

September 24, 2008

Greg Abbott
51376 Big Too Much Lake Road
Bigfork, Mn 56628

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security

Dear Ray Kirsch

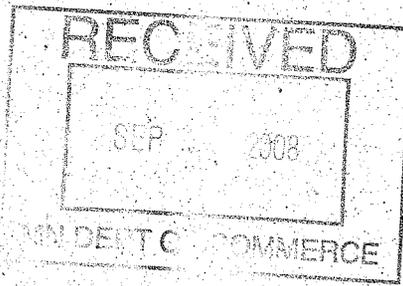
Because I recently spoke to you about this issue, I'll just address all my concerns about the Bemidji/Grand Rapids 230kv transmission line to you. Just looking at the four routes on the macro corridor map, it seems obvious that if up-front and long term costs are a consideration, the Cass Lake route is the best choice. I live in the Talmoon Minnesota area which is in the north macro corridor alternative route. That route is a good one third longer which significantly adds to your cost right away. Then there's the ongoing cost of maintaining that entire route. Every six to eight years it has to be brushed out. If there has to be any scheduled or unscheduled maintenance done, it's a major effort to just get equipment to the remote site. During summer season, when the ground is soft, the low lying areas in this northern route are boggy and full of water. This significantly adds time, labor, cost and frustration just to get to a repair site. It's not easy getting heavy equipment across boggy areas because when they get stuck, it's double the effort. It seems a no-brainer to me that all of the above disadvantages can be greatly minimized by choosing the Cass Lake route. The reaction time for any scheduled or unscheduled repairs is substantially reduced just being near a major highway. The southern route has the same disadvantages as the northern route and the non-cnf route is ridiculous to even consider. If common sense is a factor on this route choice, the Cass Lake route is the most cost effective route to go. I hope you will take my opinion in consideration when making your final decision.

Sincerely
Greg Abbott
gabbotta@hotmail.com



9/26/08

Anlberg



To Whom it may concern

I live on the northern corridor route. Looking at your chart map it is very to me the best route would be the Cass Lake Route.

Reasons for my decision

1. Cost Effective -
2. Route shorter and easily accessible
3. Less maintenance due to the shorter length and time involved
4. Area in northern corridor is more remote.
5. Unscheduled maintenance would be a significant - ongoing cost.

A concerned citizen

Barbara Anlberg
P. O. Box 184
Marcell, MN 56657

From: Brad.Amundson
To: Suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us;
cc: [Lampert's Cabinets](#); [Jerry Amundson](#); [Brett Palmer](#);
rbstansbury@frontiernet.net; ["glennconst@arvig.net"](mailto:glennconst@arvig.net);
[Jeff freberg \(jfreberg@odditees.net\)](mailto:Jeff.freberg(jfreberg@odditees.net));
Subject: Concern W/: Transmission Line SouthMacroCorridor
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 10:49:53 AM

Copied group please disregard my first note, I had the wrong email address for Suzanne.

Hi Suzanne,

My concerns regarding the proposal to run a transmission line with twice the power carrying capacity of the existing line already present on the west side of north highway 64 (known as the South Macrocorridor route):

- Highway North 64 of Akeley is a Minnesota State preservation route and is protected by laws governing such routes.
- Land on either side of highway 64 stretching for greater than 12 miles is owned and governed by the state of Minnesota State Forest regions, and supports habitat protection areas through out.
- The proposed **South Macrocorridor carries a 40% increase in overall environmental impact** and capital expenditure with its additional line distance compared to that of the Central Macrocorridor. I don't think anybody wants to see their rates go up even those in the Central track using the longer South Route.

Highway 64 North and its surrounding wooded lands that support all habitat native to north central Minnesota should remain unchanged. Left untouched will greatly benefit the immediate area as it continues to support habitat and the transportation scenic route of choice when traveling from lower Minnesota to the Bemidji Lakes region.

Please note and attach if you agree with me: Respond by Sept 30 for those copied on this letter also please share this with others you know that could be impacted.

Susan wants to hear from us regarding this new line proposal. Feel free to use my letter or change to voice concerns. The web site below will give you access to current dates and time of there start date for building.

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html>

Regards,
Brad Amundson
612-304-1770



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 try: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

HR
Name: *M. Bissonnette* filling out form Representing:
Anderson

Address: Email:

Comments:
Spoke with Mrs. Anderson at Bemidji 1:00 pm
scoping meeting and plat & aerial maps attached.
Discussed routing line further to the south to
avoid new homes on 16th st. sw. Anderson
lives south on 16th st. & East of Buchanan Ave.
(see attached maps).

Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891

FILE NO. 422

MAYER ESTATES

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That Homequest Housing Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation, under and State of Minnesota, to wit:

Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter (NE 1/4 of SW 1/4), less the North 660 feet thereof, Section Twenty-four (24), Township One Hundred Forty-six (146), Range Thirty-four (34).

Have caused the same to be surveyed and platted as **MAYER ESTATES** and do hereby donate and dedicate to the public for public use former the public ways and dedicate the easement as shown on the plat for utility purpose as shown on the annexed plat.

In witness whereof, Homequest Housing Development Corporation has caused these presents to be signed by its proper officer this 24 day of July, 2007.



Robert M. Johnson
 Notary Public, Beltrami County, Minnesota

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
 COUNTY OF BELTRAMI } SS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 24 day of August, 2007, by Raymond J. Johnson, the Board Chairman/CEO of the Homequest Housing Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, on behalf of the corporation.

Raymond J. Johnson
 My commission expires 1/31/2010

I hereby certify that I have surveyed or directly supervised the survey of the land being platted, and prepared the plat or directly supervised the plat preparation. The plat is correct in accordance with the laws of Minnesota and the plat is set with one acre as indicated on the plat, of water boundaries and wet lands as of the date of the surveyor's certification are shown and labeled on the plat, and all public ways are shown and labeled on the plat as defined in Minn. Stat. Sec. 1.01.



Monica Lynn Johnson
 Notary Public, Beltrami County, Minnesota

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
 COUNTY OF BELTRAMI } SS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 24 day of August, 2007, by Arthur D. Larson, Minnesota Registration No. 14455.

Arthur D. Larson
 My commission expires 1/31/2010

The County Board of Beltrami County, Minnesota, this 24 day of August, 2007, does hereby approve the plat of MAYER ESTATES and County Board conditions, its approval, stipulating that said approval does not constitute consent, either expressed or implied, that any lot contained within this plat is suitable or acceptable for building purposes.

The showing of roads and/or easements on this plat does not indicate acceptance by the governing body that it will construct and/or maintain these rights-of-way. Acceptance by the governing body can be gained only by a separate resolution pursuant to the State Code concerning rights-of-way.

James R. Josten
 Chairman, Beltrami County Board or Commissioners

This is to certify that on the 20th day of August, 2007, there are no delinquent taxes and transfer entered.

Catherine Miller
 County Auditor, Beltrami County, Minnesota

I hereby certify that taxes payable in the year 2007, on the within described lands are paid.

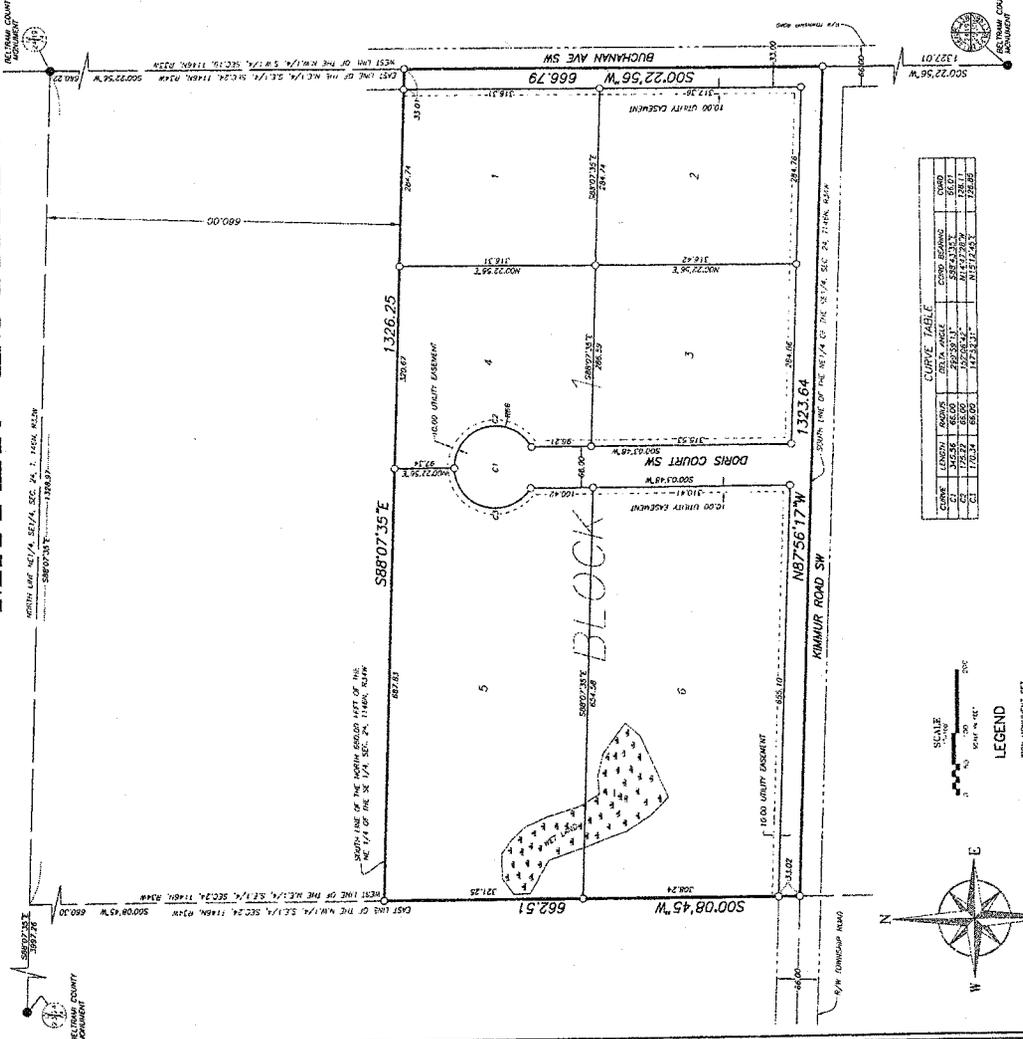
Jessie Miller
 County Treasurer, Beltrami County, Minnesota

