

James and Judy Haack
2510 North Plantagenet Rd. SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

August 27, 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 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 USDA-RD-UT assistance with financing:

1) Why would you finance a route to pass right through the most populated urban area in north-central Minnesota? The less populated areas existing all over on a route directly south from Wilton and then directly east toward the Boswell Substation just make much more common sense, logic and good judgment. The cost to the energy corporations involved might be more but, as always, they would pass that cost on to their customers just as they would if they were required to put this new line underground or comply to any other type of regulation. The impact on endangered and other wildlife species, wetlands and cultural and historic resources would be the same in either case. The impact is huge, however, on a densely-populated area of hundreds of families who will all be affected adversely by these high voltage lines--**this is 230 kV we are talking about--not a small emissions line.** The loss of ability to inhabit the homes they have worked for, saved for, have mortgages on, and raise small children in would not have nearly this severe of an economic impact when the line is approved for a route well away from our city and its surrounding area.

2) Please consider what the unpredictable stray voltage impact will be on this density of people. In the woodlands of Northern Minnesota several rare but easily explained occurrences result from electromagnetic fields (EMF): Damaged conifer needles growing close to power lines serve much the same function as a lightning rod in discharging electricity built-up in the air and power lines can create stray voltage effects that cause constant low-level electric shock.

3) These same EMFs have been linked in accredited research throughout the world to be as much as two-fold in blood cancers (especially childhood leukemia), and significantly in such serious diseases as brain cancers, neurodegenerative diseases, and changing 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. In addition studies have shown EMF are linked to a number of other health disorders including altered sensitivity to drugs and toxins, disruption of the biological clock, mood, sleep disorders and chronic depression. There is accredited scientific research on EMF causing miscarriages, infertility, Alzheimer's, immune system deregulation, allergic and inflammatory responses and much much more. Any citizen can read the Journal articles in their local library and/or the more than 207,000 research articles on the world wide web. This common knowledge makes all property within hundreds of feet of high voltage power lines not only aesthetically displeasing but reduces the property value and causes a deterioration of the community that the lines intersect. To add insult to injury the owner can no longer use their property, can't sell their property, but still officially own the land and must pay the taxes on it. **Profit over health is not acceptable.**

(more)

4) Private for-profit corporations are asking for our tax money through your loans, financing, or approval to take the land they say they will need away from taxpayers. They are all profit oriented with many more corporate endeavors than energy. Our utilities are no longer state managed or partially government owned and are involved in businesses that raise huge revenues for their stock holders and their corporations. The fact that they are granted the outdated (because it was originally allowed to be used by state and government bodies for the good of the general population) privilege of taking the land they need without buying it at a fair market value or by providing yearly payments to cover maintenance (like mowing and spraying for noxious weeds that utility trucks bring in) and ever increasing taxes. This is completely unfair.

5) For a one time payment the owner is restricted (for generations) from using their land yet must maintain it and pay the taxes as long as they or their family owns it. If the land can be sold the new owner inherits the previously granted right of way or easement and they must pay the future taxes also. Corporate profit makers don't pay the taxes on the land they use and control. What a deal for them. This is totally unacceptable.

6) For every research study proving EMF hazards there are studies funded by the energy industry monies to disprove the research. One can read about the shock an energy company board or CEO displays when their funded research disproves their position and proves there are significant health risks. The general public, however, sees the impact on their families, friends and neighbors (much like they saw the impact of smoking on health and lives for nearly two decades before the studies by the medical profession and government agencies fully outweighed the studies funded by the tobacco industry). This places a stigma on any property impacted by EMF for owners, neighbors and devalued purchasing prospects for all the surrounding land. The number of prospective buyers are enormously reduced and the land value hugely depreciated. 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 so many small tracts of personal property is unacceptable when there is so much open land away from the city and its adjoining townships that is significantly less populated.

7) After attending the scoping meeting in Bemidji on August 14 I began to share copies of the handouts with neighbors and other people affected. Without exception they were shocked to find that they were in the Priority 1 Route Line because the Bemidji Pioneer's copy of the map shows a very dark black line for Route 2 and a light gray line for Route 1. They knew they were not in the dark line area so they did not attend the scoping meeting. Why was this allowed. People are upset and rightly so. Shouldn't you consider an extension for your comment period and additional scoping meetings to get a true account of the total impact and additional comments that would have been given

If, indeed, this 230 kV line is needed then please seriously consider major changes in the routes by either going well above the densely populated Bemidji area (at least a 12-mile donut area) or well below it. The two routes that are currently priority choices are only cost saving for the profit-making companies involved. The impact on health, property values and prosperity is huge. As the governmental agencies charged with spending our tax dollars wisely your responsibility is to use discernment and good judgment so that we **all** share a productive nation in harmony with human health and in harmony with a quality environment.

Respectfully,

 James J. and Judy C. Haack P.E. (RET)

James J. and Judy C. Haack

From: Diane Halverson [tdak@paulbunyan.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2008 7:25 PM
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us
Subject: PowerLineRoute
August 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We live on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Carr Lake Road and have recently (just today, Aug. 27, 2008) seen an update of the proposed route of the high powered electric lines. A friend stopped by with a map.

We are extremely concerned about the effects of such a powerful line in a rather highly populated rural area.

We have a home and a business on our property and there are many nice homes, new housing developments and wildlife... “lake and river life” in the path of the projected line. We are on a game reserve. We are near Carr Lake, Lake Marquette, Lake Plantagenet, Lake Irving, Schoolcraft River and Mississippi River. What effect will the magnetic field have on this area?

We do not feel that we have been well informed of the route...our rights....health issues...and property value issues resulting from the project. No one has come to our home or business and visited with us about the proposal.

When will the plan be completed and what recourse do we have to protect ourselves? We are not in a position to relocate and as a family, we are preserving one of Bemidji’s landmarks.

**Terry and Diane Halverson (Zoomer’s Rod Shop, Diane’s Dance Studio)
2339 Monroe Ave. S.W. Bemidji MN 56601
218-751-1743
tdak@paulbunyan.net**

**Lois Dale, THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE (Art Supplies, Gift Shops)
2335 Monroe Ave. S.W. Bemidji MN 56601
218-751-4723**



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:

Representing:

Norley Hansen

Address:

Email:

37204 Co Rd. #63 Cohasset, MN 55721

Comments:

I would like to make one last comment about using private property for a utility corridor with a one time payment. Often this payment is very little or non-existent and does not properly compensate a landowner for the use of this property. Most areas (states) the utility is required to pay a yearly fee in addition to help the landowner pay property taxes and compensation for reduced use of this property.

