

Commenter 88 – Alisha



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

Alisha

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

88-1

My opinion about this is it's not right because think about the animals, pregnant woman. Think about everybody not just yourself. I don't really know much about it but the things I heard were negative.

Responses

Comment 88-1

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS. A discussion of potential effects to biological resources appears in Section 3.7.2 of the EIS.

Commenter 89 – Ashley Anderson



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

Ashley Anderson

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative%20Inc.0>.

89-1

I think that they shouldn't put this Transmission Line because it could kill many babies and unborn babies. These line could kill & give people cancer. I don't think it's right to kill people. Putting it right next to the powerline and could cause an explosion.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
**April 26, 2010**

Responses

Comment 89-1

A discussion of potential health and safety effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

## Commenter 90 – Jeff Asfoor

**From:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**To:** "[abeeda.asfoor](mailto:abeeda.asfoor)"  
**Subject:** RE: Docket No. TL-07-1327  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:29:00 PM

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Mr. Asfoor --

Thank you for your comment on the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids transmission project. Your comments are noted and will be included with responses in the Final EIS for the Project.

Regards,  
Suzanne Steinhauer

-----Original Message-----  
From: abeeda asfoor [<mailto:abeedaa51@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:58 PM  
To: Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
Subject: Docket No. TL-07-1327

Suzanne:

I live along Beltrami County Rd 30 (Alvwood Rd) and so would be impacted by Alternative Route 3 of the proposed 230 Kv transmission line. I find the Draft EIS is very comprehensive concerning impacts to natural resources, but it very brief concerning socioeconomic impacts. The route description simply states that the transmission line would continue east from Blackduck along Alvwood Road to Highway 46. The map indicates that as well. The ROW will be 125 feet wide, but I didn't find a description of how much clearing of vegetation will take place within, nor the relationship of this ROW to the county rd. ROW. Does one begin where the other ends or is there overlap?

90-1

90-2

Section 3.11 Impacts to Homes, paragraph 4 states that any structures (houses) located within the ROW will be removed. Table 3.11-10 shows that there are 127 residences located 0-200 feet from center line. The same paragraph goes on to say that "in practice the routing of transmission lines in Minnesota rarely results in displacement of residences". Which way is it? Will residences be removed or will the transmission lines drape over the top of us? This section of the EIS must be expanded so we living along the Alvwood Rd will have a clear picture of how the proposed transmission line will impact us.

90-3

Thank you,

Jeff Asfoor  
31126 Alvwood Rd. N.E.  
Blackduck, Mn. 56630

## Responses

### Comment 90-1

A discussion of vegetation cover appears in Section 3.7.2.1 of the EIS. The affected acreage of each type of vegetation appears in Table 3.7-10 of the EIS.

### Comment 90-2

A discussion of the potential to overlap the Project ROW with existing road ROW appears in Section 3.19 of the EIS. For purposes of analysis, it is assumed that the Project ROW would be located parallel to and close-by, but not overlapping with existing ROW. The distance between the Project ROW and any existing ROWs would be determined during structure siting and final placement of the transmission line alignment, after a Route Alternative is selected.

### Comment 90-3

Text in Sections 3.11.2, Impacts to Homes and Structure, and 3.11.3.6 has been supplemented with a discussion on the potential to avoid impacts to homes through route flexibility. The number of homes listed in Table 3.11-10 are those within a certain distance to a feasible transmission line alignment. The actual alignment and associated ROW would be adjusted to avoid impacts to homes and other structures as practicable.

## Commenter 91 – Phillip Avery

**From:** [Phil Avery](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#); [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#); [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids 320-kilovolt transmission line project  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2010 10:53:54 AM

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91-1

My name is Phillip Avery, and I own land within one of the projected routes. I wish I could look at the map and say which route number effects me, it is hard to tell. I am on the route closest to Lake Irving and Hwy 2, south and west of Bemidji. I live quite close to Hwy 2 under existing transmission lines. I have attended the various open-houses, and will surely be attending the one in Bemidji, next Tuesday.

I am writing to say the obvious: I already have power lines across my front yard, and as near as I can tell, new lines would run parallel to the existing ones which would be directly over my home, as well as those of my neighbors to the north and south. I would, of course, prefer to see the lines run on the more rural route.

I know you will work hard to determine the best solution for all concerned, and I hope you will take my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Phillip Avery  
1315 Lynn Marie Ct. SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## Responses

### Comment 91-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 92 – Linda Bathen

From: [dplath](mailto:dplath)  
To: [stephenie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephenie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Cc: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](mailto:Steinhauer,Suzanne)  
Subject: Community Meeting on Transmission Line  
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 9:22:44 PM

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Stephanie and Suzanne,

here is another email received from linda bathen who have property in this neighborhood on hilltop dr ne.

thank you, diane plath

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

From: Linda Bathen [<mailto:lhbathen@cox.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 4:22 PM  
To: [dplath@paulbunyan.net](mailto:dplath@paulbunyan.net)  
Subject: Community Meeting on Transmission Line

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Long Lake property owner for almost 40 years, I am strongly opposed to the Route 3 proposal for the new transmission line. It is obvious that either Route 1 or 2 are more economical solutions since either one is substantially shorter in length than Route 3. As a result, the use of Route 3 will result in much higher costs for the consumers of Minnesota. Moreover, there is no clear advantage to adopting Route 3. Instead it will result in serious adverse impacts on waterfowl and agricultural lands and will reduce many private property values, particularly with respect to the Chippewa National Forest and more specially around Long Lake. Since power is lost the farther it travels on transmission lines, Route 3 seems like the least prudent choice. Thank you for consideration of my views on this important matter.

Sincerely, Linda H. Bathen

92-1

## Responses

### Comment 92-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 93 – Becca



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Becca

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.htm?Id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

I dont think it will do any good giving opinions. nobody listened to the protest against the pipe line. I just dont want people gettng killed like them pipeliners in clearbrook. So I choose not to say yes or no. I dont make the final choice. I think this is non-native people trying to get rid of the native americans off like the Europeans did to alot of native americans.

93-1

Responses

Comment 93-1

Text in Section 3.18.2.2 has been supplemented to include a discussion of the potential for the Project to interfere with natural gas and crude oil pipelines and result in ignition of released natural gas or crude oil. Text in Section 3.18.3.3 has been supplemented to included mitigation measures to address potential interference.

Commenter 94 – Mary Bedeau



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Mary Bedeau

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/nis/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

My name is Mary Bedeau. I am 16 years old and I have lived on the Reservation my entire life. I am disappointed as is in the pipeline running right by my school. And the fact that there is an idea of putting the power line right by the pipeline infuriates me. Just the general idea of even putting it up makes me scared. They have torn down many trees because of this pipeline and they will cut down even more for the powerline. I am against it.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
April 26, 2010

Responses

Comment 94-1

A discussion of impacts to forested areas appears in Section 3.15.2 of the EIS. A discussion of impacts to land cover and land use appears in Section 3.10.2 of the EIS. The potential to co-locate the Project with existing pipeline corridor and resulting potential effects are discussed in Section 3.18 of the EIS.

94-1

## Commenter 95 – Vernon Beighley

From: [apache@web.linc.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.linc.state.mn.us)  
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
Subject: Beighley Thu Mar 25 17:19:18 2010 TL-07-1327  
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010 5:19:35 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project

Docket number: TL-07-1327

User Name: Vernon Beighley

County: Beltrami County

City: Blackduck

Email: [vfb49@hotmail.com](mailto:vfb49@hotmail.com)

Phone: 218-835-7780

Impact: I want to voice my concern over your proposed 230KV transmission line. My concern is primarily three fold.

95-1 First is the economic impact it will cause to the individual homeowners along the routes proposed. I believe, at the very least, it would result in at least a 10% decrease in property (home) value for each home within 500 feet of the line, not only where it passes over (by) an individual's property, but also for a property owner across the road. Where it crosses a property owner's land, there is an easement lease, but do to the fact, no information as to how much these leases would be, I can only speculate it would be minimal, as the power of eminent domain is on your side. As to property owners across roadways, whose properties will also be affected, there is no compensation at all. Even those that receive easement compensation, will most likely suffer loss. I base my belief on my occupational expertise, as I have been in the building construction trades for 43 years, the majority of that time as a general building contractor.

One thing that is very obvious, especially so, if you build spec homes, is location, location, location. Build two identical spec homes, one next to a transmission line, the other on a comparable lot, except away from a transmission line. Place the same asking price on both and see which one sells. In fact, you will most likely have to take a reduced price of 10% to maybe as much as 25% to even sell the one next to a transmission line. In rural settings, this becomes even more evident. This is a real serious dollar loss in property value that is being thrust upon the property owners with little or no recourse to protect their investments in their homes, short of engaging legal representation, which most cannot afford to do. According to the numbers supplied by Ms. Steinhauer, the proposed Route 1 involves 112 homes within 500 feet, 3 units which need to relocate. Route 2 involves 296 homes within 500 feet, 15 units need to be relocated. Route 3 involves 484 homes within 500 feet, 25 units need to be relocated. Using the assumption that the average home along the proposed routes is \$ 150,000.00 at it's present market value, then taking a 10% loss on that figure, that means the average home would suffer a \$ 15,000.00 loss in value. Now multiply that by the 459 homes that will not be relocated along Route 3 and you will have a combined loss of \$ 6,855,000.00. And remember those suffering loss because they are across the road won't even benefit from an easement lease. If the loss were to exceed 10%, maybe up to 25%, consider then the amount of the loss. Do the math and realize what you propose to do to these homeowners. Some homes with a high mortgage may not even be worth what the balance pending is. If anyone still believes this is not a real problem, I challenge them to put their money where their mouth is. Put up your personal money for a spec house, have it built next to a transmission line,

## Responses

### Comment 95-1

A discussion of the potential effect of the Project on property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the property acquisition process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

### Commenter 95 – Vernon Beighley

and let's see you get your money back out if it sells. In addition, you need to remember that vacant land has the potential to be sold as building lots. Some people planned to supplement their retirement income by selling lots for building sites. This would just about destroy such plans. You need to consider the people and their needs, their plans, and their hopes and dreams.