This is to certify that the annexed plat of MAYER ESTATES was filed for record in my office at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on the 24th day of August, 2007, and was duly received by document number 422.

Paula R. Brown
 County Recorder, Beltrami County, Minnesota

Pursuant to Beltrami County Ordinance 1-1-1-1, this plat has been approved this 24 day of August, 2007.

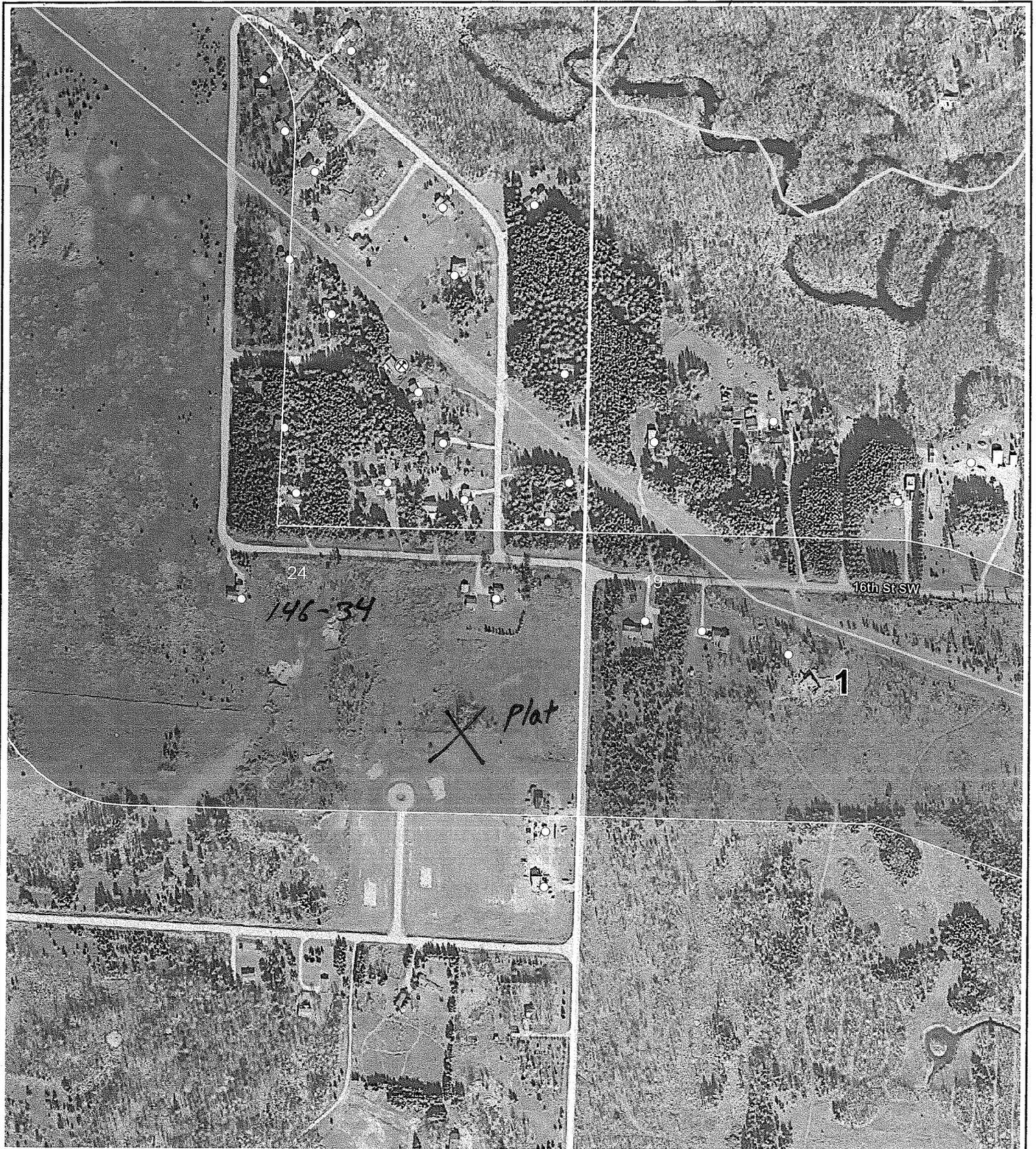
Robert M. Johnson
 County Surveyor, Beltrami County, Minnesota



NORTHWESTERN SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING, INC. 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 inch scales to various dimensions

Get this Plat from County

Anderson p.4



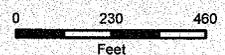
Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

Public Scoping Meeting: Bemidji - August 14, 2008

Township: 146 Range: 34 Section: 24



Routes represent potential areas within which a 125-foot transmission right-of-way might be located.



- Potential Routes**
- Route 1
 - Route 2
 - Routes 1 & 2
 - Alternate Segment
 - Crossover Segment

- Existing Transmission Lines**
- 69 kV Transmission Line
 - 115 kV Transmission Line
 - 230 kV Transmission Line
 - Substation
 - Project Endpoint

- Leech Lake Reservation**
- Existing Pipeline
 - Proposed Enbridge Pipeline
 - Communication Tower
 - Proposed Cass Lake Substation

- Natural Resource Areas**
- Wildlife Management Area
 - Chippewa Forest
 - MN State Forest
 - MN DNR SNA

- Hydrology**
- Emergent Wetland (NWI)
 - Forested / Shrub Wetland (NWI)
 - PWI Lake
 - PWI Stream

- Recreational Trail**
- Snowmobile Trail
 - Water Access
 - Residences
 - Gravel Pit

Data Sources: 2003 NAIP aerial photography, MN DNR, MN LMC, Chippewa NF, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Richard L. and Barbara J. Anderson
3250 16th Street SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

August 26, 2008

Barbara R. Britton
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Development-Utilities Program
Mail Stop 1571
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Barbara Britton:

Please consider the following comments when preparing the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) considerations for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Wilton to Grand Rapids 230 kV transmission line that has requested the financial assistance of USDA-RUS:

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS: First and foremost we wish to voice our opinion that the two current routes requested are both unacceptable because they intersect the most densely populated city/area in north-central Minnesota (Bemidji and its surrounding townships). Hundreds of small family-owned tracts of land, homes, and private property will be within an unacceptable distance from the high voltage power lines. The human cost in health risks, property devaluation, loss of private land use, and quality of life issues will impact the hundreds of residents in a way from which the community might not recover. For a one time payment the owners are restricted (for generations) from using their land yet must maintain it and continue to pay the taxes as long as they or their family has the title to the land. Profit making energy corporations will not be paying the taxes on the land they use and control and pollute.

Bemidji's is growing but it's year-round residents are still primarily a low-income population where everyone who has a home of their own on land of their own has had to work long and hard to obtain it. This high voltage line right through this many small tracts of personal property is unacceptable when there is much land surrounding the area that is significantly less populated.

It is a no-brainer to take the routes directly south or north from Wilton and when outside of Bemidji's ten-mile donut area go east to Grand Rapids through the extensive areas that are hunting lands, woodlands, state lands, or agricultural but definitely not put it through this densely populated area. If only populated areas were available (as in a large metropolitan area) then the proposed routes would have no other options. Here there are other options. The impact to wildlife and the environment will be equal in all routes proposed but the impact on the human environment on these proposed routes is negative. These routes will impact families (taxpayers) profoundly. Admittedly, the cost to the energy corporations involved would be less if they can go through the Bemidji area but they always pass additional costs on to their customers who require this additional energy and that is fair. We know that customers have always and will always pay industry corporate costs just as they do when energy companies must conform to other restrictions and regulations. If expenses were not a driving factor, energy companies would do the right thing and place the cables underground to significantly reduce the electromagnetic fields (EMF) and reduce the width over which the magnetic field is elevated.