IT must be kept in mind that a utility corridor severely limits the corridor and perhaps the whole property to use. A utility corridor can't be used for housing, tree growth and limits subdivision. A yearly fee as exists in other states helps a landowner for the reduced use of the property.

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

September 23, 2008

2679 4th Ave. NW
Longville, MN 56655

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

RE: Proposed alternatives for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt transmission line

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

We've left a message on your phone so that we could find out more about the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line. It's obvious to most consumers that future power lines are needed in order to provide the necessary power for future generations. How that's done is also obviously in the eyes of the beholder. In looking at the proposed Macrocorridors as mailed to us recently, the Central Macrocorridor seems obvious for the following reasons:

1. The shortest line between the two substations is probably the least expensive.
2. The Central Macrocorridor already has the highway right of way which would eliminate further study and expense.
3. All macrocorridors will impact the environment to some extent wherever you put it, so the easiest and least expensive then makes more sense.

We tried to get connected to the website so that we could continue to receive more information throughout this process, but were unable to connect. Please add our name to your data base.

If we can be of any help throughout this process, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Kenneth R. Hatch
LaVonne M. J. Hatch

Ken & LaVonne Hatch
952-997-7489 (Lakeville Home)
952-237-8677 (Longville Home)

September 22, 2008

Suzanne Steinhauer
Project Manager
Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul , Mn 55601-2198

Dear Mz Steinhauer;

I am in receipt of the Notice of Extended Comment Period regarding the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 KILOVOLT Transmission Line. I feel badly that I did not respond earlier to (apparent) notices of this project.

The notice asking for written comments on the matter caught my eye because of the enormity (?) of the project. It does not take a rocket scientist to recognize that the closest Distance between two points is a straight line. The map sent indicates the Central Macrocorridor as the ORIGINAL request for placement of this line. AND PROPERLY SO. There are already major roadways, rail ways, transmission lines, etc ALL running parallel to Number 2. Running a Transmission line of this nature would not, in my mind, cause any further damage to the area., sacred grounds and all.

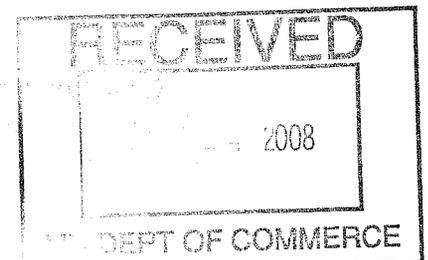
I would have to question the mentality of those recommending the other macrocorridors....like coming down the EAST side of Lake Bemidji to get to Wilton, or going all the way down through the Hackensack area .to get from the Boswell Station to Wilton. While visiting the local library, I seen mileage estimates, costs per mile, etc.....stagger the mind.

Central Macrocorridor, Please.

Sincerely;



Keneth L Hausauer Trustee
2410 Cariol Drive NE
Bemidji, Mn 56601-5267



Bigfork, MN 56628
Sept. 25, 2008

Dept. of Commerce
Office of Energy Security

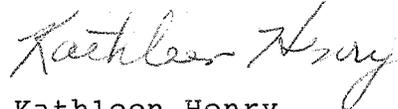
To Whom it may concern;

I have been looking at the macro corridor map and I really believe that the Cass Lake route makes the most sense, it is the most direct route, and would therefore be the most cost efficient.

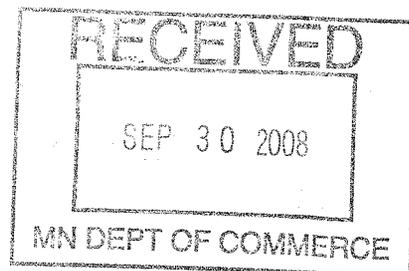
I really would not like to see the northern corridor used, that one runs right through my back yard, I already have enough power lines to run through my yard. I did not know the dangers of power lines when I moved here 14 years ago. Since I moved here I have had to have 2 pets put down because they developed cancer, and just this week I found out that I have developed skin cancer.

The southern macro corridor doesn't make much sense either as the extra distance would add a great deal of extra expense.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Henry



From: raherfin@charter.net
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: routing of power lines for northern Itasca County
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 2:54:17 PM

Ms. Steinhauer,

I am writing to you as a concerned landowner in the Deer River area. I received a letter about the routing of a transmission line in the North Macrocorridor which deeply concerns me.

I have worked all my life and finally with the help of my sons I have realized a lifelong dream of owning a little chunk of land in the area our family calls "God's Country. We have cleared the land for a driveway and have been building a cabin in another spot that we cleared.

We are off the east side of the road three (3) miles north of Talmoon on HWY. 6. According to the maps I have seen if this route is chosen it would pretty much wipe me out because my lot is only 200 foot wide and runs south from Boggy lake.

I know that the government pretty much does what it wants but I want to go on record as being strongly opposed to this. Just when you think you have a place to go to relieve stress and relax - it becomes another source of stress.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Richard Herfindahl

617 E. 5th St.

Albert Lea, MN

Ph: 507-373-9669 cell: 507-383-2231

From: [Jack Hicks](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Public Comment RE: PUC TL-07-1327, CN-07-1222
Date: Friday, August 29, 2008 1:30:05 PM

Mark Hicks
2042 Monarch Drive SW
Bemidji, MN 56601
jackhicks@yahoo.com
218-368-3687

August 29, 2008, 12:27 P.M.

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

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

Dear Suzanne and Minnesota Office of Energy Security,

I would like to add the following comments regarding the proposed High-Voltage power line referenced above.

First, I don't feel that adequate notice was given to homeowners along the proposed route. I received a very generic map in the mail that is too small to accurately show where the proposed power line will actually go. My neighbor, Scott Williams, also received this notice and map in the mail, attended one of the earlier public meetings regarding this issue. He could not find out exactly where the proposed line would be, even after asking the representatives at the meeting.

After he returned from the meeting and reporting his experience to me, I decided to log on to the web site that was listed in the literature sent to my home. Again, I found the small generic map that only gave an approximation of where the power line would be located. The map is so low in detail, that the location of the actual line could be several miles from my residence.

At that time, many of the residents in my neighborhood somehow believed that

they would not be affected by the line. I was one of those people, until about an hour before the final public meeting August 14, 2008 at Hampton Inn, Bemidji, MN, when a neighbor showed up at my door showing me a map that she had obtained, showing the power line going directly through my front yard.

