

From: [Thisius, Dale](mailto:Thisius,Dale)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
cc: [Thisius, Terri](mailto:Thisius,Terri); Dale.Thisius@comcast.net; Raymond.Kirsch@state.mn.us;
Bret.Eknes@state.mn.us; Barbar.Britton@wdc.usda.gov;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line - South Macrocorridor
Date: Friday, September 26, 2008 8:32:58 AM

Hi Suzanne,

The purpose of this email is to provide comment on the proposed south macrocorridor - we strongly oppose this route that goes along highway 6 between Remer and the Boswell substation.

We are property owners of a cabin on 30 acres, 10 miles north of Remer that has been in the family for almost 50 years.

Some of the major reasons we oppose the south macrocorridor are:

1. Our property would be adversely affected (i.e. appearance and property value)
2. That section of highway six is a scenic byway and part of the state & national forest enjoyed by the people of Minnesota (i.e. a nature in natural state)

If this proposal was decided - please include the purchase of our property in the cost of the plan because it would destroy our property and the reasons we enjoy our property.

Thank you.

Dale & Terri Thisius
952-270-0694 Cell
612-291-7343 Desk
952-933-2229 Home
Dale.Thisius@BestBuy.com

From: [Tripp, Terrance R](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer;](#)
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 KVLine
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 2:50:22 PM

Suzanne,

In response to the letter I recently received regarding the possible corridors for the transmission line, my comment would be that the Non-CNF, and maybe even the Northern Macrocorridors seem excessively long, and I'm sure correspondingly more expensive in terms of dollars and environmental damage. While I understand concerns to protect the Chippewa National Forest, the much larger amount of forestlands, wetlands, etc., that would be disturbed by the Non-CNF route doesn't seem a reasonable trade-off.

As a land owner in Cass County, I'm opposed to the Non-CNF Macrocorridor.

Thank you for taking my input.

Terrance R. Tripp
500 East Grant Street, #2608
Minneapolis, MN 55404

From: [Bill](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Comment, Bemidji-G. Rapids 230kv Trans. Line
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 12:15:41 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I would like to submit a few comments regarding the proposed Non-CNF Macrocorridor for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kv Transmission Line. I live in Hiram Township, Cass County, within the boundary lines of this particular alternative route.

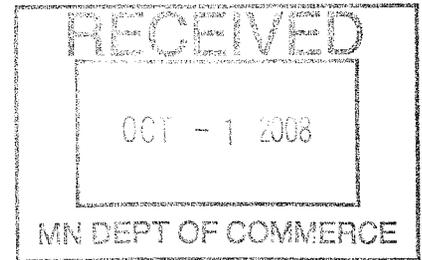
The CNF Macrocorridor would cost more to build than any of the other proposed routes, especially the Central Macrocorridor, and these costs would have to be recouped from the electric power companies' customers, who are already experiencing increased electric rates. The Non-CNF line would eat up more wetlands and forested lands than any other line and would cross more public waters and required the creation of more new right of way than any other alternative. It would require more new corridor construction than any other proposed line. It also would be the longest possible route of the four proposals. It seems to me that given the state of our economy, we ought to build the most cost-efficient infrastructure that we can, and, assuming that all the routes have been determined to be at least feasible to build on, going the shortest route makes sense.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Turgeon
5791 36th St. NW
Akeley, MN 56258

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



September 29, 2008

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

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

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

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

- There is also unanimous support that where ever the lines are sited it should be buried. What is the long term financial analysis to bury it versus the building and maintaining of tower?
- Finally, some members of TRWA have concerns about the possible adverse health effects of living near high voltage power lines. There is also an additional concern about the potential effects of herbicide and other chemical applications to the right-of-way. Can you or your agency supply our association with information on the health consequences of high voltage power lines?
- Beltrami County lake and rivers, and in particular lakes and rivers affected by the northern corridor, are some of the clearest and least impaired in the state. Clear-cutting within the shore land impact zone would most certainly have a profound effect on surface water quality and in particular anywhere closer to water's edge. Lake sheds and river sheds are being considered more important than watersheds for local surface water quality impact. We feel that protecting sensitive watershed resource's needs to be one of your top priorities in your decision process. If the Northern Route is selected we would like to review an environmental impact analysis comparing of all the potential routes.