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However, in reality, protection from the dangers of EMF is seldom the driving concern when building more high voltage power lines even though much corporate money is spent on refuting the negative research they read and hear on the hazards of EMF and also spent on corporate reports to their stockholders.

We have read all the information and articles cited in the materials we have received from Cindy Kuismi, Communications Specialist for CAPX2020 during the last six months. For every piece of information provided us we can provide others fact sheets that expand on and/or refute the information provided by the 11 power corporations requesting your financial assistance. They are now privatized (formerly state subsidized or managed) energy companies making huge profits and they sell much more than energy for their corporate gain. The bottom lines for them are their profit margins and not the cost to health, financial security and quality of life for the people owning the lands they now covet. Not only do they have the power of eminent domain to take what they want they also are provided the luxury of not having to maintain or pay future taxes on the right of ways and easements they will have. They do not have to consider the socioeconomic (human) price tag as seriously as they do the impacts they might have on the wetlands, threatened species, cultural and historic resources. One of us spent an entire career in the state office of the USDA-SCS/NRCS protecting this nation's agricultural lands, soil, water quality and all of our precious natural resources. We always had to insure that our recommendations were made assuring justice and prosperity for ALL (producers and people) and our natural resources in order to maintain a productive nation in harmony with human quality of life and a quality environment. Certainly your charge, as a sister agency of the USDA, in these determinations is equally as fair to our people and our resources as it is to producers of electricity.

When we arrived early for the August 14 scoping meeting we could overhear the various representatives from the energy companies and government agencies discussing the large turnout for their meeting in Cass Lake from the residents who live on the impacted areas and reservations. They were anticipating the same outrage and turnout at their next-day meeting in Walker. It was apparent that they were apprehensive about some of the comments and discussions. We know that the people attending the meetings in Blackduck, Deer River and Bemidji are just as upset—they just didn't appear to protest as much. They also have the potential to delay or cripple a project that they find just as personally threatening and they should not be underestimated. There have been many phone calls and requests for copies of the handouts and maps since that Thursday. Many people impacted were on vacation just before school starts and didn't even realize that they would be involved because, for one reason, the copy of the notice of scoping meetings and the map in the Bemidji Pioneer showed the second priority route in dark black and the first priority route in light gray. They had not seen or had not looked at the very tiny print or they would have known that the dark black did not show the first choice of the energy industry involved in the 230 kV transmission line. Now many neighbors feel it was deliberate to keep out comments and some are outraged. This is, after all, the largest line ever proposed for this area and there are major considerations that impact hundreds of families. A stigma is placed on any property impacted by EMF for owners, neighbors and devalued purchasing prospects for all of the surrounding land. Prospective buyers are enormously reduced and the land value hugely impacted .

HEALTH CONCERNS: The impact of few issues have been as uncertain and divisive for so long a period as the question of whether exposure to EMF poses significant health hazards. We have a personal history in our family of 24 years with a blood cancer. The physical, emotional, financial and

(more)

overall impact on our lives has been huge. During that time—since oncologists/hematologists tend to develop a personal relationship with long-term patients they see all the time (because, sadly, most of their patients are not blessed with long term survival)—we have had one-on-one conversations in the privacy of appointments about possible causality for this type of cancer. One of the questions asked of us (in more than one state by more than one oncologist) has been about exposure to high voltage power lines. We didn't think it was a factor, however, this prompted Barbara to research EMF effects upon health in considerable depth nearly a decade or more ago. She read the journals and the hundreds of research studies that were available then. Since the CAPX2020 meetings and letters started arriving last year, she has begun to read the more current information. She is astounded as now there are over 200,000 articles on research world-wide. The energy industry will fund studies, the medical community will fund studies, the governments of countries all over the world will fund studies. They agree and they disagree. More research is now recommending precautions until the new proof is available. We know, personally, that there is an overdue need for setting prudent public health policies for EMF. The USA standards can be 100 times more lenient, depending on the frequency range, than the standards of many other countries (for example Russia and the Scandinavian countries who base their standards on the observed biological effects and their own research of sustained EMF exposures). Those countries admonish the USA for our lenient standards in the same way that we admonish them for other human rights violations. They encourage us to harmonize our standards with theirs and perhaps meet somewhere in the middle—because all people of this world are equal in their wish to be in a healthy environment.

The general public, however, is now very much more aware of what is evident and they do not knowingly purchase land anywhere near high voltage power lines. Personally, knowing what we now know about our own health risks, there is no possibility that we could stay in this retirement home (that we built in 2003 when we returned to retire in our home town of Bemidji) with 230 kV lines nearby. If we had been told in 2003 what we found out in 2007 about this proposal, we would not have spent our life savings on a place our doctors have advised against—near high voltage power lines. Buying this home near high EMF would also have been an economic disaster. In a few years, when power line radiation is as well known as asbestos and radon, a home with high EMF will be practically impossible to sell. Already there are hundreds of lawsuits regarding EMF and property devaluation. The research studies argue about flaws and differences, however, this is exactly like the studies of the late 1940s and 1950s where the tobacco industry spent huge amounts of money on research to refute existing research that their products caused lung cancer. There has been the same corporate funding of studies to refute the health risks of EMF. In some cases the energy industry pays for it and it concludes just the opposite of what they wish to hear. We choose to listen to the advice of our personal medical professionals who see the common denominators causing blood cancers on a daily basis (blood cancer treatment is all these specialists do). In total, the scientific evidence for childhood cancer (specifically leukemia), adult disease (blood cancers), and brain cancer are documented. Other risks, like Alzheimer's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) neurodegenerative diseases, and changes the rate of synthesis in deoxyribonucleic acid and interference with the functioning of ribonucleic acid in converting the instructions issued by DNA into production of proteins, are significant. In addition, research has shown EMF affects a number of health disorders including altered sensitivity to drugs and toxins, disruption of the biological clock, mood, sleep disorders and chronic depression. There is research on EMF causing miscarriages, infertility, immune system deregulation, allergic and inflammatory responses and much much more. All are linked to and associated with EMF exposure in general and high voltage lines specifically. Evidence is sufficiently strong that preventive steps are not only appropriate but also called for by a more prudent public

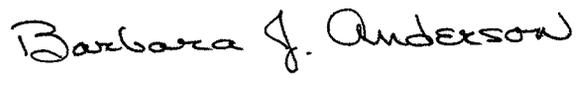
(more)

health policy. As we ignore the evidence more and more EMF are being introduced with new products for the home and recreation. It will soon be nearly impossible to even conduct unflawed research because of the growing amount of EMF that we are forced to live (and die) with. Our own government has announced that the evidence no longer allows us to categorically assert that there are no risks. To suggest that there are no risks is simply unacceptable. Accredited American researchers believe they are seeing only the tip of the iceberg and they have no idea how big the iceberg is. It now concerns us all—not just those of us who have been personally affected or have had to sit in the big university center hospitals and watch the impacted families, children and medical staff try to cope.

Our hearts go out to all the children who will live near these new lines and who cannot choose otherwise. We cannot just sit by and not share with you what we have learned and lived through. We all have the ability to initiate change during a new project like this one which could set a precedent for others "to do the right thing." Please bury those lines. If that is not feasible, then please move them well away from people (specifically children and the elderly). Spend corporate monies/government tax monies not to make big profits but to educate all Americans so that more and bigger high voltage power lines do not have to be built crisscrossing our country just to satisfy our insatiable appetite for more energy and more corporate profits when doing so is hazardous to public health.

Thank you for allowing us to comment. If you would like any or all of the documentation and printed literature that supports our concerns, we would be more than happy to pay the postage and share—just ask. We pray you will seriously consider our concerns. If you have any questions, we can be contacted at (218) 444 7805.

Sincerely,

 : 

Richard L. and Barbara J. Anderson

From: [Sandy](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008 11:33:36 AM

We as residents a mile south of Highway 200 are very much **opposed** to the proposed South Macrocorridor and the Non-CNF Macrocorridor transmission lines.

It does not benefit us and there is a more direct route.

Again we are opposed to the two south proposed transmission lines.

Steve & Sandy Andrews

2341 64th Street NE

Remer, MN 56672

Joni Armstrong
11687 Long Lake Dr. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Suzanne Steinhauer, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



September 24, 2008

Re: Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I write this letter in concern with the proposed northern route for the Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line. Our family lives right underneath the present line. The line goes down our driveway and across the center of our yard between our house and the lake. At the time of our home purchase, we were told that the line would remain the same, so we are quite concerned about the proposed line increase in size and voltage and question what would happen to our home if this route were chosen.

