth, MN 55734
(218)780-5957
morleym@co.st-louis.mn.us

RECEIVED
MAR 7 2007
MN Dept of Commerce
Mailroom

William Cole Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 Seventh Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

March 3, 2007

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am writing concerning the Embarrass-Tower HVTL project (PUC Docket No. E015/TL-06-1624). I would like to apologize for not getting this to you sooner, but I was just made aware of the routes proposed by the citizens' committee. In looking at these routes I do believe they would be the best option as far as avoiding human conflict as much as possible, though it is my impression that they could be easily dismissed as not being cost feasible because of the added length and the fact that they do not fall into the original proposed corridor for the line. Because of these factors, I am submitting the attached route for consideration.

I believe that the enclosed route would be the best alternative for the landowners and snowmobilers as a whole, while keeping the total length of the line about the same total length as that of the route proposed by the applicants. The route I am proposing would run mostly through public, tax-forfeit property while staying on or near property lines where private property cannot be avoided. It also better avoids the sensitive ecosystems of Fuller's Creek and the adjacent wetlands.

The major objection many have with the applicants' route following the Iron Ore Grant-in-Aid Snowmobile Trail is that it passes through the middle of the private properties affected, nowhere near the property lines. The justification the applicants are using for their route is that is an "established corridor", though it amounts to nothing more than a twenty foot wide snowmobile trail running along an abandoned rail grade. There is no current right-of-way and there would still be a need for significant clearing of forested areas to accommodate the line. The route I am proposing would require little more clearing of forested areas and add little extra total length to the line than that of the current proposed route, while mitigating the negative effects on the landowners involved.

As I am sure you already know, the applicants' proposed route along the Iron Ore Trail has caused a number of the involved landowners to serve notice to the snowmobile club that operates the trail that after this season the club will no longer have permission to pass through their properties. These landowners, who receive no compensation for allowing

the trail, feel that if this trail is going to leave them susceptible to a project such as this proposed line and seemingly any other similar infrastructure project, it makes no sense to continue to give permission to allow a grant-in-aid trail through their properties. Other areas of the same abandoned rail grade that run through private property and have no trail are totally grown over and are barely distinguishable as a former rail grade. I doubt these areas would ever be regarded as an established corridor for a project such as this. Is this how these landowners should be rewarded for sacrificing a part of their properties for public recreation and the betterment of the local economy? Allowing the applicants to use the reasoning that a grant-in-aid trail constitutes an "existing corridor" would set a disturbing precedent that could jeopardize this state's entire grant-in-aid trail system, cause irreparable damage to the local tourism industry, and possibly damage the tourism industry anywhere grant-in-aid trails are a vital part of the economy.

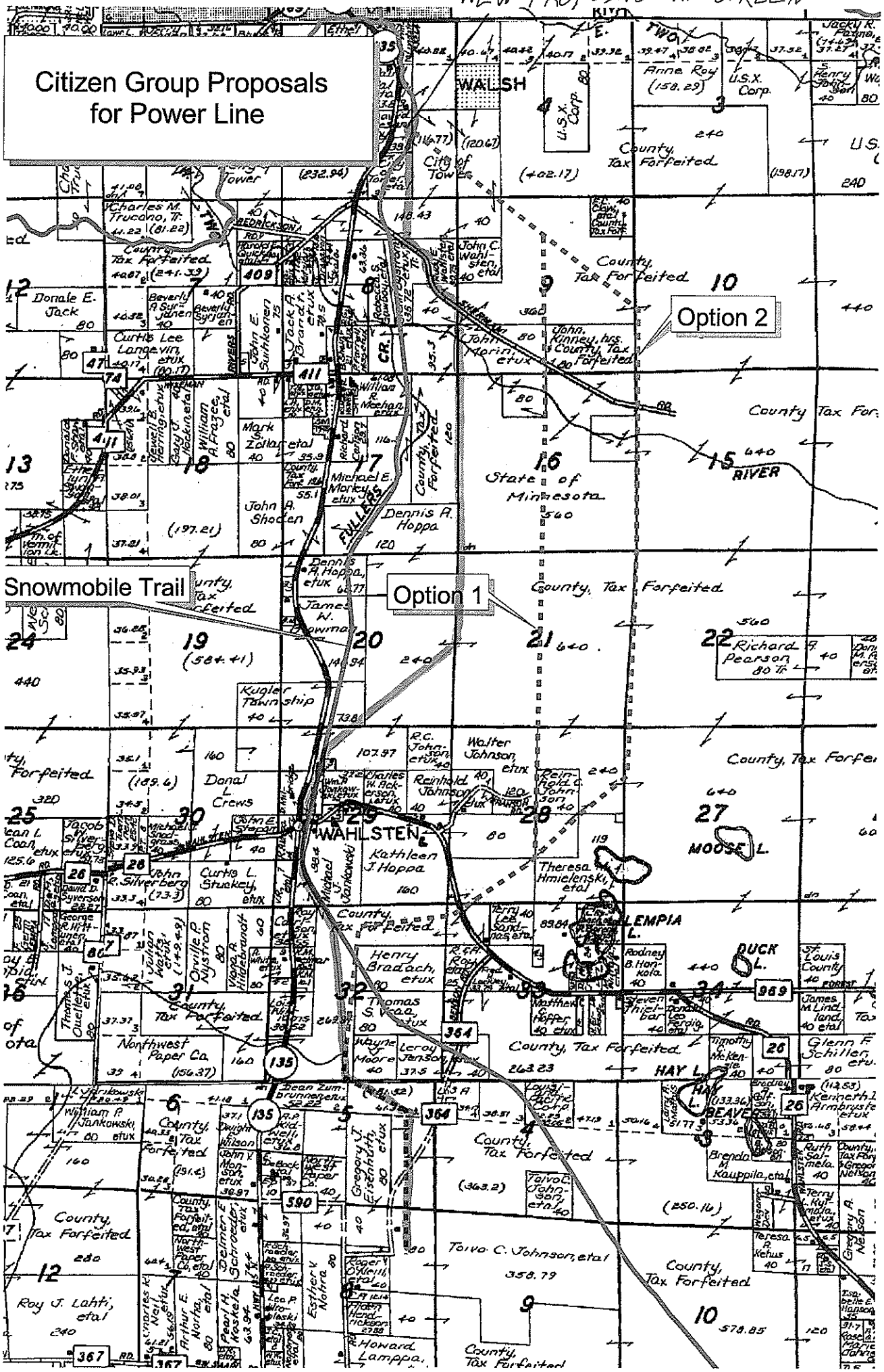
In addition, the route I am proposing would mitigate any possible damage to Fuller's Creek and the adjacent wetlands by moving the route onto the higher ground to the east. The applicants' proposed route closely follows the creek for a distance of over a mile while crossing it up to five times. This is a stream that I have fished trout in since I was a child. I doubt that the construction process and the herbicides used in the maintenance of power lines would have a positive impact on this sensitive ecosystem.