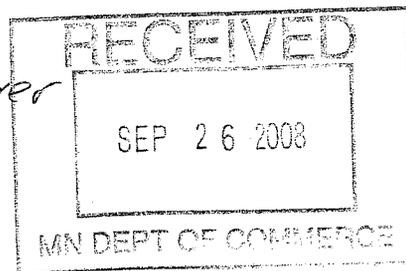
We appreciate the opportunity to comment in writing on the location of this power line. We are also curious if there will be another public forum where the above issues will be addressed by your agency?



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

Sept. 22/08

Rita Velat
1240 Fernwood Drive
Arcata, CA 95521



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

Phone --- --- ??? Date: ???

I have received a letter which doesn't show a date or phone #. It is about a proposed powerline for Bemidji - Grand Rapids.

We have property in Minnesota / Beltrami Cty. A powerline is already going through our property and under "Eminent Domain" property has already been forcefully taken from us. I don't see the need for another powerline with all the problems with it.

Please explain in plain english what this proposed project is about. I reject the deadline you set in the letter because the letter was not dated and had no phone #. It was thus not possible for me to respond in a customary business customary way.

Based on the information I have received it is Not possible for me to make an informed decision. As you see I live in California and don't have computer access. However I do pay taxes (plenty!) and believe I do have a right to be properly informed on such issues in a way that I can understand.

Looking forward to your speedy reply to my above address.

Sincerely

Rita Velat

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

September 23, 2008



Written comments relating to Bemidji-Grand Rapids
230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

Location: Beltrami County, Taylor Township
Sec't-31 Twp-148 Range 31
NE ¼ of SW ¼ - 40 acres

Property Owners at this location include:

Mark Enblom
Robert and Valerie Wagner
Donald and Kristen Wagner

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

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

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

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

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

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

Donald and Kristen Wagner

Mark Enblom

Robert and Valerie Wagner



Wagner P-2

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

Box 1318 Grand Forks, N.D. 58201 Phone (701) 795-4000

April 18, 1983

Mr. Donald J. Wagner
Route 6, Box 323
Bemidji, MN 56601

Dear Mr. Wagner:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 10, 1983, relating to the easement matter on your property.

As to the request which you have made, it is impractical to bury a transmission line of this size for any great distance and also very costly. Therefore, Minnkota would not consider burying this transmission line. However, it is now rated at 69 kV capacity. This is as high a capacity as Minnkota allows a line to be, located on single pole structures. Therefore, the line would not be uprated unless new easements were obtained to place the line on double pole structures. Minnkota has no intention of doing this in the foreseeable future. I would therefore agree to a statement that the line is to remain a single pole 69 kV line. In fact the statement has already been attached to the easement and was on it when you examined it.

As to the second matter which you have referenced, Minnkota will not at this time make any offer for payment for an easement. I find from an examination of the county records that you purchased the property in June, 1982. I do not know whether you examined the property prior to purchasing it, but I would presume that you did. If you did, you should have seen that a transmission line was in fact in place upon the land and that in purchasing the property, it was being sold with the transmission line on it.

Furthermore, the notice of transmission line easement, of which I have sent you a copy in the past, was recorded and filed against this property as of August, 1977.

If you had your abstract continued to date and had the title examined at the time you made the purchase, the examining attorney would have noted the presence of the transmission line and the notice of transmission line easement, which sets forth in detail the rights which Minnkota claims as pertains to this transmission line. Minnkota therefore feels that you had actual notice of the existence of an easement and also the notice of terms and conditions of that easement at the time you purchased the property.

