

To whom it may concern:

I feel that Great River Energy has overlooked the personal impact to our neighborhood when considering their proposed route plan. The alternative route that is the most practical is to utilize the existing power line corridor.

Alternative E is as follows:

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Sincerely,



Printed name:

Robert Wangerin

Address:

13044 11th Ave. S.W.  
Pillager MN 56473

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Sincerely,

Printed name: Louis A. Thompson

Address: 1223 1325th SW

Pillager MN 56473

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Sincerely,

Printed name:

HARRIETTE THOMPSON

Address:

1223 132nd SW  
PILLAGER MN

9/23/06

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Sincerely,



Printed name:

Carlene Lange

Address:

13132 11th ave SW  
Pillager mn 56473

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Sincerely,

Printed name: Mark A. Lange  
Address: 13132 11th Ave S.W. Pillsbury, MN.  
9/23/08

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Sincerely,

  
Charles J. Martin

Printed name:

13510 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Address:

Pillagen MN 56423

9-23-08

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Sincerely,

*Joann Martin*

Printed name:

Joann Martin

Address:

13510 11th Ave SW

Pillager MN.

56475

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Sincerely,



Printed name: Laura Paulson

Address: 12815 11th Ave SW  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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Sincerely,



Printed name:

CHAD PAULSON

Address:

12015 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Brainerd MN 56401

Sept 23 2006

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Sincerely,

Leland Foy

Printed name:

LELAND FOY

Address:

12531 11th Ave SW  
Pellap, MN 56473

Sept 23, 2008

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Sincerely,

Judith Foy

Printed name:

Address:

Just H Foy  
13531 11<sup>th</sup> Ave S.W  
Pillager, MN, 56473

To whom it may concern:

In 2004 I had the opportunity to purchase nearly 4 acres on Cass County road #36, the area that I grew up in. In 2006 I was lucky enough to be not only moving into my first home, but building it. After several months of planning my dream was becoming a reality. My family and I worked together for several long months to make it happen. Finally, I was a homeowner. 7 months after I moved in it was proposed by Great River Energy that a high voltage transmission line could be running through my front yard. How devastating. I built my home with the intention of staying there for the long run. Having visions of raising a family here. I am 24 years old, everything I have is invested in my home. I will be devastated if Great River Energy's permit is granted for their proposed route replacing the trees in my front yard with a high voltage transmission line.

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Sincerely,  
Christina Doucette (218)821-8795



1110 Campfire lane SW  
Pillager, MN 56473

**Scott Ek**

---

**From:** Lois Anderson [loisand@brainerd.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 5:11 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712

I would like to voice my view on the power line that is proposed on Cass #36. First thing I would Like to see a committee to make sure everything would be in the best interests of all the people that live on the road.

Second: I would like them to use the other route they had planned.

Third: My wife and I don't want a power line on our side of the road, because we don't want our trees taken down, and we don't want more noise from the road, and we don't want to look at a power line.

Thank you:

Douglas & Janet Anderson  
13352 11th ave s.w.  
Pillager, MN 56473

## Scott Ek

---

**From:** Jim and Sandy Anderson [msaa@brainerd.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 7:57 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712 Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Sceauxville 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Ek:

We own several parcels of land within both rejected alternative routes E & F. Our property is on both sides of CSA Highway 36 between Oak Road and the Sylvan Dam.

We were not aware that any such proposal existed or we would certainly have attended the Public Scoping Meeting on 09/23/08.

The maps of Rejected Alternative Routes E and F do not show route widths, but the project map for the proposed route shows right of ways from 100 to 535 feet. From that we would assume that at least 100 feet of right of way would be in place along the rejected routes, if not more. This would lead to substantial loss of timber and privacy on the parcels we own, as well pose as a significant threat to our retirement, as the parcels constitute a considerable portion of our assets. Therefore, from a personal standpoint we fervently wish that neither of these rejected routes be reconsidered.

We are not privy to the number of landowners or the number of homes affected by either of the rejected routes or the proposed route, nor do we have an estimate of the costs for any of the routes. Regardless of where the 115 kV line goes, it will disrupt the lives of a number of people. It will become a thoroughfare for off-road vehicles and as such become subject to erosion and produce noise pollution and other losses to the environment. It will significantly reduce property values along the entire route. The visual aspect alone is disheartening, as those of us who travel that route currently enjoy the absence of power lines along much of the way. It will create an ugly blot on the landscape, particularly for those homes that will now have that as their view. However, we understand the necessity and it is evident that the proposed route is the most direct and would impact property owners and the environment the least.

Thank you for allowing this input, and if additional public meetings are held, please include us in your mailing list.

James and Sandra Anderson  
13697 13th Avenue SW  
Pillager, MN 56401

Scott Ek

---

**From:** Linda Anderson [anderson@emily.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2008 11:23 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Great River Energy Proposal

Dear Mr. Elk,

I am concerned about the current Great River Energy plan which was discussed in Brainerd last week. The plan to run high voltage power lines along County Road 36 is not acceptable. I do not live on this proposed route, but do spend extended periods of time there with my daughter and young grandchildren. Their home is 200 yards from the proposed route and possible substation.

I remember years ago farmers fighting similar lines because of health risks involving their cattle! The emotional and physical health of my family is even more important! I have been a long time advocate for the environment and think that the alternative Route E, which would run along already existing lines and impact fewer homes, would be a much better choice. Please do all you can to protect those along this rural road!

Sincerely,



Linda K. Anderson

Mr. Ek-

October 1, 2008

I am writing to you regarding ET2/TL-08-712 Rejected Route E. I have been acquainted with that area for over twenty years and I whole heartedly support my friends in that area in their endeavor to keep things as they are. Even though I am not a land owner in that area I want to express my displeasure of the notion of cutting down the beautiful wooded area to make room for the electrical power lines. It is simply not the right thing to do when county road 18 lends itself with much less disturbance and cost.

Sincerely, Jeff Banick



**Scott Ek**

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**From:** travis banks [tbanks24@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 2:49 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** From Weichert Realtors Tower Properties

Hello, I am writing to show our concern with the idea of Great River running their power Lines down Cty Rd 36 in the Pillager Area. This will negatively affect all property owners along this stretch and could have adverse affect on future development of this area. I dont understand why they cant use the current Mp&l route. Lets not let cost affect the citizens of this area and bring down property values. Please reconsider this action and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Travis Banks  
Owner  
Weicher Realtors Tower Properties  
218-839-7653

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**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Amanda Becker [abecker25@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 5:20 PM

**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us

regaurding reference number 08-7\_12 . this is rediculous!! use the power line where the power already iS!!!! we do not want to see this in our neighborhood, think about it would you want this as your scenery out your front window! doubt it! so do us all a favor and stop the planning!  
a very dissappointed resident on county road 36.  
amanda

## Scott Ek

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**From:** Lilja Behr [jlbehr@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 4:14 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** High Voltage Power Line #08-712

Mr. Ek:

I own property on Hardy Lake in Cass County, just off of Highway 36.  
I oppose the construction of a high voltage line along this county road, or 11th Avenue SE, Pillager, MN.  
#08-712 is just one of the routes that has been suggested. That route will affect many homes and properties.  
I urge you to select another route, specifically, Alternative Route E.

Jeffrey W. Behr

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Steve Boeckermann [SBoeckermann@preferredpump.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2008 3:45 PM  
**To:** 'scott.ek@state.mn.us'  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712

Dear Scott,

I am sending this to voice my objection to any consideration of Rejected Alternative Route F on ET2/TL-08-712. I manage a growing business with 8 employees directly in-line to this route and it would have nothing but detrimental affects to this business and the other businesses along side of me. The route width would encroach our property and the other business along this stretch of road. The proposed route seems to make the most sense because on the map it appears to be the shortest route so should be the most economical and would not interfere with our local businesses. Please take this into consideration when deciding on the route of the power line. Route F should not be considered.

Steve Boeckermann  
Preferred Pump  
1788 Alfalfa Trail  
Pillager, MN. 56473  
Phone 218-824-0410  
Fax 218-824-0414

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Greg Booth [greg@sunupranch.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2008 11:35 AM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712

Scott,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Southdale to Scarcyville 115 KV transmission line. The proposed line would go past our farm on Cass County Road 18, where it would be in very close proximity to a horse barn and cattle barn on the west side of the road. The barns would be within the right-of-way of the line. I am concerned about stray voltage from this line affecting our livestock. If the line is approved for this route, I want assurance from Great River Energy that any potential problems from stray voltage would be addressed and corrected before the line is in operation.