My concerns include:

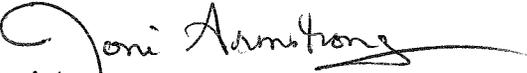
- 1) The power line would travel through amazing forest, lake, and river ecosystems along this route with adverse affects. This area is habitat for many species, including species on the threatened/endangered list such as bald eagles, swans, white pelicans, and gray wolves. Not to mention our state bird, the loon, state flower, the lady slipper and state tree, the white pine. The presence of this power line, I believe, would adversely affect these habitats and inhabitants.
- 2) Line installation would cause the destruction of many trees to create a corridor of sufficient width to accommodate the line.
- 3) Maintenance of the line would cause further tree destruction as well as the elimination of bushes and plants that were previously a part of the natural habitat through use of herbicides. We have experienced this personally in the maintenance of the present line across our property, when all of our raspberry and service berry plants were killed with maintenance spraying. Also the wonderful patch of wild raspberries that used to be on the Chippewa National Forest land along the line across Long Lake Dr. has been eliminated through power line herbicide spraying.
- 4) Use of herbicides in line maintenance and run off into the Turtle River or Turtle River Lake with resulting effects on aquatic life.
- 5) Health concerns of the effects of the electric fields surrounding high voltage power lines are a concern for me as a mother of four children. There have been a variety of research studies that have implicated exposure to power lines as responsible for adverse health effects such as cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and miscarriage, to cause me to question the safety of my family with exposure to this new line.

- 6) Health concerns regarding exposure to herbicides used in line maintenance. One of the reasons that I question this is that each year my children and I collect monarch caterpillars and watch them transform into a chrysalis and then butterfly before releasing them back to the wild. The years that herbicide has been sprayed in our area, the success of this complete metamorphosis has been only about 25% compared to nearly 100% in most years. I think this observation along with research studies read is significant enough to make me question the health effects of the herbicides used.

As I look at the map provided, it is obvious that the Highway 2 route would be the shortest and least expensive. It also follows an existing highway that is already cleared of trees, so would have much less environmental impact. As this area is already a highway, there would also be minimal effect on homes and families.

I thank you for your attention to my concerns and appreciate your consideration of them in your decision making.

Sincerely,


Joni Armstrong

From: [Roland Armstrong](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 KV transmission line.
Date: Monday, September 15, 2008 8:43:45 PM

I am adamantly opposed to the North Macrocorridor for this transmission line. Does this make any sense at all? Why not go straight over to where you need to go? Must we in the less populated areas always take the brunt for the reservations and highway departments, whose state they need to take ownership for? Please leave our wilderness alone. That is why we live there. We do not want giant towers and humming transmission lines in our backyard.

I was also unable to access any of the websites mentioned in the letter received today. My neighbor was also unable to access these. Is this on purpose? So we cannot see what you are getting us into?

Stay out of the North Macrocorridor!

**Roland Armstrong
218-368-2099**

From: abeeda.asfoor
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 9:08:17 AM

Suzanne,

I have reviewed the Macrocorridor Study. I understand why the Leech Lake Reservation would be opposed to a new line crossing their reservation. The central corridor is much shorter than the alternative corridors. From that standpoint it is a less expensive route to construct and maintain. There is less energy loss in transmission, and there are many sound environmental reasons to choose that route. The northern corridor has the most public water crossings; the most impacts to lakes and wetlands; the largest impact to agricultural lands, and second only to the southern corridor in terms of impact to forested lands. The northern corridor is prime gray wolf habitat, which may be relisted as an ESA species due to a recent court case.

I happen to live five miles east of Blackduck along County Road 13, within the alternative Northern corridor. That being said, I and the many rural residents living along County Rds 13 and 30 between Blackduck and Alvwood, object to the visual and potential health related issues of a transmission line in our face or over our heads. I believe there are also many residents living along state highway 6 running into Deer River from the north. I did not see this social impact addressed in the study.

I oppose the northern corridor. Thank you.

Jeff Asfoor

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown Lakes Association
4277 Baby Lake Trail NW
Hackensack, MN 56452

September 28, 2008

Regarding: Public Comment on the Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

To The Attention Of:

Suzanne Steinhauer, Project Manager, MN Office of Energy Security
Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor, MN Office of Energy Security
Bret Eknes, Public Advisor, MN Public Utilities Commission
Barbara Britton, Environ. Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Utility Services

As residents of properties that would be affected by the proposed Non-CNF Macrocorridor alternative power-line placement we are requesting that our views be considered in the decision-making process and reflected in the public comments regarding this project.

Ms Dietrich and I are also officers of the Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown Lakes Association. These lakes are located midway between Hackensack and Longville on either side of Cass County Road 5 with this road acting as a narrow isthmus between the lakes.

Acting on behalf of the more than 340 property owners on our lakes, our Board of Directors has taken a position that if a new line is truly needed – which according to several opinions still needs additional study and justification– that we would support a more rational and considered placement of this line in a different corridor and oppose the placement reflected in the proposed Non-CNF routing.

Many of our views reflect the well thought out views of others on this subject. Basically, we request that fair and reasonable criteria be employed to the decision-making process.

Some of the criteria that we believe should be controlling factors in the decision-making process are the following:

- A. Use a route that takes advantage of existing public lands or non-property taxed land rather than surrendering additional private property for “quasi” public use.
- B. Use a route that is direct and minimizes actual real costs or unintended costs to third parties. Minimize the impact on third parties that are neither service users or service providers – actively seek to identify and minimize unintended consequences.

A. Line placement using existing utility easements, public or non tax-roll land.

Any objective review of land ownership issue in Cass County will conclude that the amount of “public” lands or “off property tax-roll” real estate is significantly contributing to our ability to support needed public services. With the current unfolding economic issues, the situation in Cass County will only deteriorate. The location of the proposed power-line should not continue this deteriorating trend by removing more property from the tax rolls or cause existing property to lose tax valuation.

Inherent in the “Non-CFN” routing is the removal of land from the property tax-rolls or at best the adverse valuation impact on a number of private properties and business locations. Inherent in the location of more direct routing is the best use of existing non-taxed land. This is not a complex issue – people in Cass County in the lower economic strata, will see the continued trend of vital support systems being diminished. The power-line placement shouldn’t exacerbate this deterioration. It should be located on land that either has a significant public easement now or isn’t subject to existing property taxes.

The central and south corridors have, along most of their length, substantial existing utility easements that provide a framework for minimizing additional land acquisition. The “Non-CNF” route does not.

B. A route directly connecting Bemidji and Grand Rapids is the most rational, economic and lowest new net affect alternative.

In elementary school mathematics, our children are taught that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line – the exception being measuring distances influenced by the curvature of the earth or measuring distances subject to the planet’s rotation – both of the later seem not to be relevant to the power-line’s alternative options.

The Non-CFN routing would obviously result in a higher cost of construction as would some of the other circuitous routes. Whether these costs would be in number of power poles, wiring and cement or project planning, engineering or land acquisition, the Non-CFN route is clearly the worst choice and should not be considered in the “best use” analysis.

The south, north and central corridors alternatives present superior approaches to avoid higher densities of people and businesses. In addition to the “Non-CNF” impact on more people and businesses, this routing would present few viable options to navigate around, over or through the many lakes, wetlands, or other environmentally sensitive areas. All routes have some challenges, but this route appears to create the most challenges in this arena around our lakes.

Wildlife in our area have no boundaries. It moves unfettered off Chippewa Forest land into the surrounding forests. To give deference to a Chippewa National Forest route for protection of wildlife habitation or forest land is suspect at best. If any deference is given at all on this issue – then all potential routes have to be taken off the table - especially

since the least expansion of easement would be within the central corridor where the net impact increase on these factors would be the least.

Considering all factors, the perspective that the “Non-CNF” route is somehow a reasonable alternative to resolving issues present in all the other options is not understandable.

Why the “Non-CNF” is even considered as part of the “best use” analysis defies economic, environmental and rational considerations. The expenditure of additional private or public resources for any ongoing in-depth “study” of this as a legitimate potential option doesn’t seem to be the best use of limited resources.

On a subtle but important point, I’d like to suggest consideration of renaming the “Non-CNF” corridor option to the “Acquisition of Private Property Least Economical” route or “APPLE” route. That seems to be a better moniker for this option. Whether a route is CNF related or not, seems to be very secondary to the real issues that should be considered. A name like “Non-CNF” philosophically and psychologically pre-establishes “CNF” as being “more equal” than the rest of the parties involved. Every effort should be made to not make this an overt or covert political decision-making process. Let’s just stick to the facts.

In summary, if the current or a modified version of the “Non-CNF” corridor continues to be considered as an option, we would like to raise a few critical questions:

- Which alternative has the lowest overall construction costs, net new easement acquisition costs and the lowest net new impact on other factors to be considered in the decision-making process?
- Which alternative has the least additional obtrusiveness and harm to the interests of the greatest number of individual citizens in the affected area?
- Is conscious consideration being made to insure a true level playing field exists? Also does the mere existence of a governmental or political entity in this consideration tilt the decision-making process to treat individual rights differently?