Wagner P.3

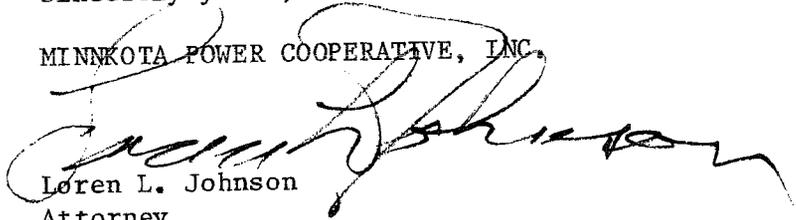
Mr. Donald J. Wagner
Page 2
April 18, 1983

We are satisfied with the location of the line upon the property as it presently is situated. In the event you wish to have the notice of transmission line easement more definitely defined, the way to do this is to agree to sign a new easement which sets forth a center line description for the transmission line. That way, the easement can take over as the document pertaining to the transmission line, and the notice of transmission line easement could then be withdrawn from the records. The decision to do this is up to you. While we are offering no money for the easement, we will agree to the release of the notice of transmission line easement, which will clear up the title on parcels of your property which do not have the transmission line immediately adjacent to them.

I will await further word from you.

Sincerely yours,

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.



Loren L. Johnson
Attorney

ske

From: [Paul & Cindy](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us;
cc: [Cindy Wannarka](#);
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kv Transmission Line Project
Date: Friday, August 29, 2008 12:14:57 PM

Dear Suzanne,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. My wife and I live within the right of way for route #2 of this project... We live in Rosby Acres at 4103 Woodberry Dr SE.

I believe that the NE boundary of this right of way literally runs through our yard. I have no idea where you are currently proposing to run your line or if route 2 is being given serious consideration, but I do want to voice our concerns about that possibility. My wife and I would be very disappointed to see this line run through our yard and over our home and would be very opposed to that option. I don't think anyone would feel any differently about that possibility. I am quite sure that if this were the actual outcome it would have a very severe impact on our property value and I know we would have to very seriously look at moving if this occurred for quality of life issues.

While I can't imagine that this would be the route you would use, I also needed to make sure that you were aware of our concerns, and hopefully you will take this into account when you or whoever will be making the final decision, determines the final location for this line.

Thank you,
Paul & Cindy Wannarka
4103 Woodberry Dr SE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-333-8645



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)

Name:

Carol Waugh

Representing:

self

Address:

3725 Bemidji Ave N.

Email:

Comments:

Preference would be the most southern route (Guthrie)

Less populated.

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: [Dallas and Joyce Way](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Transmission Project Comment
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 11:19:38 AM

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

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

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

From: mweestrand@aol.com
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: N 1/2 of Section 21, Twp 141, Range 33
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2008 6:52:41 PM

9-28-2008

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to read this email. We are writing to you as persons with ownership interests in the N 1/2 of Section 21, Twp 141, Range 33.

We sincerely ask that you consider our request concerning the proposed South Macrocorridor for the power line proposal in this area.

It is our feeling that this proposal would destroy our land. These 320 acres have been enjoyed by four generations, and it is our hope to continue this tradition with future generations as well.

It is our heartfelt wish that the Central Macrocorridor be the chosen route for this proposal.

Thank you once again for taking the time to consider our genuine request in this matter.

*Cindy & Michael Weestrand
3510 Jacqueline Drive
Rockford, IL 61109*

815-873-7299

Find phone numbers fast with the [New AOL Yellow Pages!](#)

From: rweestrand@aol.com
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Proposed Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kilovolt line
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2008 2:15:05 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

I have an ownership interest in the N 1/2 of Section 21, Twp 141, Range 33. The proposed South Macrocorridor would cross our property. These 320 acres have been enjoyed as a forest, lake and wetland retreat by four generations of my extended family and by many from outside the family. The power line would destroy it's recreational value to us, and it's market value in the event it were sold.

Please be a sound steward of private property and public dollars, and see that the Central Macrocorridor is the one chosen.