Thank you,

**Greg Booth**  
**Sunup Ranch**  
2005 AQHA Legacy Award recipient  
218-828-8895  
Cell 218-838-1266  
www.sunupranch.com

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Jo Christensen [tjc109@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2008 1:38 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** New Electric Transmission Line

I am speaking on behalf of the 16 landowners and 14 homeowners in the Woodland Acres development on County Rd. #36 located in Section 29, Sylvan Twsph., Cass County MN.  
One half of the homeowners, (7) of them, have yards that would be directly impacted by this proposed construction and new proposed line running directly through their yards. In some cases, less than 100 feet from their homes with no buffer. This entire development has been affected in an adverse way due to the existing MP&L power line running through the property. Lot values and home values that are in the located in the path of the power line have a decreased value and are more difficult to sell. As the developer of this land, we are already taking losses over the existing line and are very much opposed to further development of additional power lines using the already rejected Routes of E&F.  
We landowners feel that common sense should prevail in using the existing proposed route much of it over uninhabited land and swamp leaving fewer affected landowners and much shorter than Routes E&F.

Sincerely,

Terry and Jo Christensen and neighbors

*JO and Terry Christensen, Realtors*

Edina Realty, Baxter  
218-838-8730 Jo Cell  
218-838-7333 Terry Cell  
218-825-3636 Fax  
218-825-1235 Toll Free Office

email: [tjc109@hotmail.com](mailto:tjc109@hotmail.com)

Mail: Edina Realty  
15354 Dellwood Dr. Suite 100  
Baxter, MN. 56425

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**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Lucy Coley [lucycoley@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 3:57 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** reference number 08-712

Dear Scott,

I would like to voice my concern regarding the proposed high voltage power line to run along county road 36. I do not live along the proposed line, but there is always the possibility that this issue fall in my lap some day. It is one thing when a family chooses to purchase a home where there is an existing high voltage power line, it is a completely different situation when this is forced on current home owners. In my opinion, it would be unconscionable to do allow this to happen to these families when there is already another good alternative available (Alternative Route E).

In addition to they eye sore, damage to property prices and inconvenience to the resident's along county road 36, I am most concerned about the health risks. Some research has found that exposure to elevated levels of ELF magnetic fields such as those originating from electric power transmission lines may be implicated in a number of adverse health effects. These include, but are not limited to, leukemia, Alzheimer's, breast cancer, neurodegenerative diseases (such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), miscarriage, and clinical depression. Please don't allow this to be forced on the home owners.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Lucy Coley

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** john conda [johnconda@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 03, 2008 12:19 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ref. #08-712

Good Morning, We understand that Great River Energy is proposing to run a high tension (transmission) power line with a sub station along Cass County 36 that will feed parts of the cities of Brainerd and Baxter in Crow Wing County. However, the proposed properties on Cty. 36 are in Sylvan township in Cass County. We find it interesting that the proposed power line is not using the existing right of way along the train tracks and instead want to run a new one along a stretch of residential properties. Removing the trees for 200+feet could result in possibly removing or moving some cases homes which seems excessive when they already have a more direct right of way. Simply put we have a situation where the little person is attempting to argue against big business. Trees assist in keeping the air and waters clear and we are all fight global warming. Great River states that it more cost effective to run a new line rather than using the existing one. Perhaps this is true, but in the long run it is not. We are in need of not reducing the earths ability to sustain itself and in turn us. Great River will pass the costs on to the consumer in either case and we would rather not clear cut a new line when one exists now. Sustainability of nature is of most importance and we need your help in this case to retain a portion of it. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep us advised. John & Margaret Conda, 13882 Hardy Lake Rd SW, Pillager, MN 56473

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Cory [Cory@orhvv.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 4:50 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Regarding 08-7\_12 Transmission Line

Scott,

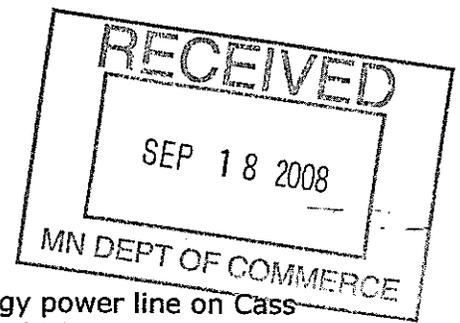
My name is Cory and I live just off of county road 36 outside of Baxter. I was just informed of the proposed route that Great River Energy wants to run their new transmission line. This will not directly affect my property but it does affect my neighborhood. I don't understand why they cannot utilize the existing path for the power lines. My understanding is that it is a financial issue.

I strongly disagree with great River Energy running the lines down 36 and hope that they will use the current path for the new power lines

Thank You,

Cory

Re: Proposed Great River Power Line Cass Cty Road 36



Dear Neighbors and Interested Parties:

We received a notification regarding the proposed Great River Energy power line on Cass County Road 36. I have grave concerns regarding this power line and I know you will too. We have spoken to Great River Energy at some length over the location of the proposed line. We agree that the line is needed for the growth in areas beyond ours, but we **vehemently disagree with the placement of this line in our front yards.** Great River Energy has an alternate route through unpopulated land, but would rather not use this route because of an increase in maintenance costs. We believe an alternate would be the best route from several standpoints, including the following:

If Great River Energy is allowed to place its lines in our front yards on Cass County 36 the documented health hazards to me and you is greatly increased especially to the neighbors that have a heart condition. It is not known what effect it has on pregnant women, small children and the elderly but I don't feel with a reasonable alternative route that the chance should be taken.

1. It is only natural that our property values will plummet with a huge power line crossing in the front of our homes. Couple that with the huge down turn in the real estate market and our homes will be worthless. These power poles are large and ugly!
2. In an attached copy you will notice that the proposed line on Cass County 36 is labeled as **200' wide**. I know I don't have that much property to give and many of my neighbors will be right under the power line!

**It's not too late to stop this theft of our property and our property values!!** This line must be approved by the Public Utilities Commission and if we are silent the line will be built in our front yards. If we object in large numbers the Public Utilities Commission will force Great River Energy to move the power line to the rightful alternative location. Remember:

This power line is not a benefit to us or our neighborhood.

1. There are many documented health hazards associated with a power line of this size. (These power poles are extra large and require greater than normal set backs)
2. Great River Energy only cares about its profits by putting this line in our front yards. It is the least costly to them, not the best option for us. The alternative route is the best long term solution.
3. Great River Energy **can be defeated only if we voice our opposition and displeasure to the Public Utilities Commission.** If you are silent you are giving Great River Energy a free pass to steal your property and plant an eyesore for you to remember them by each and every day.

**It is of grave importance that we act now to stop this injustice** Please contact Scott Ek at **(651)296-8813** or email at [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) at the Public Utilities Commission and tell them to vote NO to Great River Energy's proposed line route on Cass County 36.

Your Friend and Neighbor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina Doucette".

Christina Doucette  
(218) 821-8795

**Remember also to attend the public information meeting at Cragun's Conference Center on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00 and speak to representatives from the Mn Dept of Energy and voice your opposition.**

September 21, 2008

Dear Public Utility Commissioners;

I am writing to you today in pure frustration over Great River Energy's application for easement and permit to construct a 115 kv power line down Co Rd 36 in Cass County. This power line would run through our daughter's front yard, positively destroying not only her trees but the view from her windows. Every tree in her front yard would need to be removed to grant the 200' easement that GRE is applying for, and her view would be nothing but the power line and county road. We also have strong concerns about what health hazards are involved with a power line of this high voltage being so close to our daughter's home. She intends to marry soon and start a family. We have read many reports warning of the dangers of living near a power line of this type and are distressed at the thought that this power line would cause extreme health hazards to her and her family. If there are concerns about the power line being constructed near farmland and cattle; how then could it be safe for humans? This power line will force out daughter to move from her home.

Our daughter purchased this property because she grew up in the area (we live 1 mile down the road) and loves the area. Christina's dream was always to live in the nearby area. The day her property came up for sale she had a purchase agreement on it. She attended college while working a full time job, making payments on her dream property. Christina has two brothers and a sister, along with us, her two parents. The entire family gave up a summer and we built a house with her on her dream property. She has been thrilled to live in her "dream home" for the past two years and had every intention of living there for a great number of years, until this nightmare began 6 months after she moved in. Now she makes herself sick with worry that GRE will take away her front yard.