95-2 | The second point is that of health issues living in such close proximity to high voltage line. With out even getting into the debate whether or not it is a real health issue, the fact remains, what the public perceives as a health issue when it comes to high voltage lines. Public perception on any issue that may affect them results in their actions. Case in point, ask Toyota what affect the problem they are trying to remedy, has had on consumer fears and sales. This same perception of health issues translates into lost value for the homeowners and may even make selling a home hard or even impossible. Then comes the issue of how real is the health risk to those that will now have to live in such close proximity to these lines. A lot of the houses will be within 200 feet or less, sometimes quite a bit less. How about a pregnant women, older people, many people with various health problems. Can it be said with absolute certainty that there is absolutly no risk? People have a right to be concerned, and it seems the jury is still out as to the health risks, both in immediate and the long term.

95-3 | The third point is that of crossing public lands instead of infringing on private land. There is a lot of raw forested public land that could serve as a route that I feel you should consider. It was my understanding at the meeting in Blackduck, that the Federal Forestry was present during the route planning stage. If this is factual and not a misunderstanding, how influencial were they in trying to keep the routes from crossing forested land' be it federal, state or county? One must remember, they are only agencies that are to minister oversight and not the owners. The people are the rightful owners and when needs such as the new transmission line are considered, the people as a mass, should bear the burden, not a few people along the route having to bear it all. Public land is one way to spread the burden. Rural people chose to live in these rural settings because we enjoy the beauty of nature. Aside from the financial loss and some very real health issues, you would also take from these people one of the main reasons we live in a rural setting, being able to look out any of our windows and see nature in its beauty from our homes.

Respectfully shared

Vern Beighley

Mitigation: # 1

Cross public forested land.

95-4 | # 2

If you do choose any of the routes proposed,at least compensate all homeowners for loss they will suffer.

Submission date: Thu Mar 25 17:19:18 2010

### Responses

#### Comment 95-2

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS. A discussion of the potential impact on property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS.

#### Comment 95-3

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS. A description of the process used in developing the scope for the EIS is included in Section 1.4. Section 2.1.2 identifies the areas considered for development of route alternatives. Section 2.2 identifies the alternatives evaluated in the EIS, while Section 2.3.3 discusses why some route alternatives considered during scoping were not carried further in the evaluation. More detail on the scoping decision is included in Appendix A. All route alternatives under consideration contain forested areas, and all cross portions of the Chippewa National Forest.

#### Comment 95-4

A discussion of easement compensation and mitigation measures applicable to private land owners appears in Sections 3.11.3.5 and 3.11.3.6, respectively.

Commenter 96 – George Berbee



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: George Berbee } 39094 Co Rd. 88  
Cohasset, MN 55721  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/es/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative%20Inc.0>

March 21, 2010

Gentlemen:

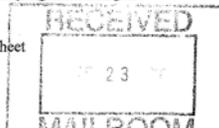
At the present time, MP&L has a corridor from the Boswell plant at Cohasset to Deer River, MN south of U. S Highway 2. Since my family and I own several parcels north of U. S Highway 2, we would appreciate your staying south of the highway along the present corridor with your new 230 kV transmission line. I see no reason to go north of the highway and ruin the value of more property. There is much potential to develop the land on the north side.

*George Berbee*

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
April 26, 2010



Responses

Comment 96-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

96-1

Commenter 97 – Don Berg



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Don Berg

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative%20Inc.0>.

I LIVE ON CORNER OF JEFFERSON AVE AND 15<sup>TH</sup> ST S.W. AND HAVE 5.5 ACRES

~~PROPOSED ROUTE #2~~ WOULD CUT MY PROPERTY RIGHT IN HALF WITH THE 1000 FT RIGHT OF WAY. I AM

97-1

TOTALLY AGAINST THIS ROUTE. CAN'T

97-2

UNDERSTAND WHY THE EXIST'G R.W. CAN'T BE USED

Don Berg  
1716 15<sup>TH</sup> ST. S.W.  
Bemidji Mn

Responses

Comment 97-1

The Applicants have requested to construct a line using a permanently cleared ROW of approximately 125 feet. The Applicants have requested a 1,000-foot route to allow some flexibility to work with landowners and avoid homes and other sensitive areas before determining a final alignment of their 125-foot wide ROW. Although the specified property (Jefferson Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street SW) is included within the 1,000-foot width of Route Alternative 2, the most likely alignment and feasible ROW evaluated in the EIS would be closer to U.S. Highway 2 in this area, north and east of the described property.

Comment 97-2

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 98 – Lisa Burlage

**From:** [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Burlage](#)  
**Cc:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#); [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project - Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 9:22:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [Bemidji Grand Rapids, Map Sheet 2.pdf](#)

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Miss Burlage,

Thank you for your note. From your address, I believe you are on Map Sheet #2 of the maps included with the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The DEIS and associated maps are available on-line: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?id=26061>.

From your note, it appears that you have found the DEIS and maps. I've attached Map Sheet #2 to this email. You can zoom in and out on these maps by using the zoom buttons ("+" and "-" ) in the Adobe PDF program. The maps do not show individual addresses, but I believe, if you zoom in, you will be able to determine where you are located with respect to the proposed routes.

I hope this is helpful. Please get back to me with any additional questions.

Best regards,

Ray

Ray Kirsch, Planner  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Office of Energy Security  
Energy Facility Permitting  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
651-296-7588  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>

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**From:** Lisa Burlage [mailto:[lisahome@paulbunyan.net](mailto:lisahome@paulbunyan.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#); [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#); [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project - Maps

I received notification today regarding the upcoming Public Information Meetings for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project.

Where can I find a map with each of the projected routes displayed for my specific home address? My husband is out of State for the next two weeks and therefore will not be able to attend any of the meetings. I was hoping to locate a map to gather his input and attend one of the meetings myself.

I found several great maps via the websites provided in the letter, but none that I can "zoom" in on.

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa

## Responses

### Comment 98-1

Thank you for your comment. OES Staff provided the requested map on March 10, 2010.

98-1

**Commenter 98 – Lisa Burlage**

Lisa Burlage  
2901 Monroe Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
lisahome@paulbunyan.net  
218-556-5137 (cell)  
218-759-8995 (fax)  
218-444-4819 (home)

**Responses**

Commenter 99 – Dale Burnette



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

*Dale Burnette*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

99-1

*I think it will be a very bad thing to do. I could kill people and make them sick. I think it is a conspiracy to kill people.*

Responses

Comment 99-1

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

## Commenter 100 – Denny and Jane Carlson

From: [dplath](mailto:dplath)  
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](mailto:Steinhauer_Suzanne.COMM)  
Cc: [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)  
Subject: deis comment: bji-grand rapids 230 kv transmission line  
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 9:00:42 PM

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i am forwarding an email from the carlsons.

thank you, diane plath

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

From: Jane Carlson [<mailto:inoslrac@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 10:12 PM  
To: dp  
Subject: Catch Up

Hi dp,

...here's our short statement for the record:

After reading much of three different studies done regarding issues and concerns that apply in selecting an appropriate route from the now three remaining alternate routes for the Bemidji to Grand Rapids 230kv powerline, we would like to go on record as strongly encouraging the selection of either alternate routes 1 or 2, which are by far the most cost effective; a difference of 47 miles of disruption at a cost difference of 36.5 million. This extra cost will be borne by the power companies and ultimately their patrons, extravagant at any time but particularly so given the current economy.

If we understand the process correctly, the alternate route 3 or the northern route was identified and studied as a result of the Leech Lake Tribal Council's desire to circumvent LLR lands as much as possible. The "Comparative Impacts of Route Alternatives" from the "Environmental Impact Statement" (pg 486-497) shows that the northern route does, in fact, accomplish that. However, there seem to be few if any other advantages to following that route including but not limited to impacting the most acres of the Chippewa National Forest and the most lakes, streams and wetlands. It would affect the largest number of property owners. And the loadability of the 230kv line would be only 75% of the other two alternate routes - less efficiency for more money. As taxpayers and as users and payers of the power generated, we feel that selection of the northern route would not be in the best interest of the most people who will be affected.

Denny and Jane Carlson  
9647 Howling Wolf Rd NE  
Bemidji MN 56601

## Responses

### Comment 100-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

100-1

Commenter 101 – Dawn Cloud



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Dawn Cloud

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

101-1

I am in opposition to these power lines coming through my reservation (Leech Lake), I will fight along with my brothers & sisters against it.

Responses

Comment 101-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 102 – Paul Comstock



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Paul A. Comstock 1587 Double C Dr SW Bemidji  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

- 102-1 *My property lies in Government lot 8, section 19, Township 46 North, Range 33 West of the 5th principal Meridian. My parcel is 3.86 acres. I already have 3 pipelines through my land. The 125' wide easement has taken 2.85 acres from me. Another right of way would make it impossible to live here. Planning & zoning requires a 2.5 acre minimum in Bemidji Township. I moved to this property in part to care for my parents in their final years. They are currently 81 & 78 & dependent on me.*
- 102-2 *As to accuracy - my residence is not shown on the map.*
- 102-3 *I am also very concerned about health risks associated with living near to a 230 kV Transmission Line.*

Sincerely,

Responses

**Comment 102-1**

A discussion of cumulative effects with the Enbridge Energy pipeline expansions appears in Section 4 of the EIS. Minimum lot sizes in Bemidji Township, and other areas where zoning is administered by the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board, vary from 6,000 square feet to five acres, depending on the zoning classification. Minimum lot sizes are exclusive of easements for roadways and major utilities. Text in Section 3.10.2.2 has been supplemented to include information on minimum lot sizes and the potential impact of the Project on residential development.

**Comment 102-2**

Maps included in Appendix D of the EIS have been updated with recent aerial photographs to display homes located in proximity to the Study Area.