Thank you for considering our concerns regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lindquist
President, Lakes Association
4277 Baby Lake Trail NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
218.682-2189
tomlndqst@aim.com

Linnea Dietrich
Vice President, Lakes Association
4405 Buxton Rd NW
Hackensack, MN 56452
218.682.2976
linneadietrich@tds.net

From: [Raymond Kirsch](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer;](#)
cc: [Raymond Kirsch;](#)
Subject: FW: COMMENT
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 9:23:10 AM

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

From: Linda Bathen [<mailto:lhathen@cox.net>]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:53 AM
To: Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us
Subject:

Mr Kirsch,

As a land owner on Long Lake, I am opposed to using the Northern Corridor option. The central corridor appears to be the most cost effective and I am concerned about the effect it would have on Long Lake .

Please consider my opposition . Thank You, Linda Bathen

51099 Wind Flower Drive
Bemidji, MN 56601
September 25, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Steinauer:

We are writing to oppose the use of Route 2 for the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line. We live between Highway 2 and Grace Lake and vigorously object to Route 2.

Aesthetic destruction of Hwy. 2 corridor. Tourism is the main industry for economic stability in this northern part of the state where lakes and pine abound. The visual destruction and disruption to this valuable riparian habitat would be a travesty if Route 2 were used. We are personally opposed to living under or within view of high voltage lines, especially when a route for pipeline use has an already established right of way.

Health risks. Studies and sources such as Microwave News conclude people exposed to above-average levels of EMF experience “a clear and consistent pattern” of increased cancer risk. *Remember when it took decades before the “experts” concluded there was a link between smoking—and now even second-hand smoke--and cancer?* There is not enough longitudinal data to fully determine the long-term effects of EMF exposure, regardless of exposure levels.

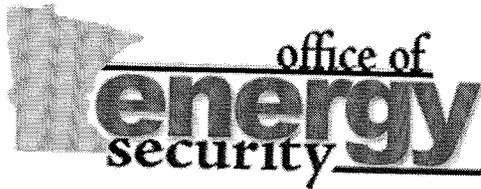
Health concerns for daycare. There is an infant/child daycare facility “(Tot Stop”) located at Hwy. 2 and Wind Flower Drive. The effects of high voltage lines upon children who remain there for periods up to ten or hours per day are unknown. A study in the UK found a link between power line EMF and childhood leukemia as reported by the BBC on October 30, 2004.

We request these comments be included in the scoping and environmental review process.

Sincerely,


Nancy Benson


Noel Benson



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

Name:

George Berbee

Representing:

*Peter Berbee estate & James Berbee
& George Berbee*

Address:

39094 Co. Rd. 88, Cohasset, MN 55721

Email:

none

Comments:

I know you are presently deciding which route to construct your power lines on. Since we are located east of Deer River, MN, along U.S. Highway 2, we would prefer that you stay along your present corridor south of U.S. Hwy 2. We see no need to devalue more property with electric poles etc by placing them near more homes in fields and blazing more swaths through wooded areas.

*Sincerely,
George Berbee*

Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

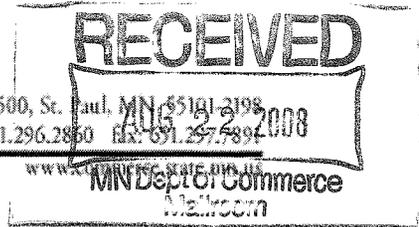
Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891

From: [Charlotte Bergstrom](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: RE: Proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 8:43:08 AM

Ms. Steinhauer:

Being a fairly logical person, I am amazed that a route from Bemidji to Grand Rapids for a transmission line would come anywhere near Hackensack. I know you have all the data on which route would be best, but the political game must be played. I am sure that I do not need to mention the fact that the distance from the logical route along Hwy #2 to the Hackensack route has at least doubled. With that I am sure that costs has also doubled. No one wants a power line in their backyard, but if we want power then we will have power lines. Let's get it done in the most efficient way with the lowest cost to all.

Thank you,
Terry Bergstrom
6412 Bear Paw Trl
Hackensack, MN



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

Name:

Representing:

Gerald Borman

Address:

Email: gbsb@paulbunyan.net

48851 Thunderbolt DR., Bemidji, MN, 56601

Comments:

I live on alt. route A and currently have power line fairly close to my house. I am fearful of another line, or a bigger line for health and safety reasons as it would practically go over my home. I do not know if my home would even be salable with your line over my roof. For these reasons I would like to not have you use alt route A. By using route 2 it looks like less personal homes would be affected.

Thank You

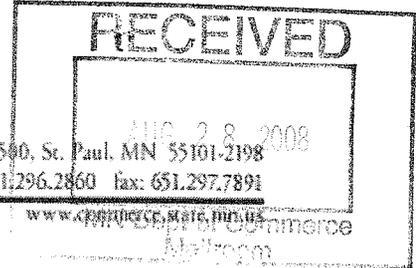
Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891



PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

Name:

Tandy Bowman

Representing:

Horizons Home Adult Foster Care

Address:

2800 Arrowwood Circle, NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Email:

horizons_home@hotmail.com

Comments:

I am extremely concerned about this project in regards to the vicinity of my property.

- The electromagnetic fields that is produced that causes contamination within the soil and into my well.

- Extreme fire hazard should one of the lines snap or should the poles be blown down by the gale force winds that we do have, falling into the Norway Pines in any of the yards around me.

- I own an Adult Foster Home for Mentally Challenged individuals and this is a huge concern for a health issue for us.

Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891

From: [Tandy Bowman](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us; Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us;
[US](#);
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 10:03:50 PM

As a resident who lives on the route of one of your routes on HWY 2 I am strongly NOT in favor of this coming my back yard, especially with a business that house vulnerable adults. I am also very concerned that we as residents are being yanked around and given some story line. I tried your www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis and there are no maps or detailes information regarding this particular line. There is no Alternatives Evaluation Study to look at. You need to make it a little more simplified for individuals to understand your lingo. According to the first map of specific routes, Route 1 and 2 are now the Central Macrocorridor if I read my maps correctly. That is the route that I DO NOT WANT TO HAPPEN. The South Macrocorridor or the Non-CNF Macrocorridor seem to be the least of populated areas for housing. One of those routes WOULD be my pick.

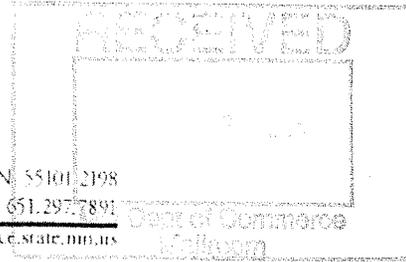
Please make things a little less complicated for the major public residents to view and understand all that you are trying to accomplish, please. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tandy Bowman
2800 Arrowwood Circle NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

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85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us



PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

Name:

Richard & Lori Brink

Representing:

Brink Farms

8-14-08

Address:

30751 County Road 178
Deer River, Mn. 56636

Email:

brfarms57@yahoo.com

Comments:

Brink Farms has been a commercial wild Rice grower since 1968. We are a family owned and operated farm. Our main concern on the transmission line project for the proposed site would be your location. It would be a great disaster to our livelihood. With the lines going on the south side of our farm, it would be impossible for us to fly on fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides for our rice. Aerial flying is the only way to do this due to flooded paddies. Our rice paddies are also all tilled grounds. We, as a family farm would greatly appreciate an alternative route for your line. Please keep us informed of your decision.

Sincerely,

Brink Farms

Richard & Lori Brink

8-14-08

Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891

From: terry_bush
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: BEMIDJI - GRAND RAPIDS TRANSMISSION LINE
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 9:18:12 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a part owner of some land with other family members in the Long Lake area north of Remer, Minnesota and would like to comment on the proposed South Macro-corridor of the BEMIDJI - GRAND RAPIDS TRANSMISSION LINE.

Personally,

I would be greatly disappointed if the line went anywhere near the Long Lake area as this is a prized recreation area for many hikers, campers, hunters and wildlife observers, among other users. This somewhat isolated land, void of a lot of human ownership and landscape changes that usually is only by mother nature in most respects is highly sought after by many of the individuals who venture here for solitude and peaceful re-collections.

Economically

, By observing the proposed routes, I am baffled why any other route would be considered, especially in this stressed economic times where a shortest - easier to erect & maintain in the future route, as the straight line route between Bemidji and Grand Rapids, (Central Corridor). At the prices of commodities today, (steel, copper & aluminum wire - to name a few) and the labor to add 30+ miles to the central line to take another route, to me and others seems not only wasteful, but poor management of resources.

Also, with the present 60 KV line and Hwy. 2 to follow on a fairly straight shot and much easier maintenance of the line for the future budgets to contend with - I don't see any other feasible route, but the Central Corridor.

I hope you can convey these thoughts to the oversight committee when consideration of the routes are taken.

Thank You for your time in this matter,
Terry Bush.