It seems to me that the only factor considered by the applicants in their route is cost, regardless of the impact their route would have on area residents and the environment. I believe that if the alternate routes are examined more closely and **all** the factors spelled out in statute 4400.3150 truly are considered, the choice to move to an alternate route will be an easy one. There are many other people who share my feelings about this project and we are prepared to fight for our collective voice to be heard every step of the way. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Morley, Jr.

NEW PROPOSAL IN GREEN



March 6, 2007

William C. Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
State Planning Director
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Storm:

After much thought about writing a comment letter to you about the proposed power line route, I realize that my original speech given before all the people present at the February 13, 2007 meeting in Embarrass covers my thoughts best. I am enclosing that speech on paper as I presented it that night.

Since our meeting with all parties involved at the DNR Office in Tower, I am left with one big question. I know you gave the citizens group a chance at a second route that night. Our second choice was ½ mile further west than the first proposal. We had another route picked out beforehand that was another ½ mile further west. I am sending you a map of the suggested 3rd citizens route. If cost becomes a critical factor on which route to use, I would like this proposal to go on record as another way of making our citizens routes less costly. I do not trust MP and GRE for supposedly helping us in good faith. They were all too willing to put taped routes on their map knowing that these routes were outside of the proposed alignment corridor and were longer.

May I repeat one more time. We are not against a new power line. Our request is for the power companies to abandon their choice of following the Iron Ore Trail route which is mostly on private land, to a route further east that is on mostly public land.

Thank you,

Gary Skogman
Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club
Trail Coordinator
1744 Everett Bay Road
Tower, MN 55790
(218) 753-4623

Thank you,

My name is Gary Skogman and I am the Trail Coordinator for the Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club. We are the club that is in charge of the Iron Ore Trail. This is the snowmobile trail that MP and GRE wants to use for their powerline alignment route. We realize that many snowmobile trails are built along power line routes and we thank the power companies.

I would like to give you a little history of this snowmobile trail. During the 1980's many of the snowmobile routes in this area were completed. The Taconite Trail was finished from Ely westward to Grand Rapids. The Babbitt Club connected a trail from the Taconite Trail thru Babbitt to the Giants Ridge area. The Virginia area club had the Laurentian Trail that connected Giants Ridge and went westward until it reached the Taconite Trail north of the Sand Lake area. This created a circle route of 180 miles—a long trip. In the 80's the DM&IR abandoned its railroad between Ely and Embarrass. The land along this railroad route was given back or sold to the adjacent land owners. This land then became private land.

At this time our club pursued the idea of trying to establish a snowmobile route between Tower-Soudan and Embarrass. This 16 mile trail would provide a crosslink making 2—90 mile loops to the previously mentioned trail. With a lot of hard work our club was able to get permission from all the many landowners and establish the Iron Ore Trail. Money for the maintenance of this trail came through the Grant-in-Aid system managed by the DNR and Trails & Waterways Division. For the first 14 years our club contracted with the IRRB trail grooming people to groom this trail. This division of the IRRB was disbanded and we were on our own to continue with the grooming of this trail. We purchased additional grooming equipment so we could take care of this trail. This came at a cost of many thousands of dollars.