I attended the meeting August 14, 2008, but was unprepared and taken off guard. Since that time I've had a chance to talk to several of my neighbors, including:

Robert Ek
Keith Christianson
Richard Johnson
Suzanne Lofthus
Kevin Onstad
Steven Susmilch

Not one of these people and their families had any idea that they would be affected by the power line, even though they also recieved a generic letter and map, explaining that they may be affected by the power line.

Due to the fact that myself, and the neighbors listed above are intelligent, generally well informed, property owners, who care about their property values and quality of life, and were basically mis-informerd, or mis-led with regards to this power line issue, that another public meeting should be held, this time informing them that their property is LIKELY to be affected.

Because so many people in my neighborhood were uninformed, surely a large number of the 12,000 families that this powerline will affect, also don't understand where this line will be, and what exactly it is.

Thanks for considering my suggestions and comments.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Hicks
via email

LAW OFFICES OF
Drahos Kieson & Christopher, P.A.

502 - 24th Street N.W.
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
Telephone: 218-444-1750

E-mail: attorney@paulbunyan.net
Fax: 218-444-1754

Carl C. Drahos
Ryan K. Kieson
Adam G. Christopher

Legal Assistant:
Cheryl D. Brook

September 23, 2008

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
Attn: Susan Steinhauer, Project Manager

(Via E-Mail: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
Attn: Ray Kirsch

(Via E-Mail: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Our office has been asked by my clients, Robert and Cheryl Hiltz, to make comment concerning the Bemidji/Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt transmission line insofar as it would affect their property. My clients are the owners of land in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, Township 146, Range 34. Recently, my clients became aware of a proposal to run the above-referenced transmission line to their property, apparently parallel to existing pipeline easements. My clients are opposed to that proposal for two reasons.

The first reason is that it is my clients' understanding the pipeline company is already having problems with stray voltage and is currently in the process of trying to eliminate that problem. The placement of a large transmission line adjacent to an already existing stray voltage problem would seem to be a very questionable development for obvious reasons that cannot be overstated.

The second reason is that the transmission line would have to cross the upper reaches of the Mississippi River at least once and possibly twice. The crossing of the river would appear to be an unnecessary spoilation of what is now considered a wilderness area.

Hopefully your agency will not further consider running the line along the south corridor for the reasons set forth above.

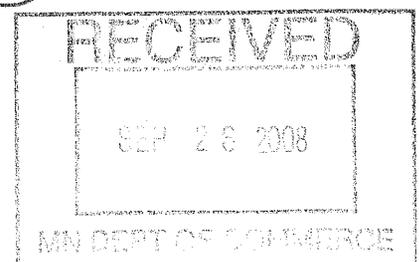
Sincerely,



Carl C. Drahos

D/ajp

cc: Robert and Cheryl Hiltz



September 29, 2008

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

Dear Ms Steinhauer:

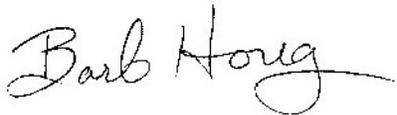
I am writing to oppose the use of Route 2 for the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line. I live with my husband and two children on Grace Lake adjacent to Highway 2. I'm vehemently opposed to the proposed Route 2.

I realize it will be a challenge to find a location where residents will not protest, "Not in my backyard!" However, it seems that there will be fewer private citizens impacted if the proposed Route 1 is selected.

I moved from South Dakota to be near the lakes, trees and pristine beauty of the region. In the last decade, we have had to put up with the stink and noise of Potlatch (Now Ainsworth). If we also have to deal with a landscape that is marred by this transmission line, we will likely move out of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to include these comments in the scoping and environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb Houg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Barb Houg
51234 Wind Flower Dr.
Bemidji, MN 56601

From: [Carol Hoyem](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Proposed Northern Corridor for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008 2:49:27 PM

Dear Ms. Steinbauer,

For reasons of cost as noted in the Alternative Evaluation Study excerpt below and the the environmental sensitivity of the lakes in the path of the proposed northern corridor, I oppose the use of the northern corridor path, and would support the use of the central corridor.

Sincerely yours

Carol J. Hoyem
9606 Marcella Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

3.3.7 Conclusions on Transmission Alternatives

Taking into consideration all the technical and economic analyses performed on the four possible transmission options for improving the area's load-serving capability, the Bemidji-Grand Rapids Line is the optimal choice. The Bemidji-Grand Rapids Line exhibits the greatest load serving capability based on the P-V and thermal limits for both pre- and post-contingency conditions.

The line also outperforms the other transmission options in terms of demand and energy loss reduction savings. Analysis of these operational savings together with the line's construction costs and the amount of load-serving capability achieved shows that the line is the least cost

option on a total-cost-of-ownership basis. ***Analysis shows that among the four line corridor alternatives, locating the Bemidji-Grand Rapids Line in the Central Corridor would provide the best electric performance at the least cost.*** *

*This paragraph was taken from page 33 of the:

**ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION STUDY
for the
BEMIDJI-GRAND RAPIDS 230 kV LINE
A Minnesota Transmission Project**

From: [GREGORYNP LODA CARTIE](#)
To: Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us; Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: RE proposed Cap 2020 Transmission Line
Date: Monday, September 22, 2008 5:28:53 PM

Hello,

I visited the Cap 2020 website and upon reviewing the list of property owners, I attempted to send the following email but after several tries, I rec'd notice that the email could not be send; the webpage was unavailable. Therefore, I am submitting my comments to you.

Thank you.

Carol L. Hron Cartie
William M. Hron

After reviewing your site and list of property owners, I find that Dorothy Hulbert & Victor Williams properties are listed. My and my brother Bill Hron's property borders immediately to the northwest (66 acres on the Mississippi River). We have siblings who recently took deeds for property between Williams' and Hulberts' and their names are not listed either. Could you please inform us if our property will be affected by this proposed power line? We are totally against any power transmission line running through or near our property locating on the Mississippi River! This is not acceptable as this property is part of the Mississippi Headwaters and so close to Schoolcraft State Park. Please respond as soon as possible. Thank you. Carol L. Hron Cartie and William M. Hron

P.S. Our land deeds were just recorded with Cass County from David Hron etal (not Horn) in August as this land was all divided amongst several siblings.

From: [Joel Humburg](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us; Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us;
[US](#);
Subject: 230 KV Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 8:30:24 AM

Good morning.

As the spokesman for Northern Lights of Minnesota, LLC, I am writing to let you know our opinion as to the disposition of the proposed transmission line.