It seems unreal to us that a corporation like Great River Energy can walk in and apply with the PUC to take away her front yard to construct a power line, when a few feet away a very large easement for an existing power line is already present. GRE has many professional employees that have very cleverly set up the entire application to appear that this would be the best option for them of course. Our daughter and her neighbors in the meantime are at work trying to earn a living to make their house payments and not having the time to fight to keep the property they now own. It would be devastating to our entire family if Christina were to lose her home over such an injustice, when she has done nothing wrong. She works very hard, and **her home is all she has**. She has invested every dime she has ever made into her home and her future at this location. She would feel forced to move to save her health if the permit were granted to run this high power line through her front yard. It would be a devastatingly huge financial loss. Who in their right mind would buy her house in today's market after her trees are removed and a power line is put in its place?

At a previous open house with Great River Energy, one of the GRE employees very smugly said "yes we watched her house but never said anything of course about the

power line coming through her front yard”. We voiced our concern about the possibility of health hazards connected. We were told “not to be concerned. The reports we read must have been old information.” Although he did say that there would be some energy run off, it was not always preventable. When asked to have GRE put in writing that there were no health hazards connected with the presence of this line in our daughter’s yard, we were told that would not be possible. When asked why – we were told anything could happen - it is just not anticipated that there would be problems. This alone tells us that there is a strong potential for related health hazards. It would be far different if Christina had chosen to build her home with the power line already in existence; but she did not. In truth, she NEVER would have purchased this property knowing that the power line could one day be in her front yard.

We sincerely feel the proposed route should not even be considered as a possibility when there are so many other options for GRE to take. Alternative E uses the existing MP&L route.

- There is an easement already existing in the immediate area (MP&L)
- Run down the Cass/Crow Wing County line to Hwy#210 –and then follow the RR tracks- again, another already existing corridor and already cleared for easement
- To Hwy #371 – the corridor is a double lane highway and only commercial property - no residences would be affected

In looking over the permit application I do not feel GRE has clearly represented the effect the power line would have on the current neighborhoods. They show one photo of what the power line is now, and what the proposed line would appear to be – the amazing thing to me is that they show the power line down the existing MP&L line – not down CSAH 36 – they do not show you what a devastating effect this easement would have on the treed areas that everyone has purchased, and worked hard to preserve. It would have a huge bearing on the road noise and sight of traffic, not to mention the view that would only be of a power line and a tarred county road if this permit is granted.

The existing MP&L line is the most sensible and humane route to take for an upgrade of this kind. **Alternate Route E**

**We are begging and pleading with you to choose an alternate route** for this power line, not the proposed route down CSAH 36 in front of our daughter’s house.

Please, please restore our faith in our system of democracy. Do not let GRE steal their front yards. We appreciate any time you are willing to give this matter and we are willing to help in any way possible to assure our daughters property is not taken from her against her will.

Sincerely,  
Dennis & Debra Doucette  
13910 Hardy Lake Rd SW  
Pillager, MN 56473  
(218) 829-0885 home

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Christina Doucette [CDoucette@affinityplus.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 4:08 PM  
**To:** Scott Ek  
**Subject:** RE: Southdale to Searcyville Task Force Alternative

Hi Scott,  
Thank you for following up with me. I do want to rescind my request for an advisory task force. I think that assembling an informal focus group sounds like the way to go. I am trusting all of your advice. Thank you again for your help. Timeframe on the informal focus group meeting? Do we wait until after the "comment period" is up? I would be available to talk with neighbors and help coordinate this. Please let me know how near future we are looking at as well as is it just neighbors, can it be other interested parties, etc?  
Thanks again,  
Christina

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**From:** Scott Ek [mailto:Scott.Ek@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 1:47 PM  
**To:** chdoucette@gmail.com; Christina Doucette  
**Cc:** Deborah Pile; Bob Cupit; Tricia DeBleeckere  
**Subject:** Southdale to Searcyville Task Force Alternative

Ms. Doucette,

The email comment you sent to me dated 09/25/2008, regarding the creation of an advisory task force for the Southdale to Searcyville project was forwarded by me to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on 09/25/2008. Under Minnesota Rule 7849.5270 (<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/rules/?id=7849.5270>) the Commission has the authority to decide on appointing an advisory task force.

After some thought and discussion over the creation of an advisory task force, I have concluded there may be a better and more effective solution to address the concerns you and your neighbors have regarding the proposed segment of the transmission line that would follow north/south along County Road 36 (11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW).

I suggest assembling an informal focus group of those interested parties along that segment of the route that could meet in the immediate future to discuss the specific issues of concern and potential alternatives that could be addressed in the environmental assessment. In this way I can be sure to have all those citizens/landowners together to present their immediate concerns and issues, which may not necessarily be the case with a task force. The task force would rely on government/municipal appointees or staff to discuss an issues that relates personally to those along the segment in question. Whereas an informal focus group would allow specifically for you and your fellow neighbors to meet with me and potentially others members of the Office of Energy Security to discuss the issues one-on-one.

I would like to set-up a time and place to hold the focus group as soon as possible, should this be an agreeable alternative to a task force. Let me know what you think about this alternative and if you would be interested. If you do find this a better option I would suggest you send a quick email rescinding your request for a task force.

You are certainly more than welcome to give me a call with any questions you might have. I am interested in making sure that your comments and concerns are best served.

Sincerely,

**SCOTT EK**  
Office of Energy Security  
Energy Facility Permitting  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
Office: 651.296.8813  
[scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us)  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us)  
[www.energy.mn.gov](http://www.energy.mn.gov)

9/30/2008

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**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Christina Doucette [chdoucette@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2008 2:16 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** 08-712 USE ALTERNATIVE E

Scott,  
Where to begin....

As you know I am opposed to the power line on Cass #36. I want to clarify that I am not opposed for no reason at all. First, I do not understand why Great River Energy wants to run a whole new line in an area that has not been touched by "commercialism." There is an existing power line that runs the exact course that Great River Energy needs. I do understand that they do not want to use this route because it exceeds a 10 mile route length creating more "paperwork" for them. As I am sure you can imagine the power line is all that has been on my mind lately. How devastating this could be if they are really granted this permit. Let me clarify a few of my further concerns.

1. Our area is beautiful. Visually our area will be depressed if a power line is clear cut through the "road right of way" and our yards.
2. Health. Personally this is a huge concern to me. I am 24 years old being seen by a cancer specialist with the Centrasota facilities in St. Cloud, MN. I am currently undergoing genetic counseling due to a strong history of cancer on both sides of my family. I do everything I can to stay in the best health possible knowing the elevated risk. 3 of my 4 grandparents have had cancer. The only grandparent that I have that has not been diagnosed with cancer is the only grandparent still living. My mother is a cancer survivor. I could go on and on with the rest of the family's history but I think you get my point. Reading further into other health risks is an increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and miscarriage. I am of childbearing age. My family's history is not exactly working with me on this topic. I really do not need something this serious elevating my risk even further. The health risks that I have mentioned are only a small number of risks associated with a power line. I could go on and on and on...migraines, diet problems, depression, insomnia, Alzheimer's, pace maker problems, etc. Again, I think you get my point.
3. Why would a company like Great River Energy tell me that there are not health hazards with a power line? The answer I found according to [powerlinefacts.com](http://powerlinefacts.com): Because rich corporations handsomely reward lobbyists and scientists for distorting the scientific evidence in order to advance corporations' economic interests.
4. My property values would plummet. This is a fact. The number of potential buyers right now is fair to good even considering the times. If the power line now exists there would be at most a few possible buyers if I am lucky. I did get this information from both a real estate appraiser and contacted an experienced real estate agent. Regardless of market conditions my home would be a tough sell with a huge transmission line in my front yard. I have no plans to ever move or sell. I built my home to stay there for the long run. If this line is approved I would be forced to move.
5. Our area is a heavily used for recreation. If you check out County Road 36 just about any time of day you will find someone walking, biking, running, and just enjoying the outdoors in one way or another. You may even see me. We all do these things not only for the feel good of the exercise but to soak up the beauty of the area. Get some fresh air. Take the kids or dogs out for some fresh air. A power line is not a form of beauty. A power line does not align with anything our neighborhood is. It would be awful to be even more exposed to the harm that a power line lets out. No matter what angle I look at this from it still does not make sense to use GRE's proposed route.

Please see beyond the selfishness of a large corporation wanting the "easy way out" and force them to choose Alternative E. The existing homeowners that could be impacted have already been impacted. The route already exists. Rather than adding a second line please force them to re-construct. Force Great River Energy to do what is Right simply because it is right.