Randy & Susan Weestrand
525 Orchard Park Rd.
Long Lake, MN 55356

952-476-6226

Find phone numbers fast with the [New AOL Yellow Pages!](#)

From: [Steve Weestrand](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kv Transmission Line!
Date: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:19:02 PM

Dear Suzanne,

I hold an interest in the N 1/2 of section 21, Twp 141, Range 33. As I've reviewed the proposed path of the South Macrocorridor, my heart nearly stopped, the idea of the South Macrocorridor destroying our 320 acre heaven is sickening, this land has been held in the hearts of 4 generations of our family and countless numbers of friends and visitors! In the event that it would be used, our wetland, forest and lake retreat would surely be destroyed, please don't play a part in that. We all beg that the Central Macrocorridor be used and our priceless land be spared.

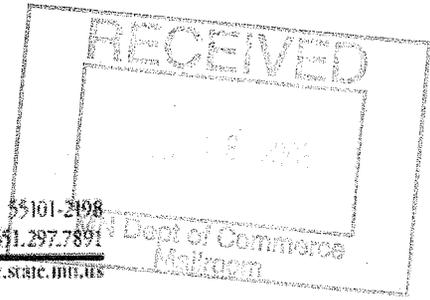
Thank you for hearing our comments and we pray that this comes in to consideration.

Sincerely,
-Steve Weestrand
20392 Kensfield Tr.
Lakeville, Mn 55044

612-590-3840
763-208-7852



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:

LEO WIELAND

N/A

Address:

Email:

P.O. Box 1389, CASS LAKE, MN 56633

Comments:

Multiple horizontal lines for writing comments.

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

Name: _____

Address _____

In 1974 my wife and I purchased a 160 acre farm on the Beltrami-Hubbard County line in Helga Township. Our hope was to live on the farm, and as we aged, plat off and sell this land to help finance our retirement. It had two small pipelines on it at the time, but they would not seriously interfere with our plans. However, through the years the pipelines kept adding more lines while increasing the width of the right-of-ways. Then, Hubbard County adopted a five acre minimum for new home construction. This has impacted our plans quite severely but still left enough room to build a home on each five acre lot. Now we learn that the new power line has selected a preferred route along the existing pipelines. We are definitely opposed to this route. If the line is constructed between the two pipelines we would have at least 15 acres that would be unbuildable. If the power line was constructed on the South side of the pipelines we would have at least 20 acres classified as unbuildable. And, the entire 40 acres would plummet in value as power-lines carry a stigma far more severe than underground pipelines.