From: [Jane Carlson](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids Power Line
Date: Monday, September 29, 2008 5:29:54 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer and Mr. Kirsch:

We write in response to a letter we received from your office regarding Notice of Extended Comment Period for the Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kv Transmission Line. After perusing the HDR studies regarding the issues and concerns that apply in selecting an appropriate route for the line, we would like to go on record as strongly encouraging the selection of the original central corridor route, which is by far the most cost effective for the power companies and their patrons.

Please keep us informed as the decision-making process goes forward. Thank you. Jane and Denny Carlson



**CHILD, GIRL AND WOMAN LAKE
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
BOX 335
LONGVILLE, MN 56655**

September 24, 2008

Subject: Public Comment on the Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Mr. Kruse and I are both residents in or near the “Non-CNF (Non-Chippewa National Forest) Macrocorridor” recently presented for extended public comment. We are also president and vice president, respectively, of the Child, Girl and Woman Lake Property Owners Association (CGWLPOA). The Association board of directors, acting in the interests of its over 600 members and families, recently voted unanimously to oppose the use of the “non-CNF” macrocorridor for this transmission line routing. This strong opposition is based on the following considerations:

- 1) The “Non-CNF” macrocorridor is not within the utilities’ service areas.
To our knowledge neither Ottertail nor Minnkota serves any users within the east/west portion of this corridor. It simply seems logical that transmission lines, whenever possible, should be proximate to the primary areas being served by the utility(s). Rarely, if ever, should it be necessary, because of such considerations as population density, topographical features, etc., to “gerrymander” transmission lines.
- 2) The “Non-CNF” macrocorridor would appear to be, by a substantial margin, the most costly alternative.
This conclusion is based on the likelihood of:
 - Higher direct construction costs in the non-CNF route.
Any alternative to the “central” macrocorridor would presumably entail substantially more cabling, poles and construction time.
 - Greater acquisition/condemnation costs in the non-CNF corridor.
Sections of this route (as currently drawn) would pass through areas of relatively dense development of resorts and private residences many of which are located on or near lake shore. Even if the necessary easements do not necessitate the acquisition of entire properties and are obtained via the exercise of eminent domain, diminution of value issues may arise which could further increase costs.
- 3) The burden of additional costs associated with any of the alternatives to the “Central” macrocorridor would ultimately fall, in the form of rate increases, to the customers of the utilities and perhaps, to all or most taxpayers in the service area and potentially beyond.

- 4) In addition to the above points, it appears that the “north,” “south” and, particularly, the “central” macrocorridors would be far better alternative routes to the “non-CNF” option for the following reasons:
- The central and south corridors have, along most of their length, substantial existing right-of-way and utility easements that may only require limited expansion, if any at all, to accommodate the new lines.
 - As mentioned earlier, the non-CNF corridor passes through some relatively densely developed residential areas, sometimes weaving among numerous lakes – occasionally separated by only several hundred feet – with no apparent alternative routings other than bringing the lines directly over literally thousands of feet of water and wetlands, some of which are protected and/or environmentally sensitive.
 - It appears that the central corridor, and possibly the south and north corridor alternatives as well, present actual routing options that could be followed in order to avoid some areas of higher population and/or building density. This is in rather stark contrast to portions of the “non-CNF” corridor that present few, if any, viable routing options.
- 5) It is appropriate to consider “best use” arguments when reviewing CNF corridors only if it is balanced by due consideration for “best use” of private as well as non-federal lands or property.

It is our understanding that among the “input received from the federal agencies and tribal organizations participating in the NEPA review,” was a concern regarding “best use” considerations within areas of the Chippewa National Forest that might be considered for new or expanded easement for the proposed transmission lines.

In the instant case, we assume that any additional easements through the CNF would utilize such a small percentage of undeveloped forest land that the impact of line construction should not materially impact habitat, environmental and/or forest management issues. Also, it may be that attendant costs of CNF route construction, easement acquisition and/or obtaining special use permits could be substantially mitigated by commercial timber sales.

In any event, we cannot understand how the current non-CNF corridor alternative is somehow better than the other three options based on “best use” considerations alone or in combination with the other cost and impact issues previously outlined.

In summary we would urge the utilities and the state and federal agencies that are engaged in reviewing corridor and routing alternatives for this transmission line to not unnecessarily spend additional time and money on more detailed studies (EIS; precise route plans; engineering studies; etc.) on what seems to be an untenable “non-CNF” alternative.

However, if the current or a modified “non-CNF” corridor remains in the field of consideration, then we would hope that the selection decision would be primarily based on the answer to two key questions:

- Which alternative has the lowest estimated costs (construction and easement acquisition)?
- Which alternative results in the least obtrusiveness and harm to the interests of the greatest number of individual citizens in the affected area?

If you should have questions or require additional information, please contact either Don Kruse or myself. Contact information is listed below.

We would very much appreciate being kept informed of any significant developments as this process moves forward.

Thank you in advance for your full consideration of our concerns and supporting arguments.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth D. Kostial
3404 Shore Acres Road NW
Longville, MN 56655
kostial@tds.net
218-682-3532

Don Kruse
3553 Bluebill Trail NE
Longville, MN 56655
krusedj@arvig.net
218-363-2580

Cc: (with copy of Corridor Map and letter soliciting public comment)

Congressman James Oberstar’s Aide, Ken Hasskamp
State Senator Mary Olson
State Representative Larry Howes

Cass County Commissioner Jeff Peterson
Cass County Commissioner James Dowson
Cass County Commissioner Virgil Foster
Cass County Commissioner Jim Demgen
Cass County Commissioner Robert Kangas

From: [Dawsons](#)
To: Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us; jmetcalf@otpc.com; Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids transmission line
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2008 3:51:30 PM

September 28, 2008

Dear Mr. Kirsch, Mr. Metcalf, and Ms. Steinhauer,

I hope that you will consider supporting the central Bemidji-Grand Rapids proposed route for the 230 kilovolt transmission line. I understand you are considering alternative routes including a northern one.. From what I can tell, the original proposal is the most economical for the state, will serve a wider population and would be less disruptive to the environment.

Wherever you decide to put it, there will be someone who wishes it to be somewhere else. The best for the state is the one that I hope you choose.

Sincerely,
Helen Dawson
9118 Marcella Dr NE
Bemidji MN 56601

From: Rodney & Kathy Dehart [theharts@paulbunyan.net]
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2008 9:35 AM
To: Suzanne Steinhauer
Subject: Proposed Cap X2020 Transmission line

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Red

Dear Sirs:

After attending the public meeting at the Hampton Inn in Bemidji MN on August 14, 2008 I have decided to send a comment here.

After reviewing the proposed Route's (#1 and # 2) I find no problem with them for me.

In the event that these routes need to be altered or changed, through my area, I would like to comment.

I live on 279 TH Avenue in Hubbard County, Farden Township, just South of US Hwy #2 and South of the Burlington Northern RR tracks.

My home is located just South of the tracks to the Necktie River and on the East side of 279TH Avenue.

There is a narrow strip of land (just South of the tracks) where there is a stand of large , old growth, Red Pine trees.

This stand is parallel to the tracks and 200 to 400 Yds deep and about a mile long.

My home is located in a small part of this stand of trees.

In the event that the power line were rerouted through this area it would devastate this stand of timber and decrease the value of my property considerably

There are a couple of other property owners in this strip whom would also be greatly affected.

Please keep this in mind if changing or altering the proposed route through this area.

I am enclosing a photo of my home which will show the Red Pine Trees.

Sincerely

Rodney & Kathy Dehart
50620 279 TH Avenue
Bemidji MN 56601

Phone # 218-751-0731



From: [John Dowell](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt transmission line
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008 10:59:37 AM

Ms. Steinhauer,

In reviewing the map of possible routes it appears that from an economic and compatibility point of view the central corridor would be the logical route. It appears to offer the most flexibility in missing heavier populated areas, and obviously a much shorter route.

I live within the south corridor area and certainly would be opposed to this route from a compatibility aspect. I feel the south route would be the heaviest populated area to negotiate and thereby more than likely the most expensive.

Respectfully,
John Dowell
Seasonal Address
6107 Macemon Rd.
Remer, MN 56672



Re: PUC Docket # TL-07-1327
(route permit)

Bemidji - Grand Rapids ~~2~~ 230
kV transmission line

To: state and federal agencies considering
the route of the power line

c/o Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer

Project Manager

Minn. Dept. of Commerce, Office of
Energy Security

85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Our cabin on the south shore of
Woman Lake is directly in the path of the
Non-CNF power line corridor. Like many
of our neighbors, we have done much
of the work to build it ourselves. We
spent thousands of dollars for a county-
recommended erosion control project to
maintain the water quality of Woman Lake,
even after promised county financial aid
was not forthcoming. Although we do not

fish, Woman Lake is a premier walleye lake'.

Residents and resort patrons walk and bicycle along County Road 11 (aka Woman Lake Road), and would be exposed to any harmful effects caused by the close proximity of high voltage lines. Indeed the Non-CNF route goes through the midst of the land separating Woman Lake, by a relatively short walk, from Blackwater Lake, immediately to the south. The area lakes have resorts and a large number of lake cabins and year-round homes. There are also a considerable number of non-lake homes in the path of the Non-CNF corridor. Lowering the value of these properties would decrease the tax base of Woodrow Township and, to a lesser extent, of Cass County and the school district.