Sincerely,

Christina Doucette

10/1/2008

1110 Campfire Lane SW  
Pillager, MN 56473  
(218)821-8795

**Scott Ek**

**From:** Dennis & Deb Doucette [hardylake@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008 4:44 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** 08-712 meeting follow up

Dear Scott;

This entire process is still very disturbing to all of us, but with your help, at least we are starting to understand the process. Thanks so much for all your help!

If anything I think I'm more disturbed than ever with the things that were explained last evening by Great River Energy. Correct me if I am wrong but this is what I heard:

- there will be stray voltage and EMF, along with noise especially in inclement weather (from Rick Heurung, GRE)
- if permit is given and no easement is granted GRE has the right to take it (State law provides this)
- an alternate location is nearby and already cleared (Alternate Route E) and has an existing MP&L line currently using this corridor,(it looks like a highway going through the woods) but GRE has not chosen that route because the cost is higher and the route is over 10 miles long making more paperwork for GRE (to us that is a small price to pay for human lives)

The room last evening was filled with residents of the proposed route and Co Rd #36. ALL residents are opposed to the power line being constructed in front of their homes. - Any of their homes.

I should not have been surprised to hear all the neighbors in support of each other. They do not want this power line on either side of the road. It NEVER should have even been a proposal. As was said at the meeting last evening - this is nothing but corporate greed. We fully understand that our power rates may increase if the cost to construct this line goes up - so be it - it is a small price to pay for human lives. We will continue to stand together on this issue. As I'm sure was evident to you also - all residents are very concerned (as well they should be) for their health and the health of their families and their neighbors. They are also ready to fight for the right to retain their property and continue with a healthy lifestyle. Where we live is truly rural America - I wish you could experience it for yourself. We love it here!!! - If you have ever watched "Andy Griffith" - this is Mayberry - right here. You heard it for yourself last night - we may disagree at times but woe be to anyone that walks over one of us - this IS rural America - this is not an urban area - it costs us more to live here and we make less in our jobs - it's the price we are willing to pay - please don't take that away from us - don't force us to be victims of corporate greed

I could see last evening that GRE tried to pit neighbor against neighbor by saying that well - just maybe it will be in your neighbors yard and not yours - sorry - that won't work here - NO ONE wants to see a new power line out their front window -(their own yard or the neighbors) if the trees are removed everyone will have a very clear view of a horrible power line that will wreak havoc on the health of everyone in the neighborhood. Just not acceptable!

Sylvan Townships comprehensive plan calls for preservation of green space. I do not see how removing more trees and replacing them with a huge ugly transmission line could ever be allowed when a few feet away - a cleared easement already exists with an MP&L line already in place. Other than the obvious corporate greed; why should we lose our yards to a power line and endanger the health of all of us?

My husband and I have lived in this area our entire lives. We willingly live by all the DNR rules and regulations. We own some woods and our home is on lakeshore property. Those rules are made to **protect and preserve** the area. Never in our more than 50 years of life has anyone tried to forcibly take away our property and at the same time **knowingly endanger the health of our family**. This is positively not acceptable to us at all. It seems incomprehensible that this could even be happening.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help stop this injustice to the residents of CSAH #36. I am recently

9/25/2008

retired and will do ANYTHING to stop this line. Please relay to the Commissioners for us that the obvious choice is Alternative Route E, IF it is necessary to build this line.

Thanks again for all your help (and patience with all of us).

Deb Doucette -

home # 218.829.0885

cell 218.839.6025

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Dennis Doucette [dennisd@agencyonemn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2008 8:18 AM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Great River Energy 08-712

Dear Mr. Ek;

I am writing today in opposition to the proposed Great River Energy (GRE) proposal 08-712. I attended the public meeting at Cragun's Lodge and Conference Center last evening and I want to thank you for your objectivity and sensitivity to those present. It can be difficult in these types of meetings but you handled the situation very well.

I have several objections to the Great River Energy proposal. As I listened last evening and as I have reviewed the supporting documentation, it is apparent that the final routing decision by GRE has been made without conscious thought to what is best for the residents of the proposed route. GRE has made the decision with their minds on the bottom line only, the epitome of "corporate greed".

This country has increasingly drifted away from the founding principles of our founding fathers. The architects of this country valued the rights of the individual and worked to protect them at all costs. Today we seem to have forgotten the individual and given greater measure to large corporations because they have deeper pockets and can make glossy presentations with professionals presenting. We have lost sight of common sense, something valued by Minnesotans. The individuals in this case are the residents and landowners along this proposed route. My daughter is one of those individuals.

My daughter Christina Doucette built her dream home 2 years ago using every monetary resource available to her. She is young and cannot withstand the financial loss this power line will bring. She and her neighbors land values will tumble even further than they currently have via the mortgage debacle with these giant power poles and power lines in their front yards. I spoke with an area realtor with over 40 years experience and he stated that the pool of buyers will dwindle to very few persons if these power lines are placed where proposed.

I am also gravely concerned about the potential health hazards this proposed line brings. My daughter will be starting a family soon and we fear the damage this line might bring to our daughter our grandchildren, as well as the neighbors with heart conditions and pacemakers.

GRE has made their decision on route F based solely on the cost difference. When Rick Huering of GRE was asked "If you take cost out of the equation, is this the best location for the powerline?", he stuttered and stammered and failed to answer. He could not utter the truth that the answer is no. If you remove cost, the best location is alternate E. GRE stated that the above ground power lines have a life expectancy of 70 years. The added cost of construction of route E via the current location of MP & L power lines has been stated by GRE at \$3,000,000.00. Amortized over the lifetime of the lines the added cost is only \$43,000.00 annually over the next 70 years. **Can we in good conscience choose cost and savings to the bottom line of a HUGE company like GRE over the health of our children and grandchildren?** Does common sense allow us to pass the cost of this power line to the individual, and allow the giant corporation a free pass? In Christina's case, a single female who has invested all she has in her home! We cannot allow the Second largest electric company in Minnesota to tread on these poor souls simply because it is business as usual.

Please bring common sense back to our world. Think about the individual landowners and the harm this proposal will cause them due to plain and simple corporate greed. Think about the children of today and the children of the future and the health concerns this power line presents. ***I plead with you to please deny the location of this proposal and please consider alternate route E along current power line routes.***

Sincerely,

9/25/2008

Dennis A. Doucette

Dear Scott;

I am writing today in opposition to the power line following Cass County road 36. I understand that an upgrade in infrastructure is required to meet future needs. However I don't see how not following route E (which currently has an existing power easement) benefits anyone besides the power company.

I have a power easement on my property for a transmission line, that runs along the back of my property. If Crow Wing Power came to me and said, I know we already have an easement but we want to put a new line right out your front door I would be furious. However if they said they wanted to overbuild the existing line, I would understand and would be willing to accommodate them in any way I could.

I live east of Brainerd and have watched the construction of a similar line be built over this last summer along State Highway 18. I have watched the number of trees in peoples yards be clear cut to the point where I didn't even realize a house was even there before, but now you can see the house very clearly from the road. The privacy these trees provided was taken away from these property owners. Please don't allow this to happen to the residents along Cass 36. If you have been to this area you will quickly understand how beautiful it is. Some of the trees are over 100 years old and would be selfishly destroyed to "save a buck" if Great River Energy is allowed this permit.

Please consider Option E as the only alternative. Thank You Dan Doucette

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Helen Doucette [hdoucette@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2008 6:35 PM  
**To:** Helen  
**Subject:** Fw: Reference # 08-712

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

**From:** [Helen Doucette](#)  
**To:** [Helen](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2008 6:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: I could not have said it better myself...

Mr. Scott Elk ,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Helen Doucette, and this proposal is going to effect my Granddaughter, my son and also my nephew who lives in that same neighborhood.

I would like to address the proposal of the Great River Energy running a power line on County Road # 36 in Cass County reference number 08-712. I think that there should be another route to take and not run through an area where people are residing. I believe that one should not be exposed to the high power voltage that will be generated from this power line. I believe that not only my Husband, Duane, but also other people who resided in a retirement park in Arizona died from cancer. This is not a good situation and there is a lot of unused (low areas) where families reside. We had this same situation on property we own in Crow Wing County and Minnesota Power worked with us and found another route and I strongly urge you to do the same. Please don't let Big Business speak louder than John Q. Public consider these folks who are going to be effected by this.