It seems to me that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I learned that in Geometry class MANY years ago. Use the Highway 2 macrocorridor.

There. Problem solved.

Thank you.

Joel D. Humburg, Northern Lights of Minnesota
13529 400th Ave.
Blue Earth, MN 56013

From: [Deb I](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us; Barbrara.Britton@wdc.asda.gov;
akoeckeritz@otpc.com; Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us; Bret.Eknes@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bem G>R> 230 Kilovolt Trans Line
Date: Friday, September 26, 2008 10:33:51 AM

We are property owners on the proposed NON-CNF micro corridor that crosses 200 at the Cass Aitkin County line .

The one that was not on the first original map or letter so we looked at the map read the letter and didnt think anymore of it as we didn't think we would be affected.!! Hence we didn't go to the meeting.!!! Now all of a sudden we see that the property we scraped and saved for, for the last ten years is directly in the path of the NON -CNF MACROCORRIDOR. Pretty underhanded and sneaky if you ask me. There is no good reason that this wasn't included on the original map.

We have to drop everything , drive 30 miles one way to the library to see what this will mean to us. We tried to get it online and waited an hour but the page never came up.

We have 29.9 acres of middle aged mixed woods with deer, bear, wolves, grouse, fishers,fox, bobcat, flying squirrels,chipmonks,owls,hawks,songbirds and too many animals and varieties of birds to list. We are in the process of getting ready to build our house up by the road. So if someone would like to call us and explain in laymans terms what this would do to or privacy,our little piece of heaven animal wise and our electronics as our cell phones don't work well along major power lines and most people who live by them I have heard ,can't get satalite dish signal and it's just not healthy.

Our numbers are Deb 218-360-3378. Home 218-566-4111 Kim 218-966-7059. Try Kims number first ,leave message if no luck then the home number. AS we are both self employed with no set hours ,we are seldom in one place for very long and don't always have cell signal. Or you can e us back at kidi@means.net.

So it would be a really good idea to scedule another meeting for the rest of us that didn't think we would be affected. Had the 2nd map been sent with the first letter you can bet we would have definatly been all the meetings we could have gone to.

Please reply soon Debra and Kim Isaacson

From: s48kern@comcast.net
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2008 9:01:13 PM

Suzanne Steinbauer, Project Manager

Re: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Suzanne:

I have some concerns on the proposed South Macrocorridor transmission line. I own property in the Whipholt area & intend to build a home in the near future for retirement.

Looking at the Macrocorridor Study it seems that the Central Macrocorridor route makes the most sense being the most direct route & the impact being somewhat similar in all four proposed routes. Also if this line is to service the Grand Rapids, Bemidji area & north it seems that any southern routes would be very costly.

I realize there is a need, but this south route is through a fairly populated area that could affect many residents & animals (domestic, farm & wildlife). This proposed south route is the closest to Leech Lake & I'm concerned with any impact on the lake.

I'm glad the Environmental Impact Statement study will be done.

Sincerely,
Scott & Brenda Kern
18732 Pennington Ave
Eden Prairie, MN
952-937-1491
s48kern@comcast.net

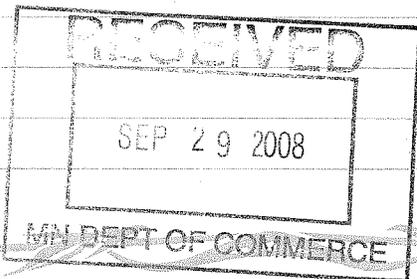
9-25-08

Dear Mr. Ray Kirsch,

Just a note on the proposed transmission line. The line I would like to see go thru is the one between Bemidji and Grand Rapids because it would be cheaper to install and easier to maintain and less costly for the consumer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Walt Kirchner



Mr. Ray Kirsch
Public Advisor
Dept. of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
857th place East Suite 500
St Paul, Minn.
55101-2198

Richard H. Klovstad
4861 Evergreen Lane NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

September 15, 2008

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

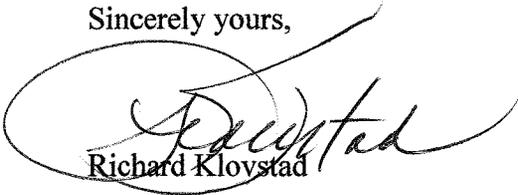
Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I received the enclosed letter (copy enclosed) on September 15, 2008 relating to a proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line. The letter advises that written comments relating to the proposed project will be accepted until September 30, 2008.

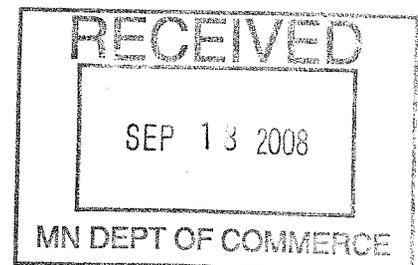
The letter provides an on-line web address where detailed information can allegedly be found. That address is given as: www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis. That address is apparently incorrect and such information cannot be found at this address.

Thus, please consider my letter a **demand** to extend further the comment period until such time as the on-line information becomes available and a reasonable period of time is afforded to review and evaluate the information by landowners who may be affected by such a proposed project. A two-week comment period without the requisite information is totally unreasonable.

Sincerely yours,


Richard Klovstad

Enclosure





Klovstad p.2

NOTICE OF EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED BEMIDJI-GRAND RAPIDS 230 KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION LINE

Dear Landowner,

You are receiving this notice because your property may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project. Figure 1 shows the general location of the proposed corridor alternatives for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Detailed maps showing more exact corridor locations can be viewed online or at local libraries, as identified below.

Please take notice: The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) held six public information and environmental impact statement scoping meetings in August regarding a Route Permit application and Certificate of Need application, and Environmental Review Scoping for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV transmission line. These applications are PUC Docket number: TL-07-1327 (Route Permit) and PUC Docket Number: CN-07-1222 Certificate of Need). The Applicants are Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (the Applicants). The purpose of the August meetings was to provide information to the public about the proposed transmission line and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the proposal.

Notice of the meetings included a map identifying the two alternative routes proposed by the Applicants in their Route Permit application. These routes are within the central macrocorridor.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and RUS regulations of 7 CFR 1794 require consideration of at least two macrocorridor alternatives for transmission lines. Considering this and input received from federal agencies and tribal organizations participating in the NEPA review, four macrocorridor alternatives are being considered. Detailed information on these alternatives can be found in the Alternatives Evaluation Study and the Macrocorridor Study for this project online at www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis. Only one of the four macrocorridors was included in earlier notices. Therefore, the public comment period is being extended.