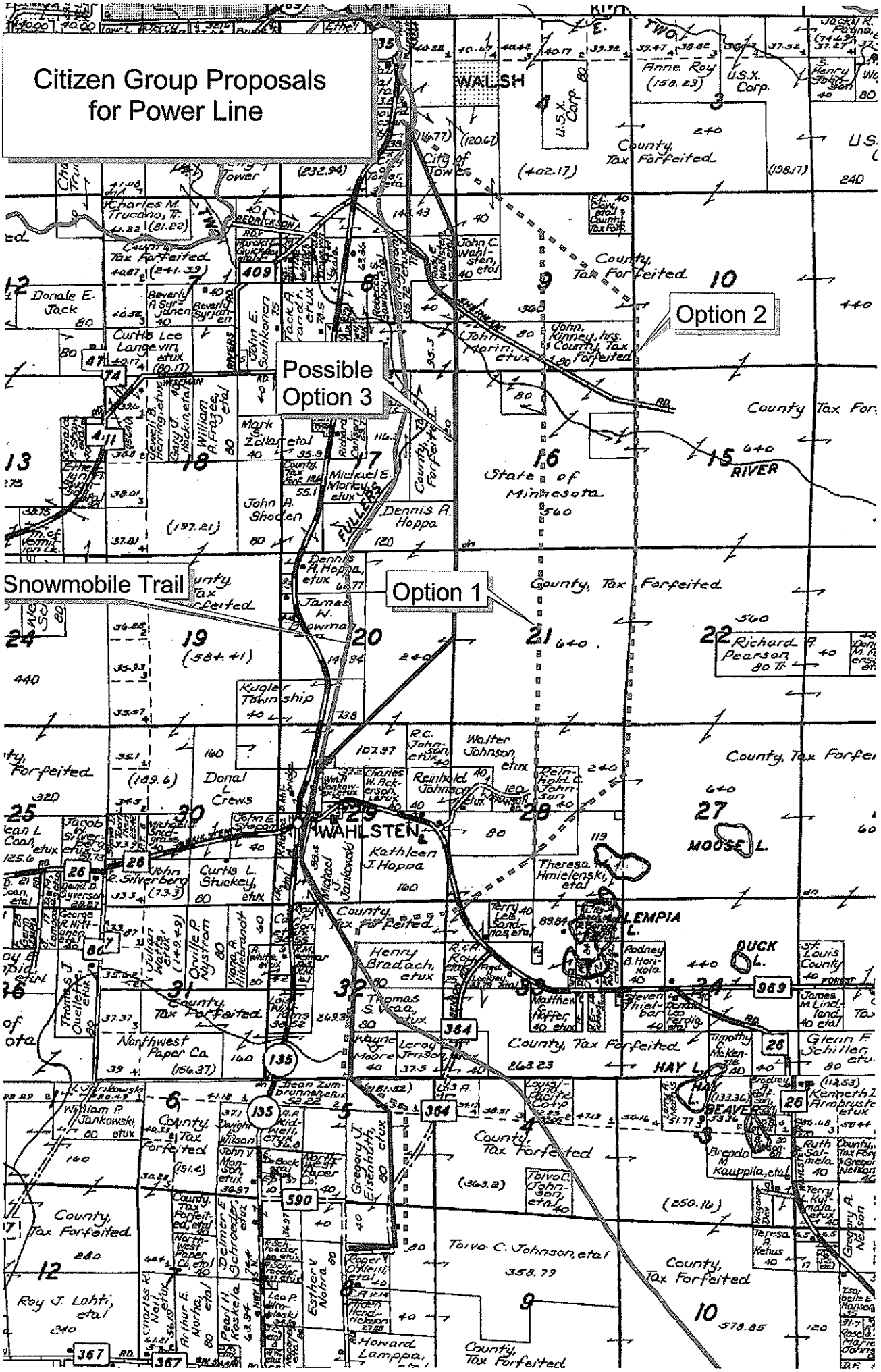
Now the need for more power in our area threatens the very existence of our trail. MP and GRE want to use approximately 6 miles of this trail for a new power line. We do not question the need for more power in this area or the construction of a new power line. We question their route selection. By them using the route of the Iron Ore Trail it would make a beautiful trail almost useless. This old railroad grade is built up in the air where it crosses many low land and creek areas. After they clear the route to a width of about 100 feet this trail would no longer hold snow and be windy. It would be like having a trail built on top of the Great Wall of China. Furthermore, the land owners in this area would no longer give us permission to cross their private land.

A very easy solution can be made to all our problems. The route of this powerline could be moved a little further East and be built on all the public land that parallels the Iron Ore Trail. This entire route is on more highland and has been extensively logged over in recent years. It is mostly small growth poplar. Construction of a powerline in this area would not be difficult.

The most important thing to remember about this route is that they would be using public land (our land) and not be taking private land away from our friends and neighbors.

Where is the heart of Big Business?

Gary Skogman


Citizen Group Proposals for Power Line
Option 2
Possible Option 3
Snowmobile Trail
Option 1
WALSH
WAHLSTEN
MOOSE L.
LEMPIA L.
DUCK L.
HAY L.
BEAVER
County, Tax Forfeited
State of Minnesota
Northwest Paper Co.
RIVER