

Appendix J

Comment Response Document

Introduction

This appendix provides a summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) public meetings, explains the methodology for receiving and organizing DEIS comments, and provides responses to comments received.

The DEIS for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line Project was published on February 23, 2010. Notice of the availability of the DEIS was sent to those persons on the Office of Energy Security's project contact list, and published in the Environmental Quality Board Monitor and newspapers of local circulation.

The OES distributed copies of the DEIS to cooperating agencies, those persons requesting individual copies, local libraries, and to additional federal, state, and local agencies identified on the Project distribution list.

Public meetings on the DEIS were held at the Hampton Inn in Bemidji, MN (March 16, 2010, two meetings); American Legion Vets Club in Deer River, MN (March 17, 2010); Blackduck Senior Center in Blackduck, MN (March 17, 2010); and at the Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake, MN (March 18, 2010). Based on sign-in sheets, the DEIS meetings were attended by approximately 200 individuals. OES and RUS staff led the presentations and presided over the public meetings. The public was encouraged to provide oral comments at the public meetings and to submit written comments to the OES or RUS by April 26, 2010. A court reporter was present at the public meetings to ensure that all oral comments were recorded accurately.

Methodology

In preparing the Final EIS, the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) and RUS staff considered all comments to the extent practicable. An identification number was assigned to each commenter, including those who expressed comments orally at the public meeting. Individuals who submitted comments in multiple separate submissions were assigned a separate commenter number for each submission. Each specific comment by the same commenter was assigned a sequential comment number; for example, Comment 41-3 refers to the 3rd comment by the commenter assigned as number 41.

Based on the comments received on the Draft EIS, the OES EFP and RUS prepared responses and modified the EIS where appropriate. The EIS was also revised based on RUS's and OES EFP's internal technical and editorial review of

the DEIS (i.e., changes made to the EIS that were not in response to a comment received).

Oral comments at the public meetings, as well as scanned images of the original comment documents in order by assigned commenter number, are included in their entirety in this chapter. The commenters and their comments are identified and labeled on each document image beginning with the public meeting oral comments. All comment documents on the DEIS, as well as any supporting attachments, have been entered into the administrative record for this docket. Individual responses for each comment are provided on the right side of each page in close proximity to the corresponding comment. In cases where subsequent comments address the same issue, references are made to the earlier comment number for appropriate responses.

Oral comments were given by 38 individuals at the DEIS public meeting; OES and RUS received written comments from 13 agencies/ organizations and written comments from 55 individuals during the comment period. Several agencies and individuals submitted more than one set of written comments. Comments on the DEIS were also submitted by the Applicants. The table below provides a listing of the commenters, their assigned identification numbers, and their affiliations.

Commenter Number	Commenter Name	Affiliation
Oral Comments Received at DEIS Public Meetings		
1	Ludtke, Richard	Citizen
2	Wagner, Bob	Citizen
3	Lish, Mike	Citizen
4	Dingman, Benita	Citizen
5	Johnson, Jay	Citizen
6	Ludtke, Richard	Citizen
7	Haack, Jim	Citizen
8	Bohn, Barbara	Citizen
9	Winans, Carol	Citizen
10	Frost, Jack	Citizen
11	West, Dave	Citizen
12	Haack, Jim	Citizen
13	Anderson, Barbara	Citizen
14	Clemens, Cameron	Citizen
15	Johnson, Jane	Citizen
16	Leif, Tom	Citizen
17	Anderson, Barbara	Citizen
18	Solheim, Jerry	Citizen
19	Pomprening, Keith	Citizen
20	Hiltz, Lester	Citizen
21	Bjerke, Doug	Citizen
22	Robinson, John	Citizen

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23	Guggenheimer, Peter	Citizen
24	Dingman, Scott	Citizen
25	Wakonabo, Gabriel	Citizen
26	Petrowske, Frederick	Citizen
27	Lundquist, Lloyd	Citizen
28	Helmer, Terry	Citizen
29	Abbott, Greg	Citizen
30	Frits, Garry	Citizen
31	Hanson, Norley	Citizen
32	Helmer, Terry	Citizen
33	Berbee, George	Citizen
34	Ikola, Kay	Citizen
35	Helmer, Terry	Citizen
36	Snell, Janet	Citizen
37	Johnson, Clarence	Citizen
38	Morine, Rich	Citizen
39	Sedgwick, Dean	Citizen
40	Morine, Rich	Citizen
41	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
42	Sorheim, Greg	Citizen
43	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
44	Sedgwick, Sally	Citizen
45	Sedgwick, Dean	Citizen
46	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
47	Sorheim, Greg	Citizen
48	Haws, Katie	Citizen
49	Sedgwick, Dean	Citizen
50	Sedgwick, Sally	Citizen
51	Michalek, Mark	Citizen
52	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
53	Michalek, Mark	Citizen
54	Sedgwick, Dean	Citizen
55	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
56	Magoon, Darrell	Citizen
57	Mitchell, Kenn	Citizen
58	Sherman, Elizabeth	Citizen
59	Howard, Vikki	Citizen
60	Young, Shirley	Citizen
61	Babcock, Barry	Citizen
62	Chester, Greg	Citizen
63	Knowles, Becky	Citizen
64	Griep, Steven	Citizen
65	Beauliao, Nicole	Citizen
66	Young, Shirley	Citizen
67	Green, John	Citizen
68	Sherman, Elizabeth	Citizen
69	Knowles, Becky	Citizen
70	Harper, Sydney	Citizen
71	Indieke, Susan	Citizen