Written comments relating to the proposed project will be accepted until **September 30, 2008 at 4 P.M. Central Time** by the following state and federal agency staff:

Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security

Suzanne Steinhauer, Project Manager (651-296-2888, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor (651-296-7588, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security

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

Additional contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891, or TTY

Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the DOC).

From: [Al Kranz](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer](#);
Subject: RE: USDA website not found
Date: Friday, September 19, 2008 9:30:43 AM

Suzanne Steinhauer,

Thank you for your reply. I reviewed the website. As you said there are no detailed maps available, but your description regarding the Hackensack area did help.

Regarding landowner input, I'm sure you've heard this before: I would definitely prefer to the maximum extent possible using existing right-of-ways such as the 69 kV line that you mentioned. Also following existing road or rail right-of-ways vs going into new areas. The Hackensack area (in fact all of the Leech Lake region) has some beautiful lake areas and wetland areas that can never be replaced, so avoiding those is a high priority in my mind.

Thank you for your help,
Al Kranz

Subject: RE: USDA website not found
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 2008 17:30:58 -0500
From: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us
To: akranz50@hotmail.com

Mr. Kranz –

The notice that you receive did have an incomplete website address for the federal studies done on the project. The correct address is: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>

You can then click to “Minnkota Electric Cooperative” to reach the federal review documents associated with this project. The Macrocorridor Study Report is quite large (32.7 MB) and may take some time to download.

The proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV transmission project requires approvals from several federal agencies as well as the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In their application for a route permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the applicants have identified a preferred and alternate route. Their preferred route generally parallels an existing Great Lakes natural gas pipeline

south of Highway 2, their alternate route generally parallels Highway 2 and the existing Enbridge Pipeline. There are detailed maps for these routes available at the website for the route permit process maintained by the PUC, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=19631>

In addition to the routes proposed by the applicants, additional routes may be reviewed in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the project. At this time several agencies believe that alternatives in addition to the applicants proposed routes need to be studied to have a better idea of what the comparison of benefits and impacts of different routes would be. The agencies have identified 3 additional corridors, outlined in blue, red, and green, shown on the map attached to the notice you received. These corridors are described in greater detail in documents prepared for the Rural Utilities Service of the US Department of Agriculture, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm> . Once you reach that page, please click on the Minnkota Electric Cooperative Link.

These corridors are each approximately 2 miles wide -- any routes actually studied would be much narrower, approximately 1,000 feet. At this time there are no detailed maps on these corridors. If a route is proposed in non-CNF corridor, it would most likely follow County Highway 40, skirting the central portion of Hackensack to the south and then follow an existing 69 kV transmission line east out of a substation located near Hackensack's water treatment plant.

The next step in the process is determining which routes and impacts should be studied in greater detail to provide decision makers with a good record on which to base their final decisions. The comment period has been extended until September 30 to receive comments on routes and impacts to be studied. Sometime later this fall, the agencies will make a determination about which routes to study and we will notify landowners whether or not they are on the routes carried forward for further study. Sometime in early - mid 2009 a draft EIS will be released for public comment and the PUC will hold public hearings in the Project area. A final route would not be selected until late 2009.

I encourage you to comment on routes and impacts to be studied. You may address your comments to me and send by e-mail, US mail or fax. Comments must be received by September 30.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

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.steinbauer@state.mn.us
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>

From: Al Kranz [mailto:akranz50@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 6:19 PM
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us
Subject: USDA website not found

Suzanne Steinbauer,

I received the letter regarding the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 KV Line and tried to access the USDA website mentioned www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis. The website could not be found and access failed. Is this URL incorrect? I would like to get more details on the exact route that the Non-CNF Macrocorridor could take in the area west of Hackensack. Is such detail available through this website or any other website or source source?

Al Kranz
Landowner

From: [A Bir](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids transmissionline
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008 2:08:24 PM

I'm not very well educated in power lines. But what I do know is power is lost the farther it travels and the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Based on that I would think it was obvious the best corridor would be the central corridor. But then this is a government project so money not logic will likely dictate who will have this line in their back yard.
Sincerely, Sandra Lankow

Kathy LaPointe
3824 Sunset Drive, Spring Park, Mn. 55384
Phone 952-471-3300



September 27, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

I own the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 20 in Shingobee Township, which is within the boundaries of the proposed South Macrocorridor of the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilivolt Transmission Line.

I also own 17 acres in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 21, also within the boundaries of this same corridor.

SECTION 20:

I can't emphasize enough what a disaster this would be for me and my family. There are two homes on the family land in section 20, my sister's and my own. Both of these log cabins blend into the natural environment so much that they are barely noticeable from the tiny lake, which we also own. We do not have any public utilities, so there are no phone lines or power lines at all, and we do not ever plan to have them. We make our own electricity from our solar panels, and our well pumps run off DC battery power. We have done everything possible to preserve the natural beauty of our land. We cut so very few trees when we built the log cabin that I had to contact several contractors before I found an excavator and a builder that were willing to work around all the trees, at such a distance from a regular road.

This cabin is what I live for. This is where we go when we have time off, and this is where I plan to retire someday. Without my cabin, I no longer have any desire to work or plan for anything. It's the only material thing that I care about in the world. It has been in my family since the 1960s.

If that power line went through or near my land, I would be exposed to the electro-magnetic field, and I can tell you that I do not eat any food with chemical additives or preservatives and I have been a health nut since before there were even any health food stores in Minnesota. I simply could not live with exposure to the electric field. What a cruel irony that would be to force this power line upon someone who does not even have a hook up to the electric utility!

Other points to consider:

We have eagle nests just north of our land. The DNR knows where they are, and they do not like them disturbed.

We have numerous beautiful little lakes nearby, besides our own, which so far do not have their beauty ruined by any development.

A power corridor through our woods would bring excessive hunters on ATVs. We already have to be afraid to go outside during hunting season, because there are so many hunters from as far away as Montana. Most of them have walked a long way before getting lost on our land, but a corridor would bring them right to our door without even having to walk.