In conclusion this is not a good route. It would cause more harm than the two routes (near U.S. Highway 2) suggested

p. 3 of 3 Early

by the power company.

We appreciate any consideration
that you give to these facts.

Sept. 29, 2008

Sincerely,
Jim Early
Jayne Early

Jim Early
Jayne Early
3 Red Fox Road
St. Paul, MN 55127

(651) 484-5734

From: Ron Eischens [rjeischens@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 7:20 AM
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us
Subject: Comments on Proposed High Voltage Transmission Line
Suzanne,

Please consider these my comments on your upcoming study of the above project:

Health - Primary concern of ours are the health impact of living adjacent and near this transmission line. I believe an objective third party (Dept of Health) should conduct its own study of this matter to determine what, if any, health impacts there are of such lines.

Value Calculation - While perhaps not part of any EIS report, this component is vital to those landowners who are impacted. As a finance person by trade and from being impacted by eight pipelines running through my land I speak from some experience on this matter. A one time payment for property rights (easements) does not provide adequate value from my perspective. THIS line will dissect my property, and while it is "only" an easement, it effectively ruins my property from its intended use, which is recreation and long term development. Calculating the value on a per acre basis and then reducing that amount for the "easement" is just not providing proper value to the landowner. IF anything we should be paid a "premium" for allowing such a project and an annual payment thereafter for taxes.

Annual Maintenance - Project owners should be required to annually mow and maintain the areas to eliminate noxious weeds and the like that already occur on the pipeline projects through my property.

Environmental Impacts - The preferred route will take the project through some prime natural habitat in the form of the Necktie River basin on my property. This is a designated trout stream by the MN Dept of DNR. Why should we continue to sacrifice prime wildlife habitat for the sake of the public good when alternative routes along the highway 2 corridor exist???? SO what if MN Dept of Transportation has "rules" about what can be placed on "their" right of way???? Let's work TOGETHER on this and make some compromises in order to save a diminishing land base for wildlife habitat!!!! Come on, talk to our legislators and tell them the highway 2 corridor is a natural PATH for this project. IT is already cleared and adequate right of way exists to place this project on. Let's make this a team effort and not place the burden on landowners, ESPECIALLY those like myself, who have ALREADY sacrificed, for the good of the public, to have 8 pipelines cross my property!!

Speaking of pipelines, on the one hand I can see why the power companies want to follow the current pipeline route as it is already established, but as a landowner why should I have to give any more. The wider the pipeline and transmission easements take, the less habitat is available as more is destroyed. I feel as though I've paid enough of a "price" for the good of all, by having pipelines on my property.

Those are my comments at this time, thanks.

Ron Eischens
50154 279th Ave
Bemidji, MN 56601

Ron Eischens
50154 279th Ave
Bemidji, MN 56601

218-
652-
4868

Joel + Judith Elavsky
33142 ~~St~~ Cty 23
Akeley MN 56433

Suzanne Steinhauer-

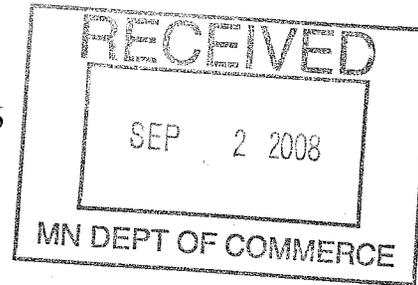
We have great concern regarding the proposed 250 volt transmission line that may be put on Hubbard county Rd 25.

Our concerns are as follows:
What are the health issues of living so close to such a high powered line, and how would the proposed 25 easement would effect the beauty and the value of our property. We request that our concerns will be addressed and resolved before such a line is considered. Thank you regarding your time + effort for these requests.

Sincerely Judith +
Joel ~~Elavsky~~ Elavsky

so sorry so messy
JJC

August 27, 2008
30919 Arctic RD
Deer River, MN 56636



Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Suzanne,

This is our Public Comment Sheet for the Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project. We are William & Connie Evers, JR. We live maybe a mile from Hwy 2 in Ball Club at 31223 County RD 39 and attended the August 13th meeting in Deer River.

We believe the power companies should be directed to:

1. always use the configurations best for reducing EMF's and change the existing ones to the best configurations also.
2. put warnings & fences around all transformers & other strong sources of EMF's; put warnings 660 yards away from power lines.
3. place all power lines over 660 yards away from homes & other buildings or land that people or animals spend time in.
4. fund studies to see how EMF's affect crops and animals
5. warn the public to use frequency weighted Gauss meters to measure EMF's around their homes, especially where the power comes into their home, around appliances, computers, phones, TV's, microwaves, etc.; to unplug water bed heaters and electric blankets when in use; and keep electric clocks at least 6 feet away from beds. Poor wiring can cause high EMF's, too.
6. promote lowering the US standards of acceptable EMF levels to what other countries have decided.

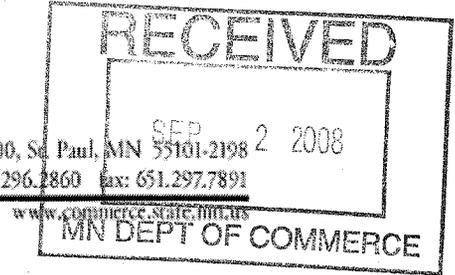
Sources: www.mercola.com/article/emf/emf_dangers.htm
www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-451223/Growing-evidence-power-line-dangers.h...
[//alternativemedicinetruth.blogspot.com/2005/06/power-line-dangers.html](http://alternativemedicinetruth.blogspot.com/2005/06/power-line-dangers.html)
[//news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7253511.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7253511.stm)

Thank You,

Bill Evers Jr
Connie Evers



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891



PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit), CN-07-1222 (Certificate of Need)

Name:

Representing:

William Evers, JR + Connie Evers

William Evers, SR + Wanda Evers

Address: ^(Physical) 31223 Cty Rd 39 ^{mailing} 30919 Arctic Rd Email:

Deer River, MN 56636 Deer River, MN 56636

Comments:

We believe the Power Companies should be directed to:

1. Always use the configurations best for reducing EMF's + change the existing ones to the best.
2. Put warnings + fences around all transformers + other strong sources of EMF's.
3. Place all power lines over 660 yards away from homes, other buildings or land that people or animals spend time in.
4. Post warnings 660 from power lines.
5. Do studies to see if EMF's affect growing crops + animals.
6. Warn the public to stay away from + check EMF's around places power comes into homes.
7. Warn the public to check EMF's around appliances, computers, phones, TVs, etc + for post warnings to not use waterbeds + electric blankets, or to unplug heaters when in use, + to keep electric clocks at least 6 feet away from beds.

8. Promote lowering US standards of acceptable EMF levels to what other countries have decided, ↓

Sources: //alternativemedicine.net/with_blogspot.com/2005/06/power-line-dangers.htm //news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7253511.stm
www.mercola.com/article/emf/emf_dangers.htm www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-451223/Growing-evidence-power-line-dangers.htm

Please submit comments by August 29, 2008 to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
Minnesota Dept. of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-296-2888
Fax: 651-297-7891

Ray Kirsch, Advisor for Route Permit Proceedings
Minnesota Department of Commerce

Sept. 22, 2008

Re: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Volt Transmission Line Route 2 Central Macrocorridor

Please register my opposition to the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Volt Transmission Line Route 2, Central Macrocorridor.

Also, please have my submission read aloud at the extended scoping and/or comment meetings, and included as an appendix in the EIS and other appropriate public comment documents. I thank you in advance for your help, as I cannot attend in person.

ISSUES:

Grace Lake's established year-round residential areas are not appropriate for a 230 volt transmission line and its unaesthetic, polluting towers and unsightly right-of-way.

Grace Lake contains several valuable wetland/shoreline habitats and the Grace Lake/Wolf Lake seasonal stream, not appropriate for an intrusive 230 Volt Transmission Line.

PRECEDENTS:

The South side of Grace Lake features underground utilities, and the historic elimination of un-needed roads and easements. Residents have preserved the single access road unpaved to minimize traffic, noise and pollution. These aesthetics should be respected.

INCOMPLETE EIS AND UNADDRESSED ITEMS

Grace Lake is a beautiful example of a glacial kettlehole (round) lake, featuring golden glacial sand, excellent for swimming beaches.

The west end contains bullrush and cattail habitat and the adjoining west wetland has been used in the past as a fish hatchery, and could be again.

The bullrush/cattail habitat area is used by nesting loons, crested mergansers, muskrats and great blue herons.

The east end of Grace Lake has a seasonal wetland/waterway connection to the Wolf Lake Chain which provides a pathway for gamefish, including walleye.

The south side of Grace Lake, threatened directly by the Route 2 Bemidji -Grand Rapids 230 Volt Transmission Line, Central Macro corridor, has a wetland/swamp frequented by deer, bear, raccoons, amphibians and many bird species.