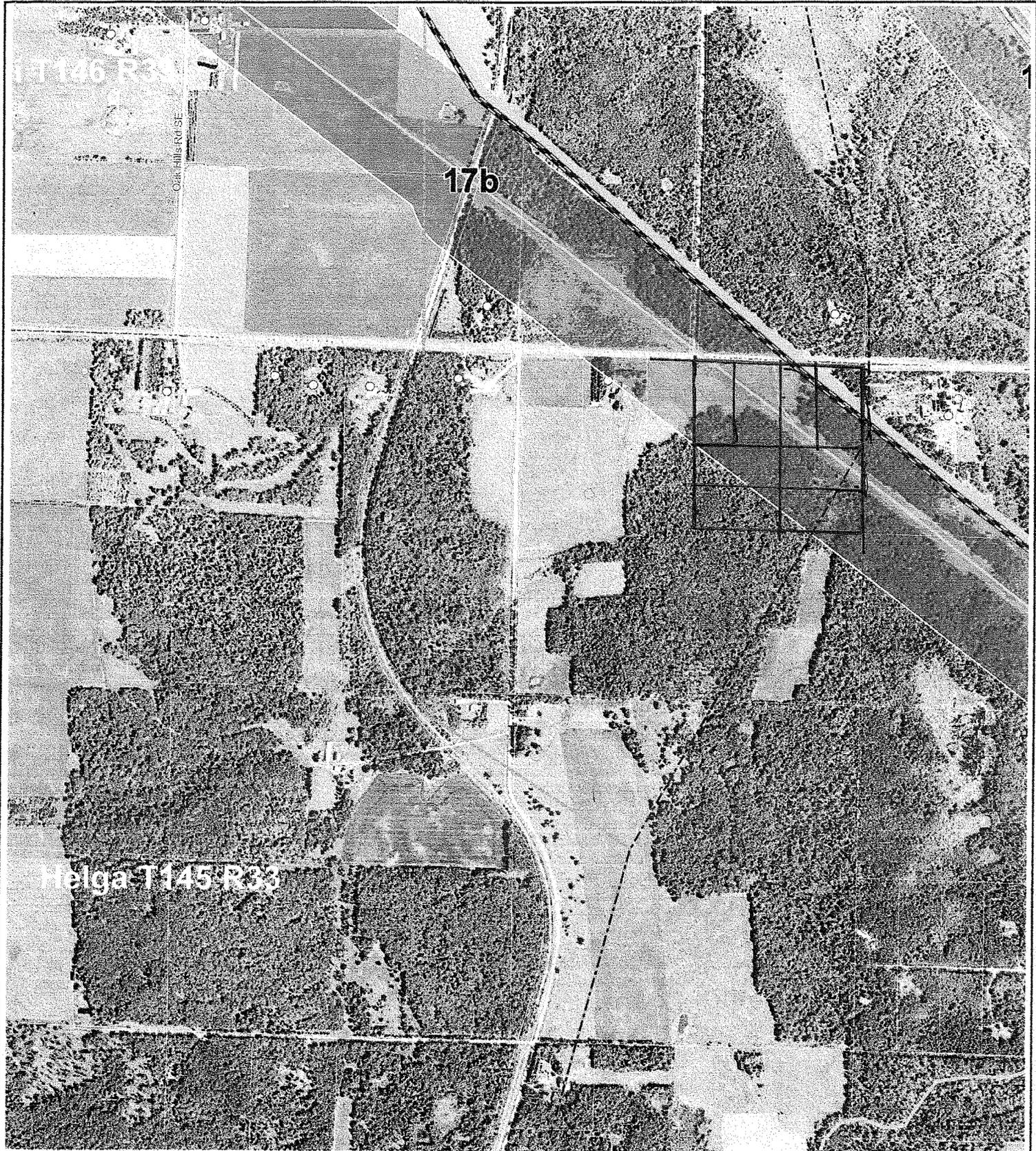
In this day and age it is absolutely ludicrous that a private or public for-profit company can commandeer someone else's property without adequate and yearly compensation. I know you are concerned about you bottom-line, but just for one moment think about my bottom line.

I am enclosing a map to better demonstrate our concern.

GAS

OIL

Wieland p.3



Bemidji - Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Public Scoping Meeting: Cass Lake - August 12, 2008

Township: 145 Range: 33 Section: 2

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 Ojibwa

From: [Anne Meredith-Will](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: BEMIDJI-GRANDRAPIDS 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
Date: Monday, September 15, 2008 8:31:42 PM

Have received notice of proposed north macocorridor power line which abuts my property. This does not appear to be a logical route nor an acceptable choice. Please contact me for any other potential future decisions or opportunities for public comment.

sincerely
Rodney Will

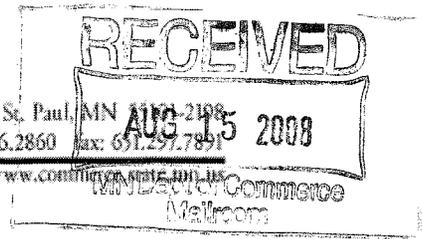
rodney.will@meritcare.com

or

Annewill@paulbunyan.net



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 try: 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:

Bonnie (Steven) Williams

Address:

Email:

50274 279th Ave. Bemidji

Comments:

8/13/08

Dear Suzanne,
We attended last night's meeting at the Palace Casino motel in Cass Lake. We appreciated the way in which you conducted the meeting. Of course, we all know that we need electricity but it is "scary" to think that we will have to give up ^(and trees) rights to another portion of our property since we already have two pipelines running through it.