I greatly urge to listen to these citizens of Cass County and County Road # 36 and find another source for this transmission line.  
Helen Doucette  
1212 8th Ave, N.E.  
Brainerd,Mn. 56401  
218-829-5916

**Subject:** I could not have said it better myself...

Please read the e-mail below. Putting it into words I don't think I could have said it better myself.

I am begging for anyone/everyone's help possible. As you will read below Great River Energy is wanting to construct a powerline to go down Cass #36-- my front yard. We are in the "comment phase" right now with the State. If we can show a strong opposition to this route and show that we favor one of the alternatives-- specifically Alternative E the State of MN could force them to use the existing line-- makes to much sense. Please read below and help me out by writing to Scott Ek with the State of MN. For those of you who know Chad and Laura Paulson-- they are also part of the battle. Where the proposed substation is to go would basically be in their back yard. The possible health hazards are devistating to even imagine. The loss of the beauty of the area through clear cutting a powerline route along the side of the road, everything about it! Please, please, please help me by writing to Scott and forwarding this to anyone you know who could/would write or know anyone else that may. ANYONE can write. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Christina

Hi everyone - I am writing today because an issue has come up that is of great concern to us.

This past week we attended a public meeting put on by Great River Energy and the Public Utilities Commission of MN. An application is being processed to allow Great River Energy to construct a new high voltage power line (115KV - the big one) down the existing power line that connects with co rd #36 and turning to the north to follow down Co Rd 36 to the highway rather than continuing down the existing MP&L route that is already in service. Great River Energy has requested a 200 ft wide easement that could be cleared down co rd 36 to construct their line. We asked why not continue on the existing MP&L route and they replied that it would cost them more money to follow that route - they would like to clear the trees from Co Rd #36 and construct this new route and within 5 years they will be constructing a sub station on co rd #36 also.

this line does not benefit our area - it is not to provide needed service to us - it is a duplicate line to provide back up service to E. Brainerd and Baxter.

10/3/2008

**We have only 7 days to respond giving us a deadline of this Friday.**

Personally Denny & I feel that although it is unfortunate that it would cost GRE more to use the existing MP&L easement that it would be \$\$ well spent. We do not wish to see a huge power line adjacent to co rd #36 in the front yards of our neighbors. Our daughter lives on co rd #36 and it is possible for her entire front yard to be devoid of trees and replaced with a very large high power transmission line if this permit is allowed. The side of the road is yet to be determined and will not be until after the permit is granted. No property owner will have anything to say if this permit is allowed by the PUC. Eminent domain will prevail and Great River Energy will take the front yards of whichever side of the road they choose to run this power line down.

**Our only chance to voice our concern is now.** - If you are as concerned as we are - please email [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) and use reference number 08-712 and voice your opposition to this permit. The residents of co rd #36 appear to be united against their property being taken from them and their health being put in danger from a power line of this type. They are proposing that Alternative Route E be chosen to force Great River Energy to upgrade the existing line. **NO NEW ROUTE WOULD BE CLEARED.**

If you would like to see the entire proposal it can be found on the PUC website or eDockets at [www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp) and enter docket number 08-712

I believe this is a serious environmental issue. If we do not respond now - the permit will be granted and nothing more will be said - Great River Energy will have a new 200' power route and easements to all properties down Co Rd #36 including a new substation to be built within the next 5 years.

I would greatly appreciate your help in supporting our neighbors on Co Rd #36.- Spread the word to anyone that would be willing to contact the PUC in opposition.(we only have until friday)

Please, please act now by sending your opposition to Scott Ek at the PUC. The more opposition we can voice, the better chance we have at getting this permit denied and re-routed.

Deb Doucette

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Yvette Adelman-Dullinger [ydullinger@wausaupaper.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2008 9:27 AM  
**To:** Southdale@grenergy.com  
**Cc:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Southdale to Searcyville 115kV HVTL  
**Importance:** High

Kodi & Rick,

I live along Upper Sylvan Road SW and have a few questions regarding Rejected Alternative Route E. I am a former member of Sylvan Township's Planning Commission and have been appointed to the Town Board until the election in November. Needless to say yesterday I received phone calls and visits from concerned neighbors asking questions that I was not prepared to answer.

First just looking at the project area as a whole, following the most direct route as you currently have planned, looks like it makes the most sense. Although I can share the concern that the landowners along the proposed route regarding a HVTL running through their property.

Upper Sylvan Road SW is probably the most scenic road that we have in our township, it is densely wooded on both sides. When the road was improved, the township, at the residents request along the road, went to great efforts to preserve the trees along the road. If a HVTL were to be installed along the road - **Would it follow the path of the current power line along the road (just higher)? or would it run along a different path making it necessary to take trees?**

You have different route widths listed on your map - **What does that mean to the property owners along the route?** In my case my house sits about 120' from the road, 180' puts you in my backyard. Please explain, as comments from the neighbors say that the HVTL would be running behind my house through my yard and of course that would mean the removal of many of my trees as we have woods to the north and west of my house.

I personally have some concerns regarding the safety of being so close to a HVTL and having one in my yard. In the fall of 2003 our current power line fell across our yard and started a fire. It was a drought year and the flames started into our woods. My husband is a trained fire fighter and with the help of neighbors had the fire somewhat under control until the Pillager fire department got there. But then we all had to wait about an hour and a half until the power was cut to fully put the fire out. Seeing the power of the smaller line going down just makes me very concerned what a higher voltage line could do.

Looking at this from a Planning Commission perspective - we are studying the feasibility of a multi-use trail along County Road 18. **If you run the line along 18 would we be able to run a multi-use trail with it? and would Great River Energy/MN Power be able to help finance/accommodate it?**

Yvette M. Adelman-Dullinger  
Accountant  
Wausau Paper - Brainerd  
Phone 218-822-6638  
Fax 218-822-6667  
email: ydullinger@wausaupaper.com

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Yvette Adelman-Dullinger [ydullinger@wausaupaper.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2008 9:30 AM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712

Mr. Ek,

My husband and I reside at 12757 Upper Sylvan Rd SW, Pillager, MN 56473. We are concerned that the rejected routes are being reconsidered for the HVTL. Our road in particular is probably the most scenic road in the township - we have a mix of large beautiful oak trees, birch and pines overhanging the road. From the information I have been told - we would lose our trees along the road and for most people along the road at least half if not almost all the trees in their front yards if the HVTL goes through Upper Sylvan Road. This would be a tragic loss to us. The residents fought to save the trees when the road was improved about 3-4 years ago - it would be tragic to lose them now. I couldn't imagine losing the trees in my yard - In my lifetime I would never see a replacement tree grow to their size.

We do have a lot of small children in our neighborhoods (Scearcyville and along Upper Sylvan Rd) and I have heard that being so close to HVTL is unhealthy as well as hearing a continual hum. To lose our large oak trees and have our homes so close to the lines would greatly diminish our property values - there is no amount of money that could compensate for these losses. We also have ponds and Lake Hole in the day very close to the road which is screened by the trees lining the road. This is great habitat for the local wildlife - the ducks, geese, songbirds, deer, fox, raccoons, beaver, fishers, a bobcat and a bear. To lose the screening would also impact the wildlife.

Although I can understand the concerns that the residents have along the proposed route - the Road Right of Way is greater along their route vs. the rejected routes and they reside further from line. We would be almost under it. Also looking at the distance that the line would travel through the township on either of the rejected routes appears to be much greater than the more direct proposed route. The greater distance would impact more property owners as I am sure would have higher construction costs to the utility. I would urge you to stick to the proposed route and not switch to either of the rejected routes.

Sincerely,

Yvette M. Adelman-Dullinger  
Accountant  
Wausau Paper - Brainerd  
Phone 218-822-6638  
Fax 218-822-6667  
email: ydullinger@wausaupaper.com

## Scott Ek

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**From:** Verla and Jerry Engelbrecht [engelbr@brainerd.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 03, 2008 11:38 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712

RE: Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Searcyville 115 Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

From: Verla Engelbrecht  
959 132nd Street SW  
Brainerd, MN 56401

October 3,2008

Comments following the public meeting:

Please consider that there is an existing line that could be altered to avoid the Dam area, impacts less human spaces ,but requires more work on the part of the applicants to obtain the permit. Much of the land involved is owned by Potlach and Minnesota Power. The line will cross the Gull River whichever route it takes.

CASH #36 exists as a beautiful scenic road that is the main travel route to many that live in this fast growing area. The reason people live in the area is the value of the aesthetics of the land, the values of the environment being important. The line will clearly destroy the look & feel of the area so valued by more than those that happen to have land that will be adjacent to the right of ways.

