

Scott Ek

From: Troy Hradsky [intrans@brainerd.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 8:21 AM
To: Scott Ek
Subject: Re: Southdale to Scearcyville Task Force Alternative

Mr. Ek,
 Thank you for responding so quickly. After reviewing the emails below, I would like to formally rescind my request for a Task Force and, would like to be a part of the community focus group. The week of the 6th can work for me with the exception of the 9th. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the focus group.
 Thank you again for your time.

Troy Hradsky
 Western Regional Manager
 Intrans-Corp
 Tankmaster a Division of Intrans
 Ph: 218-829-6136
 Fx: 218-829-6137
 Cell: 320-412-6521
 PDA: 218-330-7291
intrans@brainerd.net

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

From: [Scott Ek](#)
To: intrans@brainerd.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 7:59 AM
Subject: FW: Southdale to Scearcyville Task Force Alternative

Mr. Hdrasky,

See the entire email string below. I must have sent you a new email when I had intended on forwarding. It is looking more like the meeting would be held the week of October 6th. Sorry about the mix-up and look forward to hearing from you.

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
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us
www.energy.mn.gov

Mr. Ek,
 Please excuse my lack of computer savvy but, you note that there is an email below yet, all I could find was your email directly to me. Regarding the focus group, I have to say that I am a bit nervous or my inexperience in these matters makes me nervous as to what is the best route. I understand what you are trying to say, and agree with the fact that a focus group may be the route to take if a task force will not be comprised of individuals from the community as well as govt/city appointed staff. I do not feel that govt/city appointed staff will represent our best interest. Please advise again, if there was to be more to this email than what I received and I will let you know this morning what direction I would like to go and if necessary formally remove my request for a task force. Considering the deadline that we are under, I have to note that I will be available this Friday during the day however, after 5pm I have commitments (homecoming with a teenager that is involved in some of the formal activities and game) so, if the meeting will be after 5pm I will have to prepare a summary for the focus group to review in my absence.
 Thank you for your time