SECTION 21:

Regarding the 17 acres I own in section 21, this is also within the boundaries of the southern corridor. My family has 3 cabins in the north 1/2 of section 21. I own 17 acres with no buildings, one of my brothers owns 30 acres with a log cabin, another brother owns about 13 acres with a cabin and my father owns about 300 acres with a log cabin. One of these cabins is over 100 years old. We use this beautiful land for camping and hunting and swimming. All of us go here for the remote beauty, and we all hope to retire here someday. My family members are not all old enough to write letters to you, but I can tell you there are about 30 family members who use the 5 cabins in section 20 and section 21, and they would be devastated to have anything happen to our land. I have looked, and I can tell you, there is nothing like this available anywhere else, where you can have your own lake and room for your whole family to build their own cabins in the woods. It is absolutely unique.

Shooting Range:

There is a shooting range that we all use on section 21. It would not be possible to know if there was someone walking around on the power corridor when we are using our shooting range, because of the trees.

Please understand that we are vehemently opposed to the south macro corridor.

Sincerely,



Kathy LaPointe

From: [Wendy Larson](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line
Date: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:53:17 AM

Dear Suzanne Steinhauer,

I would like to comment on the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt transmission line, specifically in regard to the North Macrocorridor alternative route. I would think that the primary considerations in determining the best option would include the following: 1) cost of the project, 2) number of people affected the most, and 3) environmental impact.

Regarding the first item, cost, the Alternative Evaluation Study indicates that the Central corridor "would provide the best electric performance at the least cost." Therefore, the Northern corridor would not be the best option in terms of cost (or performance).

Regarding items 2) and 3), I would think that they are related, in that people living in/near the corridor that already incorporates the highest level of development would be less dramatically affected than residents of a less developed area. Similarly, building in a developed area would most likely have less of an environmental impact than would building in a relatively unspoiled area.

I do not know which of the corridor options is currently most developed, but my impression is that the Central corridor, which contains the heavily traveled Highway 2, extensive railroad tracks, and a fair number of industrial facilities, is much more highly developed than the Northern corridor. It therefore seems that more extensive adjustments would need to be made in terms of both residential compensation and environmental protection (and therefore cost) in developing the Northern corridor. And along with this, are there also more zoning issues to deal with in the Northern corridor?

Personally speaking, I would hate to see the incursion of such a high power transmission line in our area of such natural beauty and environmentally sensitive lakes and waterways. Our lake, Long Lake, is one of the cleanest in the county, and we have worked hard to maintain that status. Also, I would think resorts in the area might suffer economically, because vacationers come here for the feeling of "being away from it all," which would be substantially diminished with a mega transmission line in view.

Because it looks as though public meetings will not be held regarding the alternate routes, please pay particular attention to comments from residents

living in these areas.

Thank you very much.

Wendy Larson
9430 Marcella Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

218-586-2731 (home)
218-755-3780 (work)
wlarson@bemidjistate.edu

From: [Andrea & Brent Lewis](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt transmission line
Date: Monday, September 15, 2008 9:27:44 PM

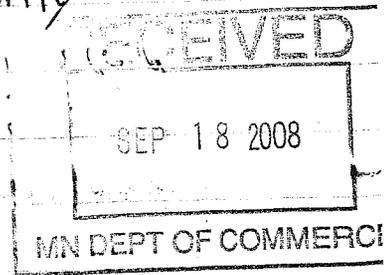
Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

After reading the "Alternative Evaluation Study for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Line" we believe the best choice for a transmission line is the central corridor. The study states it would be the most cost effective and efficient of the four proposed corridors. According to the study the central corridor would also produce the largest loss reductions when compared to the northern or southern corridors. There would be minimal impact on right of way requirements and it would be less expensive to build along the central corridor. Thank you for taking our opinion into consideration.

Sincerely,

Brent and Andrea Lewis
10407 Blackberry Ct. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-586-3389

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



Suzanne Steinhauer,

I'm writing because of a letter received on 9/15/08 with a new map of the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 KV Transmission Line. Two previous maps I received did not contain the North MacroCorridor, which as it now appears ^{to} go very near if not directly through my property. I do not have the proposed location exactly, but I live 12.5 miles due east of Blackduck, MN and am not liking what this new map shows. I understand the country's need for more and larger transmission lines, I really do. However I strongly oppose, as do many of the people in this area the proposed location of this North MacroCorridor. One thing that amazes me is that on two previous maps the northern most part of the corridor was shown by US Hwy 2. Now, all of a sudden on 9/15/08 it is shown right by and possibly through my property, and we're given 15 days to comment in writing. It seems very odd that we weren't shown this on the first two maps. Having worked to keep my

property's woods basically untouched for 21 years, as have most people around here with their properties. I'm not happy with this new to me information, we live where we live for a reason. It's a very, very difficult place to live and we have to endure many hardships and sacrifice much in order to live here. But we do this, regardless, because of what we have around us, which is not huge transmission lines. If it comes down to it I will band together with as many as it takes to fight the construction of this North Macrocorridor in this area.

It also seems like we were kept in the dark regarding this North Macrocorridor. I was notified of one public meeting in our area. Since the map showed nothing like this recently received one, and I was unable to attend, it didn't seem to be of concern. Now it appears it may go right through my property! So I would like yourself and others on this project to put yourself in my shoes. What if you bought a bare piece of wooded acreage where you built a house by yourself, raised your kids here, struggled every day and finally you have what you've worked for all those years. Then someone

Lindahl → Steinhauer
(3)

comes in and says they're going to put a huge powerline right near or possibly through your property - the only thing you have to pass on to your kids. How would you react?

I understand you have a job to do. I'm betting it pays well too. I'm not attacking your job or your salary. But because the way this was basically slid in almost under the table to me and others in this area I wonder who should be held accountable for not giving us the true facts from the get go.

As you can probably tell I'm pretty upset and disgusted with this part of the proposal. I oppose the Northern Macrocorridor plans as they seem to be right now and would like more details and whatever other correspondence you or your department could send me.

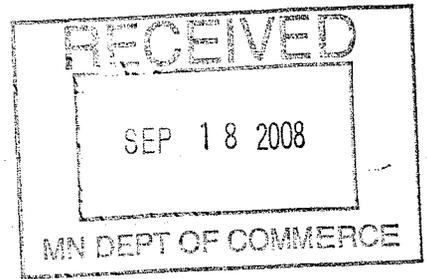
Sincerely

Steve Lindahl

Steve Lindahl
67451 Cty Rd 13
Blackduck, MN 56630
(218) 659-4757

Lindahl → KIRSCH p.1

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



Mr. Kirsch,

I am writing to comment on the proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt transmission line. This letter I received on 9/15/08 for extended comment was very disturbing. Previously I had received notice of one public meeting in Blackduck, MN. Along with this was a map of the proposed lines. This map showed nothing that would affect my property or even close. I was unable to attend the meeting which was the only meeting in my immediate area I was made aware of. But since the map showed nothing near my property it didn't seem like it would affect me anyways. Now on 9/15/08 I receive a map which shows the North Macrocorridor that appears very close or possibly directly through my property. I have lived here for about 21 years. We bought 40 acres of bare, wooded land back then. We also built one of I believe four straw homes in Minnesota.

and I believe the largest straw homes in the country, by ourselves I might add. Although the house is not completely finished inside, it eventually will be and has huge potential to be a very nice house. Our woods have been untouched for these 21 years, and I plan to leave it like that to pass down to my sons eventually.