The environmental impact to especially the east side of the road could be huge with the loss of recently planted trees, to loss of trees that are barriers for noise, privacy, wind & snow.

Please do not discard the greater utilization of the existing route to save our environment and values of living in this area.

Please consider that costs need to be considered, but not by dollars alone.



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

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT FORM

Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Scarcyville 115  
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Debra L. Foy  
Address: 13698 13th Ave SW  
City: Pillayn State: MN ZIP: 56473

Please share your comments on the potential impacts, mitigation measures and alternative routes to be considered in the scoping document and environmental assessment to be prepared for the proposed Great River Energy and Minnesota Power, Southdale to Scarcyville 115 Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line Project.

Turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Scott Ek, Project Manager at: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

An alternative route for the proposed high voltage transmission line is much in my favor, as my parents home would be greatly involved. My dad has a pacemaker/defibrillator implant, after going through out of hospital cardiac arrest, then endured a triple bypass. For his health concerns, I am totally opposed to the proposed Plan F. Plan E looks to be a better route, with a line already placed! Lets work with our community and make it a safe living environment for all. I'm sure you would feel the same way if was your parents !!

Signature: Debra L. Foy Date: 9-26-08



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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT FORM

Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Scareyville 115  
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Leland & Judy Foy  
Address: 13531 11th Ave S.W  
City: Pillager State: MN ZIP: 56473

Please share your comments on the potential impacts, mitigation measures and alternative routes to be considered in the scoping document and environmental assessment to be prepared for the proposed Great River Energy and Minnesota Power, Southdale to Scareyville 115 Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line Project.

Turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Scott Ek, Project Manager at: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

We feel an alternative route of this proposed line would be in our best interest. Leland has a defibrillator - pacemaker implant, which we question, whether it could cause serious health problems, for him. Our home is so close to Cass County 36, the project would be right on "top of us". Therefore SlanE would be more in our favor, as an advisory task force would be. Thank you for the meeting, we will be expecting to hear more from you on this topic.  
Judy + Leland Foy

Signature: Judy Foy Date: 9-24-08

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** PAUL ANN GRUSSING [apgruss@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2008 1:26 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Power line construction

in re: 08-712

I write in opposition to the construction of an expanded capacity powerline on a new route along Cass County Highway 36. Following the existing power line would be the least disturbing alternative in order to protect and preserve the local environment and neighborhoods.

Paul G. Grussing  
14052 Hardy Lake Rd SW  
Pillager, MN 56473

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Rachel Hamm [rmhamm@uslink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2008 8:52 AM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** reference number 08-712, request for easement adjacent to County Road 36

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask that you do not grant Great River Energy an easement along County Road 36 which might result in trees being removed and allow a high voltage power line be constructed there,

Construction such as seems to be suggested if this easement is allowed suggests that people who live along County Road 36 may lose trees in their yards. It would detract from the beauty of the area.

Since there is an existing route being used for a power line, I think that even though it might cost the power company more, it would be better for the community if they chose to follow that route.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Hamm

No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG.

Version: 7.5.524 / Virus Database: 270.7.5/1697 - Release Date: 9/29/2008 7:40 AM



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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
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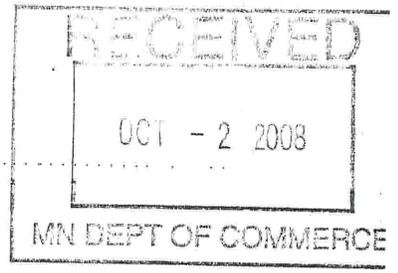
Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Searcyville 115  
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: William + Marlys Hinch  
Address: 2079 Searcyville Dr SW  
City: PILLAGER State: MN ZIP: 56473

Please share your comments on the potential impacts, mitigation measures and alternative routes to be considered in the scoping document and environmental assessment to be prepared for the proposed Great River Energy and Minnesota Power, Southdale to Searcyville 115 Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line Project.

Turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Scott Ek, Project Manager at: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

See Attached  
Letter



Signature: William Hinch, Marlys Hinch Date: 10/1/08  
Public Utilities Commission  
Docket No. ET2/TL-08-712

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO;;; Scott EK Office of Energy Security

From: William + Marys Hinch

Ref: ET2/TL-08-712

We, <sup>MR + MRS</sup> William Hinch of 2079 Scarceville DR.  
Name address

Are writing to voice our strong objection to any reconsideration of, "Rejected Route E" on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan.

As home/property owners on Route E we strongly believe that overhead high voltage lines create very real health and environmental concerns for those living underneath them and in the close proximity to them.

We believe that our property value and home value will suffer severely with the new lines being considered. Our home and property enjoyment will be impacted by this proposed route. This goes not only for us, but for many of our neighbors whose yards are directly under the existing wires and their homes are 50 to 60 feet from the lines. Children will be playing directly under the new 115 KW high Transmission lines. We find that unacceptable. As a group, the property owners fought very hard to keep our section of Upper Sylvan Rd area a tree lined scenic drive. It is a beautiful section of road that would be destroyed by this proposed route. The scenic integrity of this area must remain intact. We strongly oppose any work that would jeopardize that integrity.

We feel that the power line would adversely effect the flyway for waterfowl between the Gull River and Hole in the Day Lake. We feel it will effect the nesting habitat of many species of warblers, indigo buntings, and scarlet tanagers that nest in the brushy habitat at the edge of the woods.

The noise pollution from the hum of the lines is an adverse effect that will diminish enjoyment of our homelife significantly.

As property owners we also feel that the previous notice for the proposed route and subsequent meeting was misleading to those who live along the rejected routes. Please take note of our objections and our request for another public meeting if you, in fact, are going to consider Route E again.

Thank you for you attention to this matter

William + Marys Hinch



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

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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT FORM

Great River Energy & Minnesota Power Southdale to Scareyville 115  
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Robert and Robin Hollister  
Address: 12161 Upper Sylvan Rd. SW  
City: Pillager State: Mn ZIP: 56473

Please share your comments on the potential impacts, mitigation measures and alternative routes to be considered in the scoping document and environmental assessment to be prepared for the proposed Great River Energy and Minnesota Power, Southdale to Scareyville 115 Kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line Project.

Turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Scott Ek, Project Manager at: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

Comments on attached pages.

Signature: Robin Hollister Date: Oct 1, 2008

Public Utilities Commission  
Docket No. ET2/TL-08-712

To: Scott Ek

We, Robert and Robin Hollister of 12661 Upper Sylvan Rd. Pillager Mn 56473, are writing to voice our strong objection to any reconsideration of, "rejected route E" on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan.

As home ~~owners~~ owners on route E we strongly believe that overhead high voltage lines create very real health concerns for those living underneath them and in close proximity to them.

We believe that our property value and home value will suffer severely with the new lines being considered. Our home and property enjoyment will be impacted by this proposed route. This goes not only for us, but for many of our neighbors whose yards are directly under the existing wires and their homes are 50 to 60 feet from the lines. Children will be playing directly under the new 115 kw high transmission lines. We find that unacceptable.

As a group, the property owners fought very hard to keep our section

of Upper Sylvan Rd. a tree lined scenic drive. It is a beautiful section of road that would be destroyed by this proposed route. Curtis Stillwell, a deceased township board member, spent many of the last days of his life, fighting to keep the scenic integrity of the road intact. We strongly oppose any work that would jeopardize that legacy.

We feel that the power line would adversely effect the flyway for waterfowl between the Gull River and Able-in-the-Day Lake. We feel it will effect the nesting habitat of many species of warblers, indigo buntings and scarlet tanagers that nest in the brushy habitat at the edge of forests.

The noise pollution from the hum of the lines is an adverse effect that will diminish enjoyment of our homelife significantly.

As property owners we also feel that the previous notice for the proposed route and subsequent meeting was misleading to those who live along the rejected routes. Being given this

Short turn around time to address our objections also seems like an attempt to speed this past everyone along that route.

Please take note of our objections and our request for another public meeting if you, in fact, are going to consider route E again.