**Comment 102-3**

A discussion of health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

Commenter 103 – Scott and Benita Dingman



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Scott & Benita Dingman  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

103-1

We believe the power line should NOT follow Route 3 for the following reasons.

- 1) Greater cost of construction and maintenance
- 2) Significant energy loss due to the greater distance of the line
- 3) Higher environmental impact on the endangered plants and animals
- 4) Substantially higher exposure to the risk of downed power lines



Responses

Comment 103-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 104 – Harriet Evans



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: *Harriet Evans*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative%20Inc.0>.

*I would like to see it go in ~~the~~  
on the north side of Hwy 2  
east of Deer River.*

104-1

Responses

Comment 104-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 105 – Mark Frederick



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

Mark Frederick  
1570 River Island LN SW  
Bemidji MN 56601  
218-759-1956

105-1

I have a lot of owls nesting every year  
suckers + northern pike spawn in the river.  
Plants just like at the Bog walk in Bemidji st. Park  
Red fox, grey fox, fisher, wolverine, deer etc.

Responses

Comment 105-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS. A discussion of the presence of and potential impacts to biological resources and species of concern appears in Sections 3.7 and 3.8 of the EIS, respectively.

106-1

## Commenter 106 – James Gladen

**From:** James T. Gladen  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](mailto:Steinhauer.Suzanne@state.mn.us)  
**Cc:** [gladen1@aol.com](mailto:gladen1@aol.com); [Eric Gladen; Alliroberts@aol.com](mailto:Eric.Gladen@Alliroberts@aol.com); [Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2010 4:11:16 PM

Thank you for the prompt response, Suzanne. It looks like the line will run well-north of our family farm and I do not anticipate any objections on our part. Good luck with the rest of the process.

Regards,  
James

---

**From:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM) [<mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2010 4:06 PM  
**To:** James T. Gladen  
**Cc:** [gladen1@aol.com](mailto:gladen1@aol.com); [Eric Gladen; Alliroberts@aol.com](mailto:Eric.Gladen@Alliroberts@aol.com); [Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project

Mr. Gladen –

I'm attaching a map (sheet 4 of 47) showing the routes under consideration in the area you are concerned about (roughly the intersection of Hubbard County Rds. 9 & 45).

My maps don't have parcel boundaries, but if I understand the description of the property you are concerned about, it appears that Route 1 (shown with the red line) and route segment K (shown in the purple shaded area) are in the vicinity of your property, but approximately ½ mile north of your property. Route 1 runs generally along the existing Great Lakes gas pipeline.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. The comment period on the Draft EIS is open until 4:30 pm, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Regards,  
Suzanne Steinhauer

---

**From:** James T. Gladen [<mailto:james.gladen@fmjlaw.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2010 3:29 PM  
**To:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**Cc:** [gladen1@aol.com](mailto:gladen1@aol.com); [Eric Gladen; Alliroberts@aol.com](mailto:Eric.Gladen@Alliroberts@aol.com); [Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Marian.E.Gladen@wellsfargo.com)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project

Dear Suzanne,

I just recently became aware of the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project. My family owns property in northern Hubbard County and I am concerned with the location of the transmission line. Unfortunately, the map that was included with the letter I received does little to explain where exactly this line will go and whether this line may be located near or perhaps within our property. Before getting too ruffled up about this, I was hoping you could provide me with a better map that would show the proposed route (including alternatives) of the transmission line around the Nary to Guthrie area in greater detail. Our property is located just south of the intersection of County 9 and County 45 on County 45. Assuming the line is not going through our property (or too closely by it) my inquiries may stop here. Any information you can provide would be appreciated. Thank you.

Regards,  
James T. Gladen III

## Responses

### Comment 106-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and will be included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 106 – Gladen

FAFINSKI MARK & JOHNSON, P.A.  
775 Prairie Center Drive, Suite 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55344  
Direct: 952-224-7279  
Mobile: 952-297-5332  
MN Office: 952-995-9500  
Fax: 952-995-9577  
[www.fmjlaw.com](http://www.fmjlaw.com)

 **Environmental Awareness** - *Print only if necessary*

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## Responses

Commenter 107 – David Gooch



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: David Gooch  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.htm?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

107-1

I have a question:  
Why not route, route 3 from  
Wilton Substation along 71 N. This  
would avoid several residents in  
or around the city of Bemidji.

David Gooch  
dnagooch@paulbunyan.net

Responses

Comment 107-1

The Applicants evaluated alternative locations for Route Alternative 3 prior to developing the route described in the EIS. During the evaluation it was determined that extending Route Alternative 3 east from the Wilton Substation to Highway 71 would require siting the Project through a high density residential development. Extending Route Alternative 3 north of Bemidji along Highway 71 would require siting the Project through additional residential and commercial developments, which are located north of Bemidji and near Turtle River, Ten Strike, and Blackduck. In addition, the Bemidji Airport is located in proximity to Highway 71 and may have been affected by a potential Route Alternative along the highway.

## Commenter 108 – Jim Gorhan

Date: 04/11/2010

To: Suzanne Steinhauer

From: Jim Gorham

Subject: Comments regarding the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Line

First, I want to thank you, Suzanne, for the generous amount of time that you afforded me yesterday. All the information that you provided me with has been most helpful.

My wife and I live south of Bemidji at 49840 Tallwood Trail in Hubbard County. We are west of Hwy 71, between County Road 9 to the south and North Plantangenet Road to the north. The area that we live in is a new development called Hidden Oaks. All of the new homes in this area were built within the last four years. There is currently a 115 kV transmission line that runs north and south along the eastern edge of our property (the back property line). If the proposed 230 kV line runs in this same area they will certainly need to widen the current right-of-way even more which would take 125 to 150 feet of our property (see the photo below). Moreover, we moved away from the Twin Cities to northern Minnesota due, in part, to my wife's health issues brought on by environmental pollution and hazards. Despite the fact that human health hazards are downplayed in regards to EMF exposure, I do know that every individual has a different sensitivity to such exposure. Due to my wife's already ultra-sensitive nature to environmental pollutants, for example, I fear that her health would be adversely affected, forcing us to sell (at a loss potentially) our dream home and sanctuary.

I need to be very clear, Suzanne, that my wife and I do not want this 230 kV transmission line added to the already existing 115 kV line. The loss of the white pine, oak and maple trees would be devastating to our quality of life. It would change dramatically the backyard that we so much enjoy today. We purchased this lot for several reasons, but most important was the privacy that all the beautiful trees would afford us. We were very selective when planning the building site for our new home to minimize the removal of as few trees as possible. The addition of this 230 kV line to the already existing 115 kV line, would in fact change forever what we have worked so hard to create. In addition, this 230 kV line would have a serious negative effect on our property value. I would respectfully request that another route be considered. Thank you, in advance.

Regards,

Jim Gorham



## Responses

### Comment 108-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS. A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS. A discussion of the potential impact of the Project on property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the aesthetic impact from tree clearing appears in Section 3.1.2 of the EIS.

108-1

## Commenter 109 – Jane and Dale Grasdalen

**From:** [JANE AND DALE GRASDALEN](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230-kV transmission line  
**Date:** Saturday, April 10, 2010 2:25:21 PM

---

If route 1 is chosen the line will cross our house requiring our relocation. Our homestead is house on 20 acres. We have already been adversely affected by defunct development to the north of the property, this power line will also devalue the property. While I recognize the greater need for the line, we will need to be compensated at a level to be equally relocated.

Thank You,  
Jane and Dale Grasdalen

109-1

## Responses

### Comment 109-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS. A discussion of the potential for home displacement is addressed in Section 3.11.2, Impacts to Homes and Structures. Home displacement is rare in the routing of transmission lines in Minnesota.

## Commenter 110 – Dean Greenside

**From:** [greenside45@comcast.net](mailto:greenside45@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bemidji-Grand Rapids (230-kv)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:32:38 PM

---

Suzanne,

Thank you for the update.

Dean

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

**From:** "Suzanne Steinhauer (COMM)" <[Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us)>  
**To:** [greenside45@comcast.net](mailto:greenside45@comcast.net)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 8:58:58 AM GMT -06:00 Guadalajara / Mexico City / Monterrey  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids (230-kv)

Mr. Greenside –

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids Transmission Line. No route has been selected at this time, there are three routes under consideration and we are taking comments on the Draft EIS until April 26..

I'm attaching two which shows the location of the routes under consideration in the Cass Lake area (the routes are shown in the blue and purple shaded areas). In that area, the routes under consideration are on the southern side of the city, and appear to be some distance away from the property you mentioned (located on the NE corner of the US 2 & MN 371 intersection).

Please let me know if you have any other questions, or need additional information.

Regards,  
Suzanne Steinhauer

---

**From:** [greenside45@comcast.net](mailto:greenside45@comcast.net) [<mailto:greenside45@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 8:36 PM  
**To:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids (230-kv)

Dear Suzanne,

I couldn't attend the meeting in Cass Lake last week about the transmission line that

is going through the area. I have received maps of the proposed routes and I believe the one going through Cass Lake will be south of US highway 2. Am I correct in assuming this?

The reason I am concerned because we have property on the northeast corner where US 2 and MN 371 intersect. We would not want the line to interfere with the future development of this property.

## Responses

### Comment 110-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

### **Commenter 110 – Greenside**

Would you please contact me and let me know what the actual plan will be. You can Email me or if you want to call me my number is (763)427-3628.

Thank you,

Dean L. Greenside  
241 McKinley St NW  
Anoka, MN 55303

### **Responses**

Commenter 111 – Peter Guggenheimer



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: PETER F. GUGGENHEIMER  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine., Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

1700 CANOPY LANE S.W.  
BEMIDJI, MN. 56601

REQUEST FREE COPY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT.

Responses

Comment 111-1

A hard copy of DEIS was provided to the commenter.

111-1

Commenter 112 – Norley Hansen



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Norley Hansen  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

112-1

I have a farmstead on the north side of the City of Cohasset and north of US Highway #2. This property is already impinged by two huge pipeline corridors.