Bald eagles use trees on the south side of Grace Lake for day roosting and fishing.

Health issues: Wildlife, residents and their young children will be placed at undo risk from electromagnetic emissions from a 230 Volt Transmission Line. ANY risk level is unacceptable, especially when alternative routes away from residential areas are available.

CONCLUSION

The environmental assets of the Grace Lake area should never be compromised by the imposition of the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Volt Transmission Line, Route 2, Central Macro corridor. Its right-of-way alone would wipe out smaller residential properties on the south side of Grace Lake, as well as destroy valuable habitat.

Sincerely,
Debra Falcon, Geologist
Grace Lake property owner
Falcon.Debra@gmail.com

From: [Raymond Kirsch](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer;](#)
cc: [Raymond Kirsch;](#)
Subject: FW: Transmission Lines COMMENT
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 10:35:56 AM

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

From: Gary Falldin [<mailto:gfalldin@closettailors.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 10:19 AM
To: Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us
Subject: Transmission Lines

Ray,

This email is in regard to a proposed transmission line from Bemidji to Grand Rapids. I own a cabin north of Talmoon and I know the area very well. The North Macrocorridor would run north out of Deer River which would bring the line through the Chippewa National Forest. Why run more lines through that part of the National forest.

I would feel the best choice would be the route along Hwy 2, this route already has development long it's path. Why not leave the northern area unspoiled.

Gary Falldin
612-802-3696

Date: 09/24/2008

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



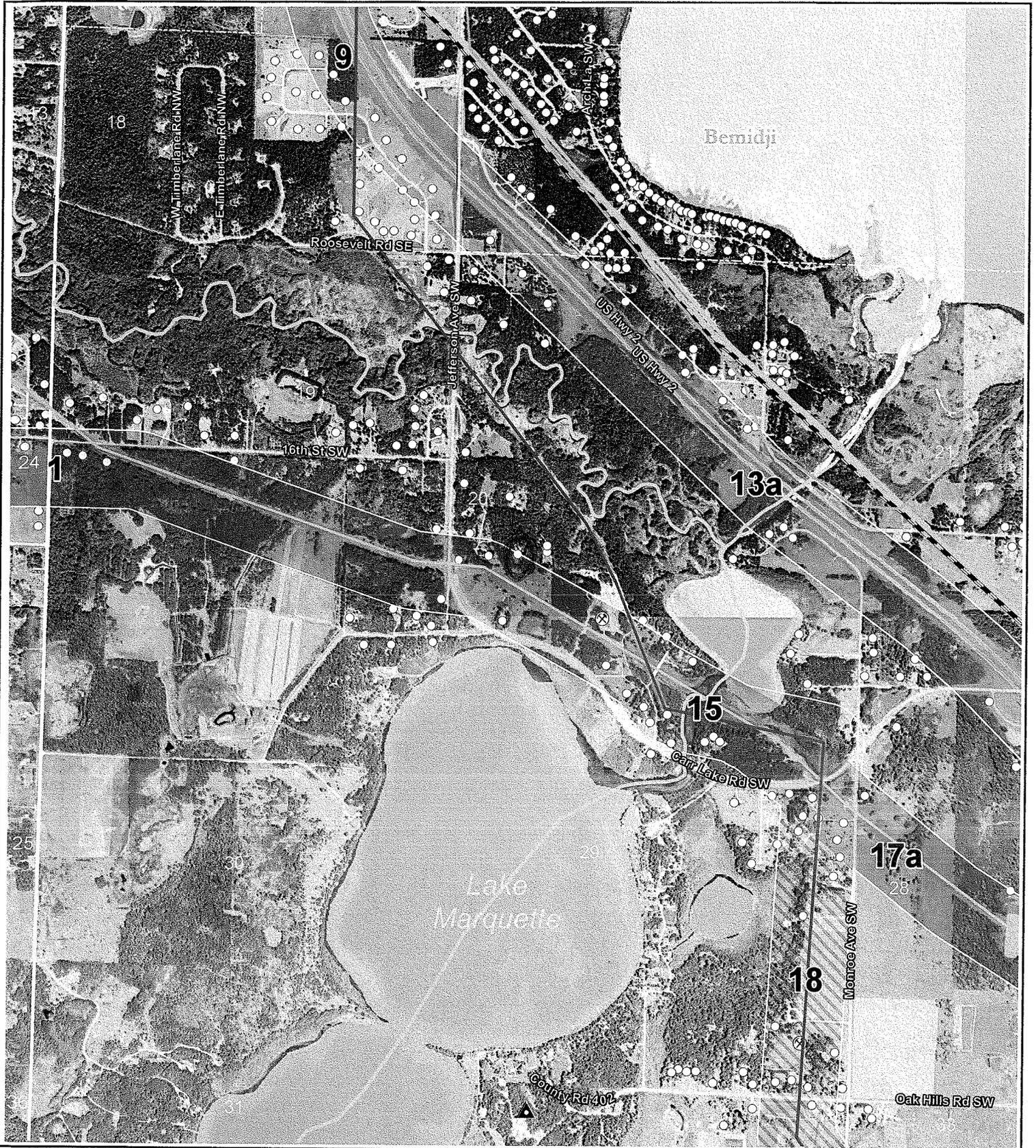
From: greenside45@comcast.net
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Date: Monday, September 29, 2008 5:40:07 AM

Dear Suzanne,

I have property at the intersection of US HWY 2 and MN 371. on the NW corner. I am sure that the power line is a priority for the area to be able to blend into future electric power demands. My concern and hope is that it does not go directly through my property which paraell with HWY 2. Please that consideration in mind.

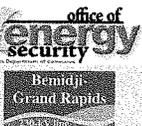
Sincerly,

Dean Greenside

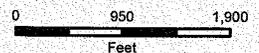


Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Public Scoping Meeting: Bemidji - August 14, 2008

Township: 146 Range: 33 Section: 20



Routes represent potential areas within which a 125-foot transmission right-of-way might be located.



- Potential Routes**
- Route 1
 - Route 2
 - Routes 1 & 2
 - Alternate Segment
 - Crossover Segment

- Existing Transmission Lines**
- 69 kV Transmission Line
 - 115 kV Transmission Line
 - 230 kV Transmission Line
 - Substation
 - Project Endpoint

- Leech Lake Reservation**
- Existing Pipeline
 - Proposed Enbridge Pipeline
 - Communication Tower
 - Proposed Cass Lake Substation

- Natural Resource Areas**
- Wildlife Management Area
 - Chippewa Forest
 - MN State Forest
 - MN DNR SNA

- Hydrology**
- Emergent Wetland (NWI) Forested /
 - Shrub Wetland (NWI)
 - PWI Lake
 - PWI Stream

- Recreational Trail**
- Snowmobile Trail
 - Water Access
 - Residences
 - Gravel Pit

Data Sources: 2003 NAIP aerial photography; MN DNR, MN LMIC, Chippewa NF, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

JACK GUSTAFSSON

6089 N. PORTAGE LN. N.W.

CASS LAKE, MN 56633

IN REGARDS TO THE PROPOSED 230 KV
POWER LINE BETWEEN GRANDMAIDS & BEMIDJI,
MY INPUT/CONCERNS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. I CAN ACCEPT THE NEED FOR THIS
CONNECTOR LINE, BUT FEEL THAT THE ELECTRICAL
INDUSTRY SHOULD MAXIMIZE THEIR EFFORTS TO
ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO REPAIR THEIR ELECTRICAL
USE. WE JUST CAN'T KEEP USING MORE & MORE!
2. I MUCH PREFER ROUTE #1 AS THERE IS
MUCH LESS IMPACT TO THE VISUAL RESOURCE
ESPECIALLY THE US-2 CORRIDOR. EAST OF
BENA THE POWER LINE ALONG US-2 ACROSS
THE CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST SHOULD BE
LOCATED SOUTH OF THE R.R. AS FAR FROM
US-2 AS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE VISUAL IMPACT
OF THE LINE.
3. NO PART OF ^{PROPOSED} ROUTE #2 SHOULD IMPLEMENTED
AS THERE IS TOO MUCH IMPACT TO THE VISUAL
RESOURCE ALONG US-2 PARTICULARLY IN THE
AREA BETWEEN PIKE BAY & CASS LAKE. IN
THIS NARROW CORRIDOR (BETWEEN PIKE BAY & CASS LAKE)
THERE IS ALREADY A RD., 2 LANE HIGHWAY,
PIPE LINE, BIKE TRAIL, & FIBER OPTIC LINE. A
230 KV LINE HERE WOULD HAVE A MAJOR VISUAL
IMPACT HERE TO TRAFFIC ON US-2, BIKERS
ON THE MI-GI-ZI TRAIL, BOATERS ON ALL OF
PIKE BAY & ALL OF S.W. CASS LAKE.

Jack Gustafsson

P.S. WOULD LIKE TO BE ON MAILING LIST.