Thank-you—

Robert and  
Robin Halliwell

**Scott Ek**

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**From:** Troy Hradsky [intrans@brainerd.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008 3:51 PM  
**To:** Scott.Ek@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** ET2/TL-08-712 GRE Southdale to Scarcyville 115 Kv Trans Line Project

Scott,

Thank you for taking the time to explain the process of permitting for this proposed powerline to the group last evening. On behalf of myself and family along with my father Wayne Hradsky I would like to ask that you please organize or set forth the motions to have organized an Advisory Task Force regarding the proposed project. I believe that last night gave you a good feeling of the land owners concerns with the current proposed route for this project and I feel that an Advisory Task Force should be assembled however, I ask that part of this task force be at least two members from the area affected. I don't feel that there will be proper representation by this task force if it is comprised solely of government and/or GRE officials. I would be available to take part in this task force if I were notified early enough so that I can shift my professional schedule.

It is my fathers and my own opinion that the route proposed will impact ours and our neighbors property negatively in a ecological, financial and aesthetic way that can never be reversed. My address is 12918 11th Ave SW and my father's is 12916 11th Ave SW both Brainerd, MN. We are located approximately 1/2 mile south on # 36 on the east side of the road. Combined my father and I own approximately 118 acres of property of which part of my fathers is frontage on # 36. This land has been in our family since 1917 when my great grandfather homesteaded from Nebraska. My father has lived on this land for 63 years with a short absence during his service in the military in Vietnam and I have lived on the property for 40 years with a short absence for service in the military as well. Three generations of Hradsky's have raised their families here and I am at the last few years of raising the fourth generation here as well. We have all seen the growth that was mentioned over the years. We realize that we cannot stop growth in this area and have come to terms with accepting it by insuring that we monitor our township closely to maintain a community that will keep its "up north" appearance yet accept the growth.

One of our first concerns with this powerline being so close is the health issues. As we all get older we are concerned what this powerline will do to our health should we or our neighbors be in need of pulmonary assistance devices. In addition to this there are many young families moving into the developments in our area not to mention that two of the lots of my fathers land are earmarked for his grandchildren, my children, who in not to many years will be hopefully, bringing my grandchildren into the world. Our concerns then will of course be, what affects these lines have on their mothers and the fetus and the children after birth.

Secondly we are concerned with the ecological effects these powerlines will have on the wildlife. A good portion of this area is one of the only nesting area and home for an endangered species of turtle not to mention the home of many hawks and eagles. Though I know that some powerlines provided nesting areas for some of these birds I believe, that there are studies to show that these higher Kv lines cause problems with the hatching of their young.

Thirdly, the proposed route will aesthetically ruin the look of this area. The amount of hardwoods that will have to be taken in my opinion is way to much. The township recently went through a huge turmoil over the size of lots and the amounts of trees that can be cut when developing a property. The comprehensive plan greatly restricts this type of clearing for private parties yet, in this instance when it comes to GRE the rules seem to not apply. This alone sends a message to the community that I don't believe that the state nor GRE wants sent. It has been made perfectly clear by the township that we as a community rely on tourism for a great portion of the local income. By defacing our beautiful area with this powerline on # 36 in route to a local resort or # 18 in route to two of the largest resorts in the area, not to mention two of the largest employers of local youth, this powerline will slow that business. No one will want to come to this area, they will go further north to avoid the look of the metro.

Lastly, the financial impact that this powerline would have on some of the property owners is in our opinion not at all being considered. Though it was briefly discussed last evening, it was not thoroughly explained in a manner that shows evidence of what the long term financial losses will be. A perfect example of this is that for many years real estate has been the only solid investment. Some have invested in this area because of its beauty with intentions of good returns on their money and, though I understand that it is not the responsibility of the state or GRE to insure return on investment for those people, "when there is no other solution", I do feel that it is necessary for there to be appropriate compensation or in this case re-routing of the powerline. In summary, after reviewing the other proposed options, it is my suggestion that proposed route E be the route taken. This route, though longer, will have little to no ecological impact due to the fact that for the most part there is already an existing powerline therefore, no clearing required and, the wildlife has already adapted to that line. The property owners affected will be minimal as they already own that property that already has a powerline. Aesthetically there will be no real change to the area and, financially no one who owns the land with the current line is looking for long term financial gain from the sale of that land due to development because the line already exists.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Troy Hradsky  
12918 11th Ave SW  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
ph: 218-828-8133

9/25/2008

wk: 218-829-6136

email: [intrans@brainerd.net](mailto:intrans@brainerd.net)





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**July 9, 2008**

**Ron Duy, Sr.**

**12871 Little Pine Trail SW**

**Brainerd, MN 56401**

**RE: Impact on of 115kV on Little Pine Resort**

**Dear Mr. Duy,**

**After a site visit and after reviewing the data—photographs, county assessor tax documents, plat maps, real estate data—it is my professional opinion that the construction of the proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and power poles across and/or adjacent to your properties on Little Pine Lane will have a significant financial and aesthetic impact on this properties in at least 4 ways:**

- 1. The value of the your home and your resort business will be immediately deceased substantially.**
- 2. The sale value of both properties will be diminished and potential buyers will choose not to buy because of the negative impact of having a high voltage power line on or next to these properties.**
- 3. The loss of revenue from the reduction in new business and repeat business from resort guests/users who choose not to come to this resort because of the power line.**
- 4. Reduction in value as a result of having a utility easement across the property/properties. The property value will be reduced because the easement will limit the use of part of the property so the owner will not have full use of all of this property.**

The removal of trees that currently serve as a visual buffer and add to the "Up North" look of this resort will have a damaging impact on this property. Unfortunately the removal of trees will be similar to the contrast to building a house in the woods compared to building a house in the middle of a Walmart blacktop parking lot. Having open space in front of the Resort instead of trees will alter drastically the way this Resort is seen by anyone approaching it or exiting it. Secondly, to have large poles and the support wires that may be around them will only increase the negative impact.

It appears that the large resort sign may need to be removed as it is currently located where the power line easement may be located. This will be a significant loss and a significant cost. The current location is the only practical location for the sign. There is no other location that can match this location.

Putting any power line, especially this huge non-aesthetically pleasing 115 kV Transmission Line, across or in close proximity to this property impacts not only the resort business, but it impacts the owners as year round residents. This is where you live. It has a double impact in this case. Another consideration is the potential for little children, resort guests, to be physically injured while playing or recreating near any of the structures.

It would be far more reasonable, rational and wise to change the route this proposed 115kV Transmission Line easement north between the NW ¼ of NW 14 and the NE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 16 Township 133 Range 29 then west along the railroad right away where no business and no residences would be impacted. Such a route would run between two property owner boundaries and it would not divide any parcel. There would be minimal costs and minimum reduction in values to the properties involved.

Bob Franseen, Realtor, CRS, ABR, GRI

Edina Realty

P.O. Box 564

Crosslake, MN 56442

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Franseen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

#### 4. Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Minnesota permitting rules require that if any alternative routes or sites have been rejected "... the applicant shall include in the application the identity of the rejected sites or routes and an explanation of the reasons for rejecting them."<sup>1</sup>

The costs, landowner impacts, environmental impacts and length of all six Rejected Alternative Routes were compared and are summarized in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Route Impact Comparisons