We urge you to consider the longer route (going south of Bemidji and then east). But having said all of that if you consider that the route that includes us is best we will work with you.

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

Sincerely,
Bonnie Williams

From: [Jan Wright](#)
To: [Suzanne Steinhauer;](#)
Subject: Written comment
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008 4:26:42 PM

Re: Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line comment

I would like to comment about any proposed, considered, or plans to consider any transmission lines for Frohn Township, Beltrami County, Bemidji, MN now or in the future. I own 80 acres of wetland(dregged by the DNR) and agricultural land at 7626 Power Dam Road, Bemidji MN. Behind us, North, is a game refuge. The impact of a project of such an enormous latitude would impact our property value which with our home, shop and property currently is valued around

\$800,000-1.2 million. Currently we are finishing a new home of 10,000 square feet, a shop of 2000 sq. ft. We rent the back 40 acres to a farmer.

Our 2 ponds harbors flocks of geese, loons, and wildlife. My Mother owns 80 acres that run along side our property as well. The impact of such a line would be devastating to our lives, our health, our income, our land values and our future. We do not want any transmission line or sub station anywhere near our property. My father owned this property for 30 years, it's a lovely, wonderful place to live and we have worked so hard to make this our home.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jan Wright-Knutson

7626 Power Dam Rd. NE

Bemidji, MN 56601

218-209-3131

"We Cover the World of Art"

Jan R. Wright

Visual Arts Teacher

Bemidji High School

3300 Gillette Dr.

Bemidji, MN 56601

218-444-1600 ext. #3364

jrwright@bemidji.k12.mn.us

From: [Yartz, Trevor P](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: BEMIDJI-GRAND RAPIDS MN 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 4:27:03 PM

Dear Ms
Steinhauer,

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment on the proposed project of installing a 230 kv transmission line from Bemidji to Grand Rapids. After complete review of the Environmental Impact Study, Alternative Evaluation Study, and Macrocorridor Study I believe the most cost effective and "most common sense" choice would be to run the electrical lines along the applicants preferred route of highway 2 or what is described on the map as the "CENTRAL MACROCORRIDOR". As a resident of Beltrami county I know that this choice will serve the need to provide quality, reasonably priced electrical service for our community by simply choosing the shortest distance between two points versus choosing alternative "out of the way" longer routes. Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Trevor P

Yartz

tyartz@paulbunyan.net

September 30, 2008

TO: Raymond Kirsch and Suzanne Steinhauer

SUBJECT: Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line

I was notified the middle of this month that I am a property owner in the newly created North Macrocorridor for the proposed 230 kilovolt transmission line. I have taken the time to read the 60+ page Macrocorridor Study that was made available to the public. I felt that I needed to take the time to at least send you my comments so that they could be included EIS scoping decision.

While I can understand the inclusion of the North Macrocorridor in the proposal I have to wonder about the economics of this choice. While it would require the least amount of new corridor, it would have the **highest impact** to agricultural lands plus affect more acres of the Chippewa National Forest than any of the other options. Both the North and Non-CNF Macrocorridors will affect the **largest amount** of stream/river crossings and wetlands.

It seems as though choosing the Central Macrocorridor would make the most sense, cost analysis wise. The Northern Macrocorridor is targeted to cost \$99.1 million dollars and the Central Macrocorridor is targeted to cost considerable less at \$60.0 million dollars to complete. Since the Central corridor already has a lot of existing linear infrastructure, it seems as though it would be the natural choice. Another added bonus to this corridor choice is the possibility for the Cass Lake area to draw power from this line at a later date, for a considerable low cost versus having to run a separate line at another time, if they need the additional power as the town grows.

While at the risk of sounding like someone who says, it's okay 'but not in my backyard' I have a hard time thinking that both the North Macrocorridor as well as the Non-CNF Macrocorridor would affect the largest amount of agricultural land and the largest amount of private property owners. This just doesn't seem fair, when this power line will not serve our communities or our power companies. You should choose a macrocorridor that would impact the smallest amount of personal property, forested lands, agricultural lands, Chippewa National Forest, the least amount of state owned property, and tribal owned property. That would be the Central Macrocorridor.