I would strongly recommend Minnesota Power would use their power corridor that exists on the south side of Highway #2 and they own many sections of property in this area. This route would be the one with least interruption of private property.

112-2

A new power corridor across my property would about negate my property for any purpose!! I would not be able to subdivide if I even chose to do so. The chances of ever selling my property with THREE power corridors would be almost nonexistent and would cause extreme financial hardship.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Responses

Comment 112-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Comment 112-2

A discussion of the loss of land use to private land owners appears in Section 3.10.2.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the potential effect on property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS.

## Commenter 113 – Richard Herfindahl

**From:** [Richard Herfindahl](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Docket No. TL-07-132  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:28:33 PM

---

Ms. Steinhauer,

113-1 | Thanks you for sending me the notice for the upcoming public meeting on  
Docket No. TL-07-132. Unfortunately I will not be able to be present at any  
of these public meetings but would like to say something for the record. I  
did send an email when you sent out the previous or first notice of this  
project. I went on record as opposed to the 3rd route for obvious reasons  
because it may go next to or through my property. I mentioned about it  
being a little piece of God's Country and how saving all your life for  
something you've dreamt about and clearing the land yourself makes it a  
very special place.

113-2 | With this being said I have a few concerns; my property is 3 miles north of  
Talmoon and is on the east side of the highway. It is 6 acres and is 200ft.  
wide runing from northeast to southwest starting on the lakeshore so if the  
line were to cross my property it would take a pretty good chunk out of it.

113-3, 113-4 | The other thing is the noise factor and you always hear of the dangers or  
weird things happening to people living close to transmission lines. Are  
any of these things to be concerned with? Also do you get compensated for  
113-5 | the use of your property or is it just gone? I don't want to sell our place  
and if there is a power line runing through it it wouldn't be worth a lot  
anyway.

These are just some of my concerns and I know that whatever I say will not  
have any bearing on a final decision. I do know that I'm not the only one  
that would rather it didn't cross their property but at least you people  
know how I stand. Do you have a more detailed map of where the lines would  
go if you chose Route #3 or will that not happen until the final decision  
is made?

Please keep me posted on the outcome. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Herfindahl  
617 E. 5th St.  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

## Responses

### Comment 113-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

### Comment 113-2

A discussion of the potential loss of land use to private land owners appears in Section 3.10.2.2 of the EIS.

### Comment 113-3

A discussion of the potential impacts of the Project on noise levels appears in Section 3.21 of the EIS.

### Comment 113-4

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

### Comment 113-5

A discussion of the potential impacts on property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the easement acquisition and compensation process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

Commenter 114 – Lester Hiltz



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: LESTER HILTZ

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.htm?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

- 114-1 *This line will Devalue are Property. and we will not be compensated -*
- 114-2 *this farm is a 3rd Generation  
there has been talk about Canceas by the line  
there is EMF5 under this line. we don't want this  
who wants to live under this*
- 114-3 *What can you do with are Property after the line is in*
- 114-4 *how will we be compensated I hope not like the Pipeline*
- 114-5 *I have 3 Pipelines on my property now ~~which~~ which Devalued my property and increased  
my taxes*
- 114-6 *this line on Route 1 goes thru the middle of my Property  
I think the Property owners should be compensated every year*

Responses

**Comment 114-1**

A discussion of potential impacts to property values appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the easement acquisition and compensation process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

**Comment 114-2**

A discussion of EMF appears in Sections 3.20.1.1 and 3.20.2.2 of the EIS.

**Comment 114-3**

A discussion of the loss of land use to private land owners appears in Section 3.10.2.2 of the EIS.

**Comment 114-4**

A discussion of the easement acquisition and compensation process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

**Comment 114-5**

A discussion of cumulative effects from co-location of the Project with the Enbridge Energy pipeline expansion appears in Section 4 of the EIS.

**Comment 114-6**

Thank you for your comment regarding the request for property owners to receive annual compensation. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 115 – Vern Howard



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Vern Howard Jr  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

if you put this power line through our reservation, you could kill alot of people. even more if you put it by the power line. my sister has a kid would you kill my neice for your own uses? are you that heart less. don't do something you might regret.

115-1

Responses

Comment 115-1

A discussion of potential health and safety effects appears in Section 3.20.2 of the EIS.

Commenter 116 – Roger Jarv



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Roger JARV  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

116-1

I have a small lot (1/2 acre) along the  
main R+ Highway 2. Rt 2 proposal goes  
right across my lot. Any power pole(s)  
will affect my ability to build +  
locate water, sewer etc. With the set  
back it makes the lot smaller, + the  
township will not give me any more  
variance -

Responses

Comment 116-1

A discussion of the loss of property use within an easement appears in Section 3.10.2.2, Loss of Use, of the EIS. Text in Section 3.10.2.2 has been supplemented to note that the Project could limit the ability to locate sewer and utility lines in addition to the impact on the ability to construct building structures.

Commenter 117 – Noel Lafermiere



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

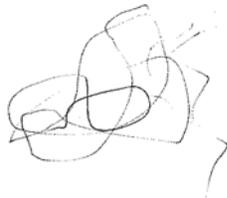
MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

*Noel Lafermiere*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

*I think its nonsense. it shouldn't be done because of the unhealthy and dangerous effects*



117-1

Responses

Comment 117-1

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

Commenter 118 – Dylan Lightfeather



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Dylan Lightfeather  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ces/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

118-1

It would be greatly appreciated if you do not send the power line through. The reason is there will be long term effects from the power line.  
Thank you for your time.

Responses

Comment 118-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 119 – Sonia Lightfeather



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

*Sonia Lightfeather*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?ld=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

119-1

This transmission line is not a good idea. Why would you rather risk many peoples health than to save ~~a~~ money. This whole thing is terrible. Just very terrible.

Responses

Comment 119-1

A discussion of potential health and safety effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS.

## Commenter 120 – Steven Lindahl

**From:** [apache@web.lnic.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.lnic.state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Lindahl Sun Apr 11 22:29:12 2010 TL-07-1327  
**Date:** Sunday, April 11, 2010 10:29:43 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project

Docket number: TL-07-1327

User Name: Steven Lindahl

County: Itasca County

City: Blackduck

Email:

Phone:

Impact: I was against this project the first I had heard of it a couple years ago, because myself and none of my neighbors had heard anything about this until the processes for this project were already well under way behind our backs.

I sent a couple letters off explaining why I was so against this project. I never heard another thing about it until I just recently received a notice of public hearings that are coming up. I am definitely going to try to make it to one of these hearings, although I'm not sure why because this notice also says the ALJ will make a recommendation on which route to authorize. That sounds to me like it is going through no matter what the majority of the public thinks about it.

I am definitely against the route which would run these lines through my property or close to it, but am also against the entire project, no matter where it would run.

These power hungry power providers have been ripping us off for years and it needs to stop! In fact, I am currently living without electricity for financial reasons. I simply can't afford it. And I don't see these expensive huge power lines making my monthly bill any less. Sure the power companies can save money in the long run supplying power to the area, but do you actually believe they're going to pass any savings on to the consumer? I'm sorry but I don't believe they will.

What happened to going green? I have seen wind farms going up all over the country. These are also very expensive to put up but in the long run are better all the way around. Why not focus on that instead of insisting that the big money stay with the money hungry power companies. But it's been made very obvious to me that it isn't going to matter what I think about this as the wheels have been turning behind our backs again since I first heard of the project. In fact, I still have not heard of one person in northern MN that is for this. I'm sure there are a few that are for it, but I personally have not met them, nor would I care to as I think they are ignorant.

## Responses

### Comment 120-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

120-1

## Commenter 120 - Lindahl

I am a layman and don't claim to know everything about this project, but feel we (the general public) are being taken advantage of and duped by the actions and politics going on behind our backs on this issue. Most of us are working and trying to survive in the current economy. So how many people have been able to devote the time needed to try and stop this project? I would like to go to the public hearings and will try, but if for some reason I'm not able to (like many others that cannot attend for various reasons) our voices don't matter? I would like my comments to be seen by others if possible on the website to help others make their decisions on the project in hopes that it will help stop this project completely. Although it sounds like it's too late anyways and the project will be done no matter what the public wants, at least I can voice my opinion publicly.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Sun Apr 11 22:29:12 2010

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

## Responses

Commenter 121 – LLBO Member Petition

**PETITION DRIVE**  
**CapX 2020 Proposed Transmission Line**  
**Bemidji to Grand Rapids via Leech Lake Reservation**  
**230 kV Power Line**



121-1

By signing my name, my signatory is evidence that I oppose the 230 kV Power transmission power line that is proposed to go through my homelands of the Leech Lake Reservation from Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I understand my signature opposing this power line will go to the Public Utilities Commission and/or any other agency that hears the publics' comments on the power line.

<i>Scott Prines</i>	<i>Bemidji MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Mary Bedean</i>	<i>Onigum, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Dale Buruth</i>	<i><del>Onigum</del> Federal DAM, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Adam White</i>	<i>Bill Chau B, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Dylan Lightfeather</i>	<i>Bemidji, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Chad Morrison JR</i>	<i>Bemidji MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Robert Jones Jr</i>	<i>Longville MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Alisa Smith</i>	<i>Aaral Dam MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Vernon Howard Jr</i>	<i>Ball Club, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
<i>Cody White</i>	<i>Cass Lake, MN</i>		
Name	Address	Phone	E-mail

JANUARY 2010 D.O.M.E.

Responses

Comment 121-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 121 – LLBO Member Petition

**PETITION DRIVE**  
**CapX 2020 Proposed Transmission Line**  
**Bemidji to Grand Rapids via Leech Lake Reservation**  
**230 kV Power Line**

By signing my name, my signatory is evidence that I oppose the 230 kV Power transmission power line that is proposed to go through my homelands of the Leech Lake Reservation from Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I understand my signature opposing this power line will go to the Public Utilities Commission and/or any other agency that hears the publics' comments on the power line.