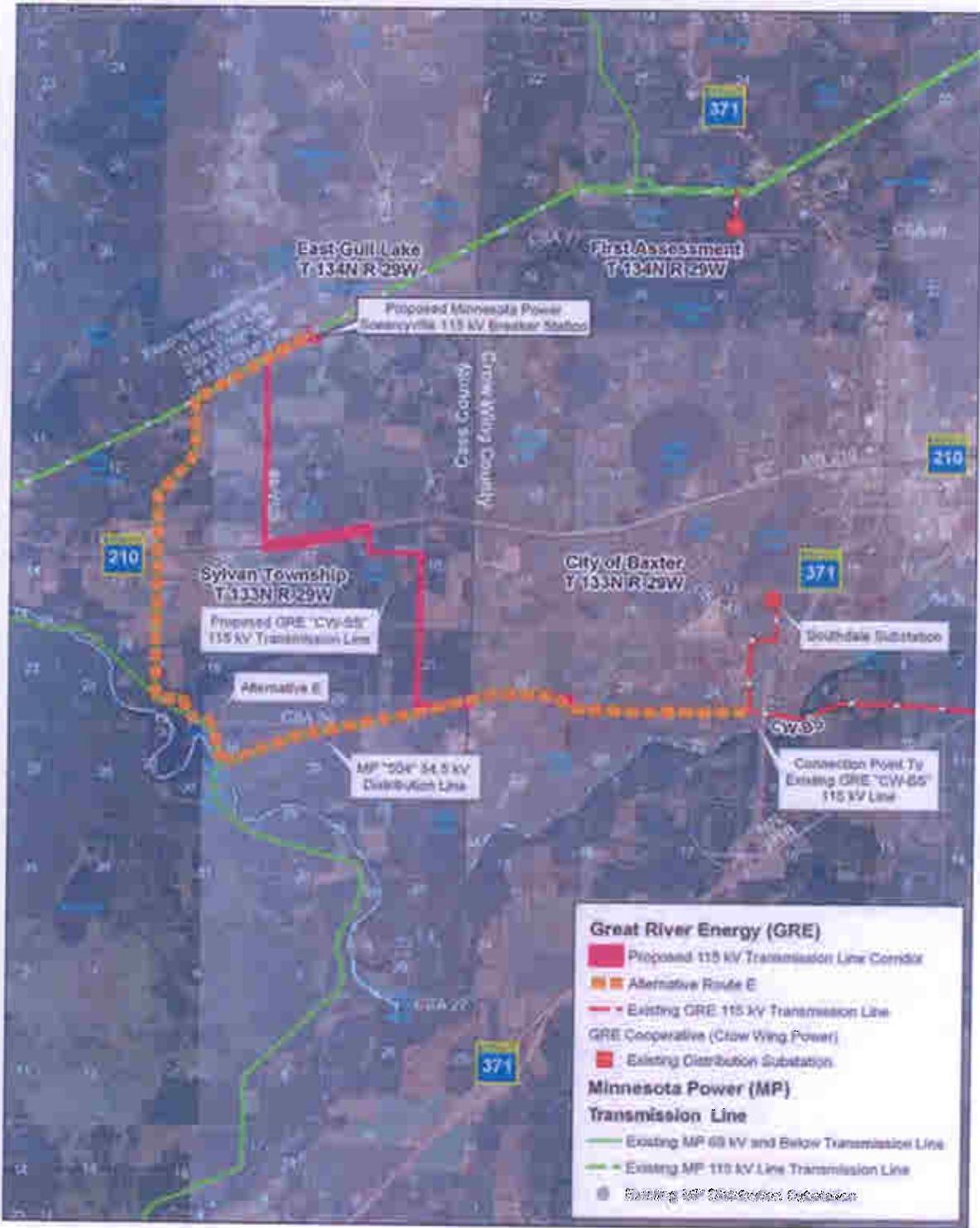
Route	Estimated Pre- and Post-Construction Costs	Estimated Construction Costs	Total Project Cost	Number of Parcels Along Proposed Route (full Route width)	Length of Line (miles)
Proposed Route	\$2,350,000	\$5,230,000	\$7,580,000	107	9.3
Alternative A	\$2,950,000	\$5,190,000	\$8,140,000	252	10.1
Alternative B	\$2,150,000	\$5,000,000	\$7,150,000	127	9.2
Alternative C	\$3,150,000	\$5,920,000	\$9,070,000	123	11.8
Alternative D	\$3,350,000	\$6,220,000	\$9,570,000	142	12.7
Alternative E	\$3,930,000	\$7,230,000	\$11,160,000	79	16.0
Alternative F	\$4,050,000	\$7,560,000	\$11,610,000	102	15.7

The pre- and post-construction costs are considerably higher for Rejected Alternative Routes A and C thru F because those routes exceeded 10 miles in length and would require a Certificate of Need in addition to a Route Permit.

If any of the rejected alternatives had been chosen as the route for the Project, the Applicants would have requested a route of variable widths to allow alignment flexibility to locate the transmission line on either side of a roadway or property line. For this reason, the total number of parcels encompassed by each rejected alternative route was used in evaluating each scenario and is provided in Table 4-1.

<sup>1</sup> Minn. R. 7849.5530 (2007).

Figure 4-5 Rejected Alternative Route E



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#### 4.1.5 Rejected Alternative Route E – Overtake Minnesota Power's 34.5 kV "504" Line in its Entirety

Rejected Alternative Route E ("Alternative E") is shown in Figure 4-5.

Alternative E overtakes all of Minnesota Power's existing "504" 34.5 kV distribution line from the "CW-BS" 115 kV transmission line tap point approximately 1.5 miles south of the Southdale Substation, west to the Sylvan Hydro Generating Station, then north to Minnesota Power's existing "24" 115 kV transmission line. It then follows the Minnesota Power transmission/distribution right of way where it joins the Proposed Route.

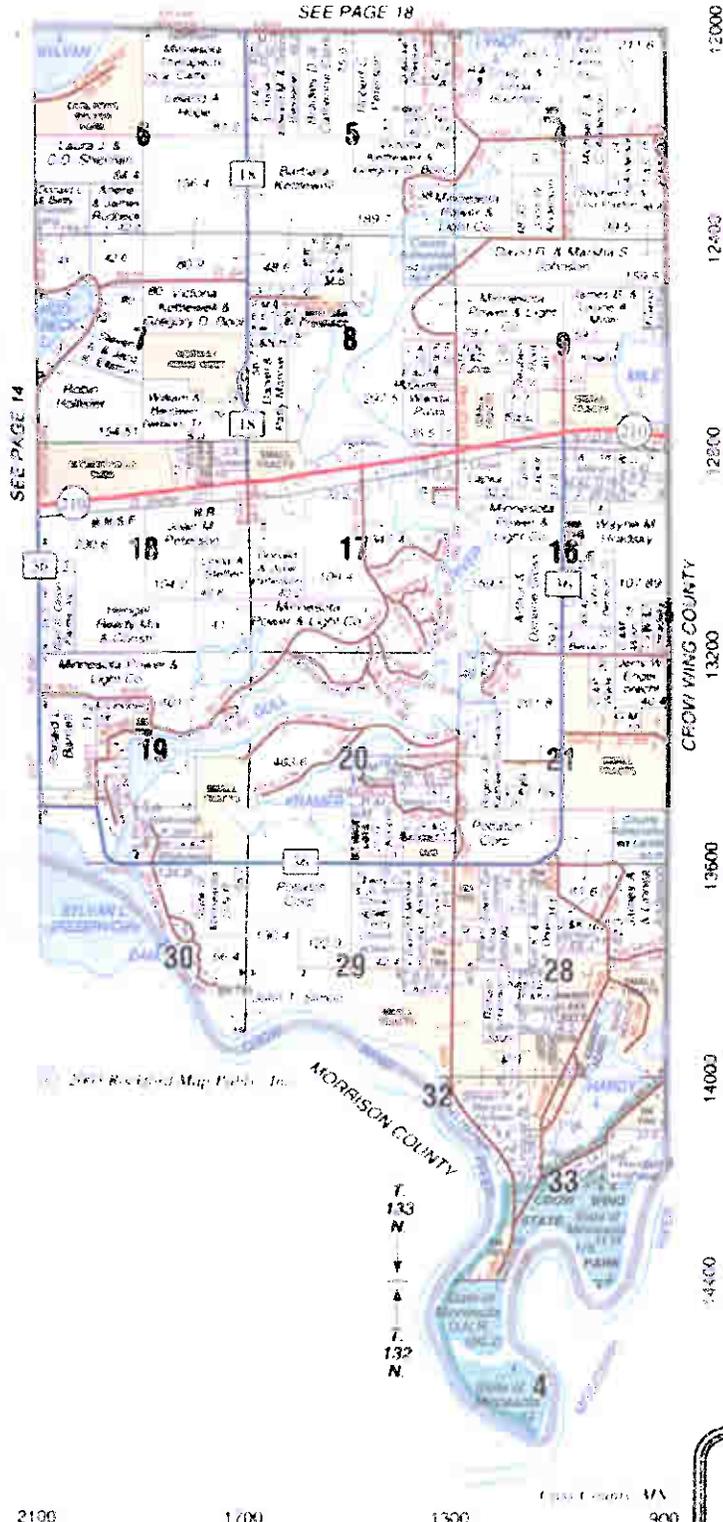
Costs for this route would be significantly higher because of additional permitting and construction costs resulting from nearly ten miles of double-circuit construction. Although this route is established by the "504" Line, it is not desirable because of its close proximity to sensitive environmental areas that consist of wildlife management areas, numerous recreational lakes, and the Crow Wing River near the Sylvan Dam. This route also does not lend itself well to future expansion needs in the area.

To accommodate the fast pace of growth in the area, it has been determined that a new 115/69 kV distribution substation will need to be built in the Baxter area within the next ten years to serve distribution needs. Alternative E does not provide a good location for a future substation. Furthermore, there are significant access and maintenance issues associated with this route. The estimated costs for Alternative E exceed the costs of the Proposed Route by nearly \$3,800,000.

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