I would imagine the customer's of the power companies involved in this corridor (Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power and Minnkota Power Cooperative) would prefer that you choose the lowest cost alternative – because we all know in the end it's the consumer that pays for these large projects with higher energy costs. In the economic times that we find ourselves in, hardly anyone can afford larger energy bills. So on behalf of them, please consider the lowest cost alternative, the Central Macrocorridor.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to watching this Transmission Line works it's way through the permitting process and review processes.

Sincerely,

Laura Zimmermann
55671 County Road 126
Northome, MN 56661

From: [Laura Zimmermann](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 Kilovolt Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 10:23:27 AM

Good Morning Suzanne:

Would it be possible for you to give me a timeline of how this type of process works?

I'm quite upset that when there were two proposed routes for the transmission line, you held SIX public meetings. But now that you've added two alternative routes, which impact far more citizens and private property and there are NO public meetings scheduled. I think we at least deserve a meeting or two where we can hear about the routes, the possible impact to our property, and be allowed to ask questions. It isn't fair, that our only information comes from a 60 page plus document that is in "utility speak".

What happens once the public comment period is over? What is the timeframe between that and when a decision will be made? When the decision is announced is that at a public board meeting where concerned citizens can attend so that we can hear the reasons behind which route is chosen? At that point will there be public meetings? My main concern here is the lack of TWO way communications between the MN Dept of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, the United States Dept of Agriculture, Rural Utilites Service (RUS) and the VERY people who will be impacted by this transmission line.

I am writing a letter so that I at least participate in the public comment portion of this issue, but feel we deserve the right to be able to "talk" to all the departments and organizations involved.

Thank you for your time, and I'm looking forward to your response.

Laura Zimmermann
55671 County Road 126
Northome, MN 56661
E-mail: laurazim@paulbunyan.net

From: [STEVEN O LYNNE ZIMMERMAN](#)
To: Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us;
Subject: Bemidji-Grand Rapids Transmission Line
Date: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:45:46 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

Thank you again for your time on the phone today. In accordance with our conversation, I am submitting my comments on the proposed South Macrocorridor.

If the South Macrocorridor were to be selected, I am glad that my parents did not live to see the day (they retired from St. Paul to Remer with a cabin on Vermillion Lake Road, formerly known as Long Lake Road, 2 miles off Highway 6).

Needless to say (NIMBY), the tall electric towers would be an eyesore to the scenic landscape of the Chippewa National Forest (CNF)--or anywhere in northern Minnesota. I wish that less intrusive and less expensive means could have been selected in lieu of these awful towers. I understand there were proposals for alternative forms of power, but did not have the time to research them as the alternative routes were only relayed to us in the past few weeks. Further, we were not afforded the more leisurely time period to not only research the proposed power line, but also to attend meetings held this past summer. From our conversation, I understand that if the South Macrocorridor was selected, we would be then be offered additional chances to respond.

My brother, sister and I own 32 acres on Long Lake (near Spring and Sugar Lakes), approximately 6 miles east of Remer. This property has been in our family since 1962. Long Lake contains a wild rice island, and a natural wildlife habitat is located near the intersection of Vermillion Lake Road and Highway 6. I would hope that the proposed line would not disturb the harvesting of wild rice by the Native Americans, or the habitat of the indigenous bird population and other animals residing in the wetlands preserve.

From our conversation, I also understand that it was a federal agency (ies), specifically the CNF, which requested the alternative macrocorridors. I cannot fathom why the taxpayers and the environment should suffer a route that appears to be twice as long (and twice as expensive?) as the common-sense line (the shortest distance between the 2 points of Bemidji and Grand Rapids). I have

been employed by the federal government and am now a State employee but still do not agree with everything a governmental body elects to do.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Lynne Zimmerman