*Samantha Siegel* *Grand Rapids*  
Name Address Phone E-mail

*Noel Lafraniere* *Ball Club*  
Name Address Phone E-mail

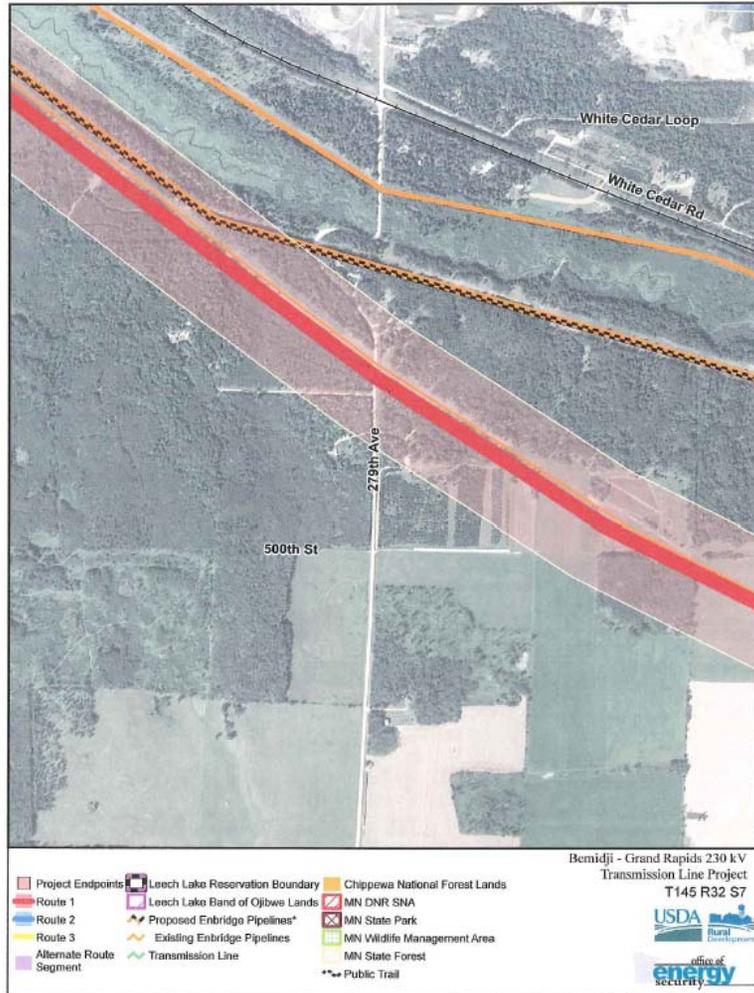
*Louisa Lightfoot* *Bona*  
Name Address Phone E-mail

Responses

122-1

**Commenter 122 – Darrell Magoon**

DARRELL MAGOON 50534 279<sup>th</sup> AVE. ENBRIDGE DEVIATION



**Responses**

**Comment 122-1**

Thank you for your comment. In September 2009, the MnPUC approved Enbridge Energy's request for a deviation from the permitted route in this area to address environmental and cultural resource concerns associated with crossing the Necktie River. Revised maps with the new pipeline alignment have been requested from Enbridge Energy.

Commenter 123 – Carol McLaughlin



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Carol McLaughlin  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>

I'm concerned about my property (& other peoples property) in Turtle River trap. I live in section 14 just off of Rt. 27 (Long Lake Rd.)

If the power line runs this close to Long Lake it will impact a number of lake property owners with fairly small lots! This is fairly valuable property!

There seems to be other routes that would go through less populated areas. Northern Corridor Route # 3 would run through a highly populated area! (Many are small lots)

Rt 3 would run very close to most of the west shore of Long Lake which is the second largest lake in Beltrami County. It's also a good fishing lake & supports other wild life.

- There are four options for submitting comments on this project:
- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
  - 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
  - 3) submit your comments electronically at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
  - 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by **April 26, 2010**  
Carol McLaughlin  
8502 Cather Lane  
Bemidji MN  
56601  
218-586-3744

123-1

Responses

Comment 123-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 124 – Mark Michalek

**From:** [apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Steinhilber, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Michalek Wed Mar 24 19:44:51 2010 TL-07-1327  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:45:09 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project

Docket number: TL-07-1327

User Name: Mark Michalek

County: Isanti County

City: Blackduck

Email: [Michfarm@paulbunyan.net](mailto:Michfarm@paulbunyan.net)

Phone:

Impact: As a landowner i strongly disagree with the northern line you are thinking about running,at the meeting on March 17,2010 in blackduck not many questions were answered. You can clearly see the way it should be run,I have a power line already running though my land and I surly don't need another one. I know my thoughts don't mean very much to a company this size, but think of all the homesteads that will have to pay the extra, all the extra coal that needs to be burned over the year's to come.We all know the reasons why this long route has been looked at I hope you make the right decision.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Mar 24 19:44:51 2010

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](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)

## Responses

### Comment 124-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

124-1

Commenter 125 – Judy Nelson



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

*Judy Nelson 2609 Ol Whispering Acre Rd  
Route*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative%20Inc.0>.

125-1

*A tree disappeared if the line due to the  
# of poles just on my acreage alone  
It is an environmental area I have owned for  
31 yrs, & now to be further destroyed by  
utility companies!*



Responses

Comment 125-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 126 – Gregg Pike

March 27, 2010

Suzanne Steinhauer  
Project Engineer  
Minnesota Office of Energy  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

I am writing regarding Docket No. TL-07-1327.

As a landowner, resident, conservationist, and user of power, I object to the possibility of a power line along Route 3 for the following reasons.

- Route 3 is almost 68 miles further which will cost millions and will decrease the power carrying capacity due to additional line resistance
- It makes the most sense to run the power line along Highway 2 rather than through some of the most beautiful land in the Chippewa National forest
- The power line should follow the corridor of other infrastructure to minimize the impact on the environment

My address is

57771 E Lake Rd  
Wirt, MN 55668

Sincerely



Gregg Pike

MINN STATE

Subject: (TL-07-1327) Our first reply letter

File: (TL-07-1327) Our first reply letter

Date:

Time: (TL-07-1327) Our first reply letter

Location: (TL-07-1327) Our first reply letter



## Responses

### Comment 126-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

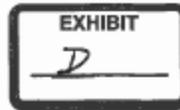
126-1

## Commenter 127 – Diane and Ernest Plath

April 20, 2010  
EIS Comments

Pg 1 of 4

Honorable Eric L. Lipman  
Administrative Law Judge  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0620



Honorable Eric L. Lipman:

Following are comments regarding the EIS for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line as it exist on this date. Some comments are in general and some are specific.

### General:

In general, the EIS provides considerable information relevant to construction of the Project. As is the nature of such an undertaking, much of the information requires an extreme stretch of the imagination to accept its relevance. Since an EIS exercise does nothing to acquire the basic needs of humankind, the best it can do is to help identify measures which might minimize the use of natural resources necessary to construct the project. In actuality, the Applicants probably identified most of these measures in their study leading up to their permitting request.

Essentially every life form on this planet is dependent on water, food, and shelter for their existence. These basic needs, in one form or another, come from natural resources and, indeed, from other life forms. All creatures are very creative in their efforts to survive but in the end create nothing except more of their species. Those that fail to adapt to ever changing conditions eventually perish.

Whether we like it or not, the use of natural and human resources to generate, transmit, and utilize electrical energy is a necessary part of our environment today and, most likely, into the foreseeable future. Harnessing of electrical energy was developed to aid the human species in performing work necessary to obtain their basic needs. The human species is apparently hell-bent on populating itself to near or complete extinction and therefore we are considering the Project. While we 'consider', the Chinese are bringing on-line one coal-fired electrical generation plant every week along with the necessary distribution systems. While we 'consider', the Chinese and other countries are exploring for new energy sources and locking up as many existing sources as possible.

Cost of any construction project is directly tied to use of natural resources and human resources (additionally dependent on natural resources). The Applicants, after considering other supply sources, addition of generating capacity, and various routes, applied for permitting for Routes 1 or 2 which appeared to meet the increased need, the overall grid

## Responses

## Commenter 127 – Diane and Ernest Plath

April 20, 2010  
EIS Comments

Pg 2 of 4

requirements, and to have the least cost. Routes 1 and 2 remain the best options. Estimated costs of all options considered are now, approximately three years later, only higher. As time passes by, the price of dwindling non-renewable resources will only go up, not down. If any or all of the Applicants may need financing to construct their portion of the Project there will be interest charge costs. Hopefully they will not have been delayed to the point they face rising interest rates which will pass through to the customers.

The EIS provides a pretty good description of possible construction details. More detail is most likely not possible pending route selection and final design. At this point it is not clear whether it is planned to clear the entire 125' ROW for each route or to, where possible, widen existing electrical ROWs to meet 230KV requirements and convert to a two-tier configuration. Obviously a plus would be less loss of trees in forested areas and less loss of area to all affected parties. The trade-off would apparently be higher structures, increased difficulty in maintenance/repair operations, and certainly more risk to linemen working with and near 'hot' high-voltage lines. The linemen, in most cases, are only allowed one mistake. The trade-offs in cost are not readily apparent at this time.

It is unclear whether a separate central-corridor option for an entirely new two-tier 230KV system on a new ROW has been considered with the upper line installed initially and the second line installed now or at some date in the future. With a government intent on pushing the populace into 'damn the cost' electric cars this may come sooner than later. This option would assuredly lessen the risk to linemen during construction. If sufficiently removed from existing transmission lines this could, at some point, make possible removal of the existing lines and structures with the opportunity to reuse the abandoned area. Most of the removed materials would, in fact, be reusable or recyclable. Initial cost would obviously be higher but, how much is unclear. Future costs could be lower and the 'permitting' process much less onerous and costly than starting all over with a new transmission line and ROW.