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72	Green, John	Citizen
73	Young, Shirley	Citizen
74	Sherman, Elizabeth	Citizen
Written Agency Comments		
75	Bois Forte Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Bois Forte
76	Chippewa National Forest - Correspondence to Administrative Law Judge	Chippewa National Forest
77	City of Cohasset	City of Cohasset
78	Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission	Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Commission
79	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Division of Resource Management - Correspondence to Administrative Law Judge	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Division of Resource Management
80	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
81	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Minnesota Department of Transportation
82	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
83	Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota	Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota
84	Santee Sioux Nation	Santee Sioux Nation
85	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
86	U.S. Department of the Interior	U.S. Department of the Interior
87	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Written Individual Comments		
88	Alisha	Citizen
89	Anderson, Ashley	Citizen
90	Asfoor, Jeff	Citizen
91	Avery, Phillip	Citizen
92	Bathen, Linda	Citizen
93	Becca	Citizen
94	Bedeau, Mary	Citizen
95	Beighley, Vernon	Citizen
96	Berbee, George	Citizen
97	Berg, Don	Citizen
98	Burlage, Lisa	Citizen
99	Burnette, Dale	Citizen
100	Carlson, Denny and Jane	Citizen
101	Cloud, Dawn	Citizen
102	Comstock, Paul	Citizen
103	Dingman, Scott and Benita	Citizen
104	Evans, Harriet	Citizen
105	Frederick, Mark	Citizen
106	Gladen, James	Citizen
107	Gooch, David	Citizen
108	Gorhan, Jim	Citizen
109	Grasdalen, Jane and Dale	Citizen

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110	Greenside, Dean	Citizen
111	Guggenheimer, Peter	Citizen
112	Hansen, Norley	Citizen
113	Herfindahl, Richard	Citizen
114	Hiltz, Lester	Citizen
115	Howard, Vern	Citizen
116	Jarv, Roger	Citizen
117	Lafermiere, Noel	Citizen
118	Lightfeather, Dylan	Citizen
119	Lightfeather, Sonia	Citizen
120	Lindahl, Steven	Citizen
121	LLBO Member Petition	Citizens, Leech Lake Band Members
122	Magoon, Darrell	Citizen
123	McLaughlin, Carol	Citizen
124	Michalek, Mark	Citizen
125	Nelson, Judy	Citizen
126	Pike, Gregg	Citizen
127	Plath, Diane and Ernest	Citizen
128	Richardson, Winona	Citizen
129	Richter, Nathan	Citizen
130	Schedin, Larry	Citizen
131	Schmid, Mike	Citizen
132	Siegel, Samantha	Citizen
133	Turtle River Watershed Association	Turtle River Watershed Association
134	Wagner and Enblom	Citizen
135	Wahnschaffe, Ken	Citizen
136	Way, Joyce	Citizen
137	Way, Dallas and Joyce	Citizen
138	Wernberg, Russell	Citizen
139	West, Dave	Citizen
140	West, David	Citizen
141	White, Adam	Citizen
142	White, Coody	Citizen
143	White, Zachary	Citizen
144	Worms, Charles and Mary	Citizen
145	Wyman, Brett	Citizen
Written Comments Received from the Applicants		
146	Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power Company, and Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.	Applicants
147	Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power Company, and Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.	Applicants

As discussed in Section 1.3.1 of the EIS, high voltage transmission lines require a public contested-case hearing. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Eric Lipman has been assigned to preside over the contested case hearing. Combined public and evidentiary hearings on the Project were held between April 21 and April 23, 2010 at locations in Blackduck, Bemidji, Cass Lake, and Deer River. Comments

to ALJ Lipman were due May 3, 2010. Because the hearings and comment period overlapped with the DEIS comment period, they are included here. To the extent that these comments relate to information contained in the DEIS, responses have been provided. In many cases the comments express a routing preference, or other issue not directly related to the information contained in the DEIS and no response is provided.