All this being said I am totally against this North MacroCorridor, I live where I live for a reason, and it's not to see huge power lines or worse, to have them come through my property. I'm also disgusted that there was nothing showing this before now on previous maps, and all of a sudden I'm shown this and have only 15 days to comment in writing. From what I have gathered, the neighbors I've talked to feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Steve Lindahl

67451 Cty Rd 13

Blackduck, MN 54630

From: [Mike Lish](#)
To: [suzanne steinhauer](#);
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008 2:35:27 PM

Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project

Our property location-Part of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 20, Twp. 146 N, Range 33 W of the 5th principal meridian

After my wife and I attended the informational meeting on the proposed transmission line in Bemidji, MN on Aug. 14, 2008, we have several areas of concern.

Route 1

1) We have a pipeline easement across our property which takes up about the north 75 feet and the easement that you would be proposing will take an additional 125 feet (which would go through our attached garage and all of my workshop). If you went along the north side of the pipeline easement, you should be able to stay away from some of the houses. I do realize that you would have to cross over the pipeline.

2) Is it possible to utilize other power lines and or easements?

Alternate routes:

1) If at all possible, use the T.H. #2 by-pass corridor as it would mean easy access for maintenance/repairs

2) Go south of the proposed routes as it has larger tracts of land which are less populated.

3) Maybe the DNR should open up some of their sacred land/trees and have some open corridors for easier access in case of fires.

Sincerely,
Jarrett M. Lish
Sharon D. Lish
2352 Holand Rd. SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

From: [Paul Loxtercamp](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer](#);
Subject: comment letter
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 11:36:29 AM

Dear Suzanne,

Thank you for your information provided over the last week. Please send verification that you received and forwarded the following letter.

Please accept this letter of comment and complaint concerning the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids High Volt Transmission Line. Our address is 1635 Carr Lake Road - Bemidji

This proposal will impact our family, land, and neighborhood in an extremely harmful way. My husband and I own 15+ acres that is completely covered by the proposed corridor. Our land includes a large pond/wetland portion, 1,400 feet of pristine, undeveloped lakeshore (Lake Marquette), old growth white pines and Norway forest, and is a designated game reserve.

Our land has been shaved off by eminent domain proceedings twice already. The back portion was taken over by the existing pipeline, and the entire south side was shaved off by the Beltrami County Road expansion. Our land value was already diminished greatly by these actions and now we are being told that our entire property will be taken due to this project.

At a time when property values are at an all-time low, the utility companies have found a convenient situation in which they can forcibly purchase property at a low price, leaving many land owners at a severe financial disadvantage. In addition, all property owners that are affected by this PROPOSAL are unable to sell any property or portion there-of due to required disclosure of the proposed project. Our Real Estate agents will discontinue our listing and we were counting on that source of income.

The proposed area completely ignores the fact that it is overlapping a lengthy portion of Lake Marquette, which, at present, is a non-public access Lake and is protected under very stringent shore use mandates. Two rivers, the Mississippi and the Schoolcraft, would also be crossed.

If this letter is to be reviewed for a connection to Environmental

Impact Statements and decisions, I find it laughable that this route was considered in the first place. As landowners, we understand and have abided by all the many restrictions in place to protect our wetlands, lakes, rivers, and animal life, yet the companies can easily skirt around these laws by claiming "eminent domain". This is ridiculous, underhanded, and without ethics or integrity.

There are multiple homes that have been constructed within the last seven years in the affected area. These homeowners had no idea this was a #1 proposed route. My conversations with many officials involved have informed me that at one time, this was only an alternate route. All property owners were notified that it was only an alternate route and thus had little reason to pursue the issue. In June of 2008, this suddenly changed. It is unreasonable to give a 4-month notice and expect all affected parties to have the knowledge, information, and strength to fight this. Pass the buck as much as you want, but this is a complete bait and switch situation in which the utility companies are taking complete advantage of responsible land owners and unknowing individuals.

As a property owner and law-abiding, tax-paying American, I now realize how little control I have over big business. This comment letter is likely a waste of my time and well being, but this is what this proposal is banking on.

The organizations that are proposing this project are counting on the fact that the average land owner cannot afford legal representation, cannot fight the system, cannot take the time from their lives to attend all the meetings, and cannot protect what they own.

We are lucky enough to have a dear friend who has dealt with "condemnation" and "eminent-domain" proceedings with the State Highway Department and landowners in the metro area. He has helped us formulate a long list of reimbursements that our within our rights to demand and receive.

Our Carr Lake road residence is over 100 years old as are many of the old farms and homes in the affected area. The Carr Lake School House is an historic landmark. Wildlife and Aquatic life abound. What a shame.

I respectfully submit my comments and ask you to give me suggestions on how to explain to my three children, that the house their Dad completely renovated will be bulldozed over and that most laws protecting people and the environment mean nothing.

Prove otherwise.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Loxtercamp

Julie Loxtercamp

until later this fall. At that time all landowners notified in the mailing that you received earlier this month will be notified as to whether or not their property is crossed by a route being considered.

After an environmental impact statement comparing the alternatives is prepared members of the public will be able to review that document and comment on the document, the process, and the project. The PUC will take all this information into consideration when it makes a final route determination sometime later in 2009.

You may send your comments directly to me by e-mail, US Mail or fax. Comments must be received by September 30, 2008. My contact information is included in my signature block below.

Regards,
Suzanne
Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer
Project Manager, Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN55101-2198
651-296-2888
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>

From: Paul Loxtercamp [<mailto:plox@paulbunyan.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 9:13 AM
To: Suzanne Steinhauer
Subject: Re: Proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

Thank you for the MAP. Obviously, it includes our ENTIRE property.

I will fight this all the way, as will the other home owners we have contacted. An attorney has been notified.

I appreciate that you have provided the information.