The EIS, almost in passing, notes that the Project will impact some private property owners. Information on the number of owners, the acreage taken by the ROW, the acreage of forested land removed, and other considerations is almost non-existent and miniscule compared to the pages and tables dedicated to CNF and LLR lands. Some space is dedicated to negotiating a 'fair market value' for loss of use. Of course, in the event of no agreement on 'fair market value' there is mention of Eminent Domain. Private owners can gain some indication of their situation on pages 281 - 287. The private owner that retains "ownership" of the property will, of course, be permitted to pay property taxes on the total acreage regardless of loss related to the ROW, wetlands, setbacks, zoning restrictions, land-use restrictions, etc. Some property owners per statute are seemingly excluded from any compensation. Can any rational person argue that "private property" exists in this nation today?

April 20, 2010

Pg 3 of 4

## Responses

## Commenter 127 – Diane and Ernest Plath

### EIS Comments

The 'fair market value' and Eminent Domain, mentioned above, work basically as follows:

1. You need to give us the engine out of your car.
2. The 'fair market value' of your car is nearly zero since it has no engine.
3. We could give you scrap value for the engine.
4. If you don't agree meet Eminent Domain.

Oh, incidentally, you are still responsible for loan repayment, any applicable fees or taxes, replacement costs, insurance, etc.

### Specific:

The Executive Summary appears to emphasize concerns of some and minimize the concerns of others. The bulk emphasizes negative impacts, some real and others a real stretch, while listing very few positive impacts. As much or more than the total EIS document could be written in rebuttal. A few items can be mentioned in an attempt to present some perspective.

### No-Build Alternative:

Of 20 categories selected to summarize only 2 one-liners are offered in two categories. No Effect is listed for 18 categories. Perhaps an electrical shutdown of a week or a month in the dead of winter might suggest other impacts worth mention.

### Aesthetics:

Suffice it to say scenes that are pleasing to some are often unpleasant to others. It is hard to view with alarm an immobile and static transmission line in a nation proceeding to trash the entire Great Plains from Canada to the Gulf with wind generators, millions of miles of buried cables, switching/control structures, substations, and, indeed, more overhead lines to convey energy to central distribution locations. The impact on the nervous system of humans and other animals from overhead electrical lines will, most probably, be negligible compared to what is coming.

### Air Quality and Climate:

The concern over fugitive dust anticipated during the Project might be put in proper perspective by considering the impact on people and environment exposed to the fallout below a volcanic dust cloud.

Vehicle emissions due to the Project may well be less than the total emissions from all vehicles, in the area served, in just a few days.

## Responses

**Commenter 127 – Diane and Ernest Plath**

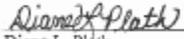
April 20, 2010  
EIS Comments

Pg 4 of 4

Biological Resources:

Under Route 1 it is stated that there would be jeopardy to one-flowered broomrape (Orobanche). This is a parasitic plant which can germinate and grow only by sucking the life out of other plants. As such it is a parasitic plant. It appears to be listed by the State of Minnesota as a "Prohibited Noxious Weed" and as a "State Listed Noxious Weed". No commercial or medicinal benefits were found for this weed. Why does the Summary suggest jeopardizing this weed is of concern?

Respectfully,

  
Diane L. Plath

Ernest D. Plath

(I, Ernest D. Plath, have read and concur with this letter. Written signature can be requested at 360-533-5058, if required.)

**Responses**

**Comment 127-1**

The USDA considers all species in the *Orobanche* genus to be noxious weeds. However, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Exotic Species Program Report specifically excludes thirteen *Orobanche* species, including *Orobanche uniflora*, from the Minnesota and Federal Prohibited and Noxious Weed List. The species is not listed on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture prohibited, restricted, and secondary noxious weed lists. With only fourteen documented populations in Minnesota, the species is considered very rare and there is consideration for updating its Minnesota status to threatened.

127-1

Commenter 128 – Winona Richardson



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Winona Richardson  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc.0>.

128-1 We are aposed to the transmission line because we  
128-2 don't want to get sick from the electric magnetic toxins. We don't  
128-1 want it running through the reservation because we already have  
(cont.) very many toxic forces to live with. Our family spends a lot of  
time outdoors near the places you intend to put the power line  
not to mention the impact it will have on our animal  
populations. No powerlines going down highway 2. Please  
listen to us when we say this. All the people will  
be affected by these lines in a very horrific way.  
Don't spoil our lives and make it more unlivable  
then it already is. Stay away with your powerline.  
My name is Winona Richardson and I live in Ryana  
Village with my family and many relatives and pets.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
April 26, 2010

Responses

Comment 128-1

A discussion of potential health effects appears in Section 3.20 of the EIS. A discussion on potential effects to biological resources appears in Section 3.7.2 of the EIS.

Comment 128-2

A discussion of cumulative effects from the Project and others located in the Study Area appears in Section 4 of the EIS.

Commenter 129 – Nathan Richter



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Nathan Richter (area) 444-7467  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

129-1

I live at 51419 County 36 Bemidji MN.  
Route 1 goes through my property. I  
live on the south side of the Great  
Lakes Gas/Trans Canada Pipeline. If the  
power line goes through my property  
they will have to buy the farm. I will  
not allow an easement on my property.

Responses

Comment 129-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 130 – Schedin

**From:** [Larry Schedin](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bemidji-Boswell 230 KV line hearings  
**Date:** Thursday, April 08, 2010 7:23:17 PM

---

Thank you Suzanne  
Larry

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

**From:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**To:** [Larry Schedin](#)  
**Cc:** [owensgrampa@yahoo.com](mailto:owensgrampa@yahoo.com) ; [sott@arvig.net](mailto:sott@arvig.net)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2010 5:29 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Boswell 230 KV line hearings

Mr. Schedin –

I'm attaching the notice of hearing for the Bemidji Grand Rapids transmission project.

The hearings are scheduled to be held April 21 – 23 in Blackduck, Bemidji, Cass Lake, and Deer River. Please see attached notice for details on times and locations.

Regards,  
Suzanne

---

**From:** Larry Schedin [mailto:[Larry@LLSResources.com](mailto:Larry@LLSResources.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**Cc:** [owensgrampa@yahoo.com](mailto:owensgrampa@yahoo.com); [sott@arvig.net](mailto:sott@arvig.net)  
**Subject:** Bemidji-Boswell 230 KV line hearings

Suzanne

I believe I read that there will be another hearing on the subject line in Deer River, MN April 26. Will you please confirm time, date and place and procedure to register to speak?  
I am an impacted landowner.

Thanks, much.  
Larry

Larry L. Schedin PE  
LLS Resources, LLC  
12 South 6th Street, Suite 1137  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Tel: 612-343-8188  
E-mail: [Larry@LLSResources.com](mailto:Larry@LLSResources.com)

130-1

## Responses

### Comment 130

Thank you for your comment. The requested information was provided to the commenter.

## Commenter 131 – Mike Schmid

**From:** [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: comment  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2010 9:38:34 AM

---

**From:** Mike Schmid [mailto:MSchmid@clbs.k12.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2010 9:35 AM  
**To:** Kirsch, Raymond (COMM); stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov  
**Subject:** comment

To Whom It May Concern: 4/12/10

131-1 | I am writing in regard to the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kv Transmission Project. We live adjacent to (south of) the Enbridge Pipeline on Hubbard County 101, so we will be directly impacted if the power line route follows the pipeline. Our legal land description is: Section 14, Twshp. 145, Range 032, 14-1, Lot 1. My family and I are opposed to the pipeline route for several reasons.

131-2 | We live on a beautiful 40 acre homestead in a home that we built ourselves. It is located in the northwest quadrant of the acreage and has about 10 acres of mature woods to the north and west of the house which serves as an effective windbreak. It contains mocassin flowers, crocuses, princess pine, as well as part of our ski trail. The pipeline has already destroyed part of our woods. If the power line is placed south of the pipeline, we will lose even more of our woods and windbreak. We have already done our share for the public good by putting up with the pipeline. Why must the very same people suffer more loss of land and a further decrease in property value?

131-3 | Common sense tells us that putting explosive petroleum and electric wires next to each other is a dangerous combination. It also increases the likelihood of losing both utilities at the same time in the event of a natural or man-made disaster near the pipeline.

131-4 | Finally, the Highway 2 corridor already has power lines, so adding to their capacity would not inconvenience any homeowners or cause a further loss of their land.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mike Schmid  
49638 317th Ave.  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

218 766-2865

## Responses

### Comment 131-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

### Comment 131-2

A discussion of the loss of land use to private land owners appears in Section 3.10.2.2 of the EIS. The cumulative impacts of the Project with respect to pipelines are discussed in Section 4.

### Comment 131-3

Text in Section 3.18.2.2 has been supplemented to include a discussion of the potential for the Project to interfere with natural gas and crude oil pipelines and result in ignition of released natural gas or crude oil. Text in Section 3.18.3.3 has been supplemented to include mitigation measures to address potential interference.

### Comment 131-4

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 132 – Samantha Siegel



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Samantha Siegel

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

132-1

I think its ridiculous that they would even try to put something up that would cause all this harm. Dont they realize there going to make our Native American people suffer just for there benefits?!

Responses

Comment 132-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 133 – Turtle River Watershed Association

Turtle River Watershed Association  
P O Box 3088  
Bemidji, MN 56601

September 29, 2008

Suzanne Steinhauser  
Dept. of Commerce  
Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

133-1

On September 24, 2008 the Beltrami County Turtle River Watershed Association's Annual Meeting registered over 50 people who unanimously voted to oppose the Northern Corridor of the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt transmission line. There was general consensus that the Central Corridor should be of highest priority of the three remaining alternatives.

With almost 300 paid members The Turtle River Watershed Association represents 12 lakes and the river in Beltrami County with a mission statement to promote understanding, appreciation, enjoyment, protection and preservation of a precious resource our watershed area. Therefore the following reasons are given explaining our opposition to the Northern Corridor:

- Our members have chosen to live here because of its natural beauty, therapeutic and esthetic value including the big pines, lakes, and the Turtle River. For many of our members this esthetic value would be directly and immediately destroyed because of the close association of this line to their houses. All other members would suffer the same loss to a lesser extent.
- Financial cost of both total distance of installation and all future maintenance points to using the most direct and shortest distance route which is the central corridor.
- We believe there will be a significant increase to waterfowl injury including swans, cranes, herons, ducks and shorebirds with the Northern Corridor compared to the central. Because, as example; we have nesting swans over a dozen pair north and northwest of Lake Bemidji. The swans plus all other waterfowl use the Turtle River and the Mississippi as a fly way throughout the summer nesting season. The Northern Route runs parallel and travels both these rivers for a greater distance than the Central corridor line would as illustrated on your map (figure 1) black line running on the north edge of HWY 2. Waterfowl summer flyway movements are predominantly greater East and West North of HWY 2 than they are north to South crossing HWY 2. Therefore, you have fewer incidents of waterfowl hitting transmission lines on the HWY 2 corridor.

## Responses

### Comment 133-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

133-1  
(cont.)

### Commenter 133 – Turtle River Watershed Association

- It's a well documented fact that power lines and support structures kill song birds of all species. Birds are particularly susceptible during Spring and Fall migration time with night flights, bad weather etc. Therefore the Northern Corridor which is almost double the distance compared to the central route will in effect double the kill rate. Also there would be significant loss of habitat to Bird Life with the tree cutting and removal necessary in the Northern Corridor compared to the central. Considering the declining population data of song birds and water fowl as documented by The Audubon Society, D.N.R, and Ducks Unlimited the Northern Corridor is unacceptable.
- There is also unanimous support that where ever the lines are sited it should be buried. What is the long term financial analysis to bury it versus the building and maintaining of tower?
- Finally, some members of TRWA have concerns about the possible adverse health effects of living near high voltage power lines. There is also an additional concern about the potential effects of herbicide and other chemical applications to the right-of-way. Can you or your agency supply our association with information on the health consequences of high voltage power lines?
- Beltrami County lake and rivers, and in particular lakes and rivers affected by the northern corridor, are some of the clearest and least impaired in the state. Clear-cutting within the shore land impact zone would most certainly have a profound effect on surface water quality and in particular anywhere closer to water's edge. Lake sheds and river sheds are being considered more important than watersheds for local surface water quality impact. We feel that protecting sensitive watershed resource's needs to be one of your top priorities in your decision process. If the Northern Route is selected we would like to review an environmental impact analysis comparing of all the potential routes.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment in writing on the location of this power line. We are also curious if there will be another public forum where the above issues will be addressed by your agency?

Ralph D. Morris M.D., M.P.H  
Chairperson  
Turtle River Watershed Association  
Post Office Box 3088  
Bemidji, MN 56619-3088

### Responses

**Commenter 134 – Wagner and Enblom**

Mar 04 10 01:38p

Chippewa Forest Wood Prod

218-586-2391

p.1

3/04/2010

→ GUZMANNE STEINHAUER  
FAX 651-297-7891

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Dept. of Commerce  
Office of Energy Security  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

September 23, 2008

3/04/2010

IS THIS LOCATION (\*) ONE  
OF 20 SEGMENT ALTERNATIVES  
NOTED IN THE PUBLIC INFOR-  
MATION MEETINGS PUBLICATION?  
PLEASE FAX (218) 586-2391  
RESPONSE,  
DON WAGNER

Written comments relating to Bemidji-Grand Rapids

230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Location: Beltrami County, Taylor Township

Sec 1-31 Twp-148 Range 31

NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 - 40 acres

Property Owners at this location include:

Mark Enblom  
Robert and Valerie Wagner  
Donald and Kristen Wagner

Currently this location has an 80' wide easement (69 KV Line, Minnesota), which runs the entire length of the 40 acre parcel, roughly adjacent to Co. Rd. 307. We, the landowners, have accommodated the presence of this line without compensation for over 25 years. We have built our homes and added value to our properties with the understanding that this line would not change (see attached letter of April 18, 1983).

The proposed 230 KV transmission line would render all three of our properties unlivable. There are three homes located a few hundred feet from the edge of this easement. Therefore, any increase in the capacity of this line and associated easement width would totally devalue these properties and force abandonment.

This 40-acre parcel is within the boundary of the Chippewa National Forest. We have chosen to live here because of its natural beauty and aesthetic value, which includes large white pines and the Turtle River. Obviously, the nature and character of this location would be destroyed by this proposal. As an example, the current easement runs within 200' of the Three Culverts Bridge on the Turtle River. This site is a natural gathering area for local residents and visitors to fish, swim and canoe. With the change to 230 KV double pole line, this area would lose its natural beauty and look more like a North Dakota drainage ditch. The actual siting of this new line must be sensitive to the natural amenities of the landscape and governed by common sense as it relates to private properties and public use of the area.

If the North Macro Corridor is chosen as the route for this new line, then the following should take precedence in guiding the actual siting:

1. Avoid further devaluation of private property by using adjacent public property to site the 230 KV line. If this line is for the "common good" and public property exists for the "common good" then combine the two: put the line on public property wherever possible to avoid private conflicts.
2. Combine the existing 69 KV line with the new 230 KV line and move them to public land. We have been paying taxes on an 80' wide easement through a 40-acre parcel, which Minnesota controls, without any compensation for over 25 years. By-passing private property by placing both lines on public property would correct the existing injustice.
3. Protect sensitive natural areas that have high aesthetic and natural value. These areas include all natural aquatic sites and plant communities such as old growth white pine. Consider burying the line for short distances to avoid these conflicts.

We understand the need for electrical transmission lines, however, the applicants and associated agencies need to assure private landowners directly affected by this proposal that their concerns are truly primary in guiding the siting process. Without exception, top priority should be given to siting this line on public property.

Donald and Kristen Wagner

Mark Enblom

Robert and Valerie Wagner

*[Handwritten signatures of Donald and Kristen Wagner, Mark Enblom, Robert and Valerie Wagner]*

**Responses**

**Comment 134-1**

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

134-1

Commenter 135 – Ken Wahnschaffe



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: KEN WAHNSCHAFFE  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

135-1

PROGRESS IS INEVITABLE, HOWEVER  
~~THE~~ A Rte NORTH OF THE Leech  
Lake Reservation <sup>LINE</sup> WOULD PROBABLY AFFECT  
THE LEAST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE, ~~AND~~ <sup>AND</sup> WOULD  
WOULD BE MOSTLY ON COUNTY, STATE  
AND FEDERAL LAND. GOING AS FAR NORTH  
AS BLACKDUCK IS NOT REALLY FEASIBLE  
AND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE, WHICH WILL  
BE PASSED ON TO THE CUSTOMERS,

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
April 26, 2010

Responses

Comment 135-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 136 – Joyce Way

From: [Dallas and Joyce Way](#)  
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
Subject: Re: Transmission Project Comment  
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:55:17 AM

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Hello Suzanne,

We learned recently that some of our neighbors have gotten an update letter regarding the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line. Since we live extremely close to one of the proposed routes, (one of the pipes added during a pipeline expansion is only about 30' from our house), we are also very concerned about how this transmission line could potentially affect us.

We saw the newspaper notice of the March 16 meetings in Bemidji, and plan to attend one of those. At previous meetings, we were very concerned, because our house was not identified as a residence on the map. On three separate occasions, we have noted that in writing or have told a person directly, who made note of it. We will check on March 16 to see if our home is now recognized as a residence.

Our address is:  
Dallas and Joyce Way  
1929 Jefferson Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

Sincerely,  
Joyce Way

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

**From:** [Suzanne Steinhauer](#)  
**To:** [Dallas and Joyce Way](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 2:37 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Transmission Project Comment

Mr. & Mrs. Way –

Thank you for your comments on the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids Transmission Line. Your comments will be considered as we determine which routes and impacts will be studied in greater detail.

Regards,  
Suzanne

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer  
Project Manager, Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
651-296-2888  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

136-1

## Responses

### Comment 136-1

Maps contained in Appendix D of the EIS have been updated with recent aerial photographs to display homes located in proximity to the Study Area.

## Commenter 136 – Joyce Way

**From:** Dallas and Joyce Way [mailto:ways@paulbunyan.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 11:20 AM  
**To:** Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Transmission Project Comment

We are writing in regard to the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project.

Our property is right in the middle of the 1,000' preferred route in Bemidji T146 R33. Our house was not identified as a residence at the two meetings we attended, but we did point that out verbally and in a previous communication that we mailed in. There are many families in our neighborhood that could be affected. The necessary right-of-way would probably include our entire house, if the proposed route is followed. Moving the route slightly to the north might be possible, but that would likely affect several people as well. Aesthetically, the line would lower values of the adjacent properties. If any of the affected people would have to give up their homes, it is our hope that the compensation would be large enough to allow all of them to purchase homes that would more than comparable, since it would not be their choice to leave their homes.

Dallas and Joyce Way  
1929 Jefferson Avenue SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

136-2

## Responses

### Comment 136-2

A discussion of the easement acquisition and compensation process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

## Commenter 137 – Dallas and Joyce Way



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Dallas and Joyce Way T146 R33

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

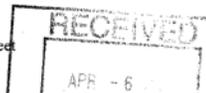
We have been very interested in the routes for the proposed power transmission line, as we live on the proposed Route 1. We, of course, hope this line will not displace us from our home.

- 137-1 | When we built our house in 1977, there was one pipe in the Great Lakes Gas Transmission pipeline by our house, with a 50' finished right-of-way. Since that time, two more lines have been added, and the right-of-way has increased with the addition of each pipe. Now our house is completely hidden under the red line indicating the proposed Route 1.
- 137-2 | While another route is preferable for us, if Route 1 is the one that is eventually chosen, we hope you will seriously consider going on the north side of the pipeline right-of-way through this immediate area. There are several houses in our neighborhood in close proximity to the proposed line on the south side. Our close neighbor who lived just north of the pipeline recently passed away and his house is now vacant.
- 137-3 | If our home has to be taken for the project, we sincerely hope that the compensation is large enough that we can continue to live without mortgage payments, since we are retirees and currently own our home. We have no desire to move from our current location at this point in our lives.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by



## Responses

### Comment 137-1

A discussion of the potential loss of land use for private land owners appears in Section 3.10.2.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the potential impacts to homes appears in Section 3.11.2, Impacts to Homes and Structures, of the EIS. The cumulative impacts of the Project with respect to pipelines are discussed in Section 4.