Question: I believe the proposed location of the new line has changed from prior notifications my husband received.

Bait and switch?

Hmmmm. A Lot of wetlands affected as well. This is a major problem.

We will be in touch.

Also - I do not want to visit a website that is simply a maze-like hurdle to getting information or to voice opinions. Please send me the exact e-mail address to send letters of comment.

I realize I cannot "shoot" the messenger" and I do appreciate your help and information, but we will be insistent.

Julie

.

On Sep 23, 2008, at 8:37 AM, Suzanne Steinhauer wrote:

Julie

Im sorry youre having difficulty viewing the map. Heres the map that I believe covers your home. I hope this is helpful.

Suzanne

From: Paul Loxtercamp [mailto:plox@paulbunyan.net]

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2008 10:29 PM

To: Suzanne Steinhauer

Subject: Re: Proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line

Dear Suzanne,

I want to thank you for your quick response. I tried to connect to a website so I could find the detailed map you were discussing, but am very frustrated. I realize you and those savvy to all of this understand all the rhetoric, terms, links, etc. but the common land owner (namely me) does not. No wonder people get confused and end up just taking whatever is pushed at them.

Would there be any way you could simply attach the more detailed map you were viewing on your computer when we spoke today? It would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!!

Julie

On Sep 22, 2008, at 4:10 PM, Suzanne Steinhauer wrote:

Ms. Loxtercamp

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Bemidji Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project.

The proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV transmission project requires approvals from several federal agencies as well as the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In their application for a route permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the applicants have identified a preferred and alternate route. Their preferred route generally parallels an existing Great Lakes natural gas pipeline south of Highway 2, their alternate route generally parallels Highway 2 and the existing Enbridge Pipeline. There are detailed maps for these routes available at the website for the route permit process maintained by the PUC, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?id=19631>

Based on the description you provided of your property, I believe that it lies along the Applicants preferred route (shown in red) on page A06 of the Route Permit Application.

There is a link at the PUC website listed above to register for the project mailing list. I would encourage you to register there if you have not already to ensure that you continue to receive information on meetings, key decisions and comment deadlines as the review process for the project moves forward.

As we discussed this morning, any route approved by the PUC would convey the power of eminent domain to utilities for a right-of-way within the route approved by the PUC. That means that if the utility and landowner are unable to agree on terms of an easement for the transmission line, the utility can seek to condemn the land required for an easement. The process for eminent domain is outlined in Minnesota Statute, Chapter 117, <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=117&view=chapter> Regardless of whether the property is obtained through a voluntary easement or through eminent domain, the utility must compensate the landowner for use of the property. Because the proposed transmission line is greater than 200 kilovolts (kV), the landowner has the option of requiring the utility to purchase the entire parcel of land, as outlined in Minnesota Statute, Chapter 216E.12, <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=216E.12>

In addition to the routes proposed by the applicants, additional routes may be reviewed in detail in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the project. At this time several agencies believe

that alternatives in addition to the applicants proposed routes need to be studied to have a better idea of what the comparison of benefits and impacts of different routes would be. The agencies have identified 3 additional corridors, outlined in blue, red, and green, shown on the map attached to the notice you received. These corridors are described in greater detail in documents prepared for the Rural Utilities Service of the US Department of Agriculture, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm> . Once you reach that page, please click on the Minnkota Electric Cooperative Link.

These corridors are each approximately 2 miles wide -- any routes actually studied would be much narrower, approximately 1,000 feet. At this time there are no detailed maps on these corridors because there are no routes have actually been proposed in these corridors. The next step in the process is determining which routes and impacts should be studied in greater detail to provide decision makers with a good record on which to base their final decisions. The comment period has been extended until September 30 to receive comments on routes and impacts to be studied. Sometime later this fall, the agencies will make a determination about which routes to study and we will notify landowners whether or not they are on the routes carried forward for further study. Sometime in early - mid 2009 a draft EIS will be released for public comment and the PUC will hold public hearings in the Project area. A final route would not be selected until late 2009.

I encourage you to comment on routes and impacts to be studied. You may address your comments to me and send by e-mail, US mail or fax. Comments must be received by September 30.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

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

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

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

From: [Paul Loxtercamp](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer](#);
Subject: Re: Proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008 3:04:31 PM

Thank you Suzanne.

I spoke at length with Cindy Kuismi at the Fergus Falls Office of Ottertail Power. She was also very helpful and gave me some interesting information. She mentioned that the power companies hoped to have a permit by September/October of 2009 - not December of 2009 as I was first told.) This gives us less than one year to address this extremely dire situation for our future finances.

Our Real Estate Agent was not aware the project was so far down the road in it's development and basically felt we cannot, in good faith sell any of our property without full disclosure of project proposals. He will discontinue our listing contract immediately. This expenditure will be added to the list of issues we will have to address when we are forced to sell out at an all-time low land value economy. The timing of this proposal is underhanded and suspect.

I will forward my comment letter as soon as I can gather more information and by the deadline imposed.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Julie Loxtercamp

On Sep 25, 2008, at 2:24 PM, Suzanne Steinhauer wrote:

[Julie](#) –

The only routes that we know are under consideration at this point are those proposed by the applicants in their application for a route permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission submitted on June 4, 2008. As I mentioned in my earlier e-mail, several federal agencies have proposed studying additional route alternatives in addition to those proposed by the applicants.

The exact location of any additional alternatives will not be identified

Luganbeal P.1

To: Dept of Commerce
Attn Suzanne Steinhauer, Project
Manager
Fax # 651-297-7891

From: Barbara Luganbeal
regarding Bemidji - Grand Rapids
230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Luganbeal p. 2

September 15, 2008

Dear Suzanne Steinheuser:

You have waited too long to inform people. Your map doesn't include Cass County # 21 off # 371 so I can't tell if our property is in the Central Macrocorridor (2nd black or lower black route from Deer River, Hubbard County, Wilton Substation, Bemidji). There is no scale for judgement either.

I prefer the upper black routing between Deer River and Cass Lake. I will not give permission to go through our farm fields unless you plan to buy the farm.

I am handicap and representatives have attended one meeting where only one route was shown. I cannot attend meetings etc.

I expect a reply to:

Barbara Luganbeal

127 1st Avenue

Two Harbors, MN 55616

PH (218) 834-4072 after 9/30/08

for property in Mary E. Luganbeal's Life Estate. The address is 44611 Cass Line Rd., Laporte, MN 56461.

Sincerely,
Barbara Luganbeal