### Comment 137-2

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

### Comment 137-3

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

Commenter 138 – Russell Wernberg



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Russell Wernberg  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

138-1

Single pole construction  
is way easier to look at  
as compared to two pole.

Responses

Comment 138-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 139 – Dave West

**From:** [Dave West](#)  
**To:** [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids transmission project  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 11:31:22 AM

---

Got it.

It does appear that their "options" do have an exact defined route. (except for the 20 plus choices)

139-1 | I don't know, however, how the public could possibly respond to something this vague.  
Thanks.

**Dave West**  
Senior Program Officer- Business Finance



4225 Technology Drive NW  
Bemidji, MN 58801  
218-759-2057  
or in MN 800-659-7859  
FAX 218-759-2328  
[davew@nwmf.org](mailto:davew@nwmf.org)  
[www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org)

---

**From:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM) [mailto:[Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Dave West  
**Cc:** Kirsch, Raymond (COMM)  
**Subject:** RE: Bemidji-Grand Rapids transmission project

Mr. West –

I would like to clarify that there is no "exact proposed route." At this point there are three routes and 20 shorter segment alternatives under consideration.

There are more detailed route maps on OES's website for the Project:  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?id=26061>. The maps are located at the bottom of the page, the first map is an overview map that can orient you to the routes.

If you can let me know the property (address or crossroads) that you are concerned about I can help you locate it.

Regards,  
Suzanne Steinhauer

---

**From:** Dave West [mailto:[davew@nwmf.org](mailto:davew@nwmf.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 8:24 AM  
**To:** Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**Cc:** Kirsch, Raymond (COMM)

## Responses

### Comment 139-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

## Commenter 139 – Dave West

**Subject:** Bemidji-Grand Rapids transmission project

Perhaps a bit hurriedly, I reviewed the websites given in the Notice issued February 23,2010, but could not find what I was looking for.

139-2 | Could you please tell me where, specifically, to find the *-exact-* proposed route?

Thank you.

### Dave West

Senior Program Officer- Business Finance



4225 Technology Drive NW  
Bemidji, MN 58601  
218-759-2057  
or in MN 800-650-7850  
FAX 218-759-2328  
[davew@nwmf.org](mailto:davew@nwmf.org)  
[www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org)

## Responses

### Comment 139-2

Thank you for your comment. A response to the information request was provided to the commenter.

## Commenter 140 – David West

**From:** apache@web.lmc.state.mn.us  
**To:** Steinbauer, Suzanne (COMM)  
**Subject:** west Tue Apr 13 08:53:44 2010 TL-07-1327  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:54:12 AM

---

This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project

Docket number: TL-07-1327

User Name: david west

County:

City: bemidji

Email:

Phone:

Impact: The stated purpose of the meeting was to ".....completeness and accuracy of the EIS".

- 140-1 | I object to the EIS as being incomplete and certainly not accurate.
- 140-2 | My objection stems from the fact that the utility applicants are unwilling to show exactly where they would like to run new lines. 23 potential routes (including side alternate routs?) This looks exactly like- I guess they don't want us to know. The map, incomplete, has no references: no roads, rail roads, existing transmission lines, absolutely no way of knowing where the proposed route may actually be.
- 140-3 | And then, the state representative answered a question saying that the utility applicant, when a route is approved, only needs to say where their "1,000 foot corridor is located. 1,000 feet? That's nearly the length of an entire 40 acre parcel. 3 football fields!
- | She stated that "we will not know where the tower is actually placed until they come out and dig a hole".
- 140-4 | One of the routes goes through Bemidji Slough or the Bemidji State Game Refuge. Refuge- doesn't that mean no development?

How on earth can the public,

the public that the state is charged with protecting, possibly give comment to this smoke and mirrors?

- 140-5 | 1,000 foot approved corridor- could go through a sensitive wetland, or not? I'm disappointed in the state and this process.

I object.

Dave West

## Responses

### Comment 140-1

Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and included in the record for this EIS.

### Comment 140-2

As discussed in Section 2.1.2, the Applicants originally proposed two routes for consideration. Since the release of the DEIS, the Applicants have identified a preferred route that combines certain aspects of Route Alternatives 1 and 2, as well as some Segment Alternatives evaluated in the DEIS; this route is described in Section 2.2.5 and is evaluated alongside the other three Route Alternatives throughout this document. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, not the Applicants, will select the final route, as required by Minnesota Statute 216E. Likewise, other federal and state agencies have decisions that will influence the final selection of the route. The routing process for HVTLs in Minnesota tries to balance landowners' desire for certainty with the need for the alternative routes and alignments to minimize impacts. The area between the Wilton and Boswell substations presents many constraints (homes, water bodies, biologically sensitive areas, roads, and existing utilities) that limit where a transmission line can be placed. The environmental review process looks at larger areas to identify both avoidance areas and areas which may be better suited to placing transmission lines.

### Comment 140-3

Detailed maps of the Route and Segment Alternatives are displayed in Appendix D of the EIS. The Applicants have developed a feasible 125-foot wide alignment for each of the Route Alternatives, which is displayed in Appendix D. The final location of the transmission line alignment and placement of structures has not been determined. Please see response to Comment 140-2, which addresses a similar concern.

### Comment 140-4

Route Alternative 1 has been extended beyond the standard 1,000-foot width in the area of the Bemidji Slough WMA to allow for flexibility so that impacts to the WMA can be minimized or avoided. The areas north and west of the Bemidji Slough WMA are zoned for low-density commercial development. Placement of the transmission line within a commercially-zoned area would not preclude commercial development.

(cont. on next page)

### Commenter 140 – David West

Bemidji and MN State citizen

Mitigation:

Submission date: Tue Apr 13 08:53:44 2010

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

### Responses

#### **Comment 140-5 (from previous page)**

A discussion of the number and acreage of wetlands crossed by the Route Alternatives appears in Section 3.6.1.1. A discussion of the number and acreage of wetlands potentially affected by the feasible 125-foot ROW developed for each Route Alternative appears in Section 3.6.2.

Commenter 141 – Adam White



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name:

*adam white*

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine,, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

141-1

*No It shouldnt cause emf's  
mess with little kids brains  
and they're not cool  
you wanna be cool right  
then dont do it.*

Responses

Comment 141-1

A discussion of EMF appears in Sections 3.20.1.1 and 3.20.2.2 of the EIS.

Commenter 142 – Coody White



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Coody White  
Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

142-1 | With and do respect. This powerline thing is pretty stupid. Why do we need it???

142-2 | We Dont! The tribe is probale gets a Kick back. if they go through it, that what I think. why would you go and put those (power lines) up when things  
You know over time things will start happening To those people living around them, and the school Districts, Daycares, wild life, trees, epically The Eagles around here. I have a baby girl and I dont want her to go somewhere like that. Would you want your kids or family living near those things. Us shouldnt Allow that to happen. Cause u never know If it happen to someone, it can happen To you as well.  
Think of others!!

- There are four options for submitting comments on this project:
- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
  - 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauser@state.mn.us) or [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov)
  - 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>.
  - 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
April 26, 2010

Responses

Comment 142-1

A discussion of purpose and need appears in Section 1.1 of the EIS.

Comment 142-2

A discussion of the potential effects on human health and safety appears in Section 3.20.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the effects on biological resources appears in Section 3.7.2 of the EIS.

Commenter 143 – Zachary White



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Zachary D. White

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnkota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

143-1

I think the powerline will effect the animals that live in the area. The animals in the area could be effected by the radiation of of the power ~~coming~~ from the powerline. It could make the animals have ~~miscasties~~ from the radiation coming from power lines and there is a lot of animals around the reservation.

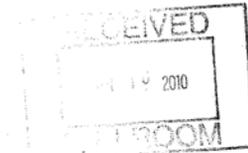
Responses

Comment 143-1

A discussion on the effects on biological resources appears in Section 3.7.2 of the EIS.

**Commenter 144 – Charles and Mary Worms**

Suzanne Steinhauer  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Mn. 55101



4-12-10

To whom it may concern,

144-1

We came back from a couple months stay down south - to find your proposed power line project - in our mail. We have absolutely had it . . . . with ongoing eminent domain proceedings that involve Enbridge. We just LOST eleven (yes 11 !) acres of beautiful forest and shelterbelt , right next to our residence of over 35 years.

We will NOT go through this again.

I am making you a pledge . . . . if you decide to come across our homestead property with your lines - it will be . . . . . OVER MY DEAD BODY.

We own land , under Charles and Mary Worms, and also under Spruce Shadows Inc. We request that you do NOT enter any of our properties without first contacting Charles, at 218-766-3016, for permission.

We are prepared to prevent you from crossing ANY of our properties , using ALL the resources we have available.

Charles and Mary Worms  
4048 Big North Rd. NW  
Bemidji, Mn. 56601

**Responses**

**Comment 144-1**

A discussion of potential impacts to property values and homes appears in Section 3.11.2 of the EIS. A discussion of the easement acquisition and compensation process appears in Section 2.4.3 of the EIS.

Commenter 145 – Brett Wyman



DEIS Comment Sheet



Bemidji- Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

MPUC Docket Number TL-07-1327

Name: Brett Wyman

Please share your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at libraries in Bemidji, Blackduck, Bovey, Cass Lake, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Longville, and Walker, on the OES website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19344>, and on the RUS website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/eis/eis.htm#Minnesota%20Electric%20Cooperative.%20Inc.0>.

Regarding Farden Township. T145 R32 S2  
The "oval" shaped road, ON Page "4 of 47" showing where the residences are - you are missing 2 homes that have been there before most of the other "yellow" ~~and~~ dots on the map. The ones missing are within the boundary of the transmission line

145-1

Responses

Comment 145-1

Maps in Appendix D of the EIS have been updated with recent aerial photographs to display homes located in proximity to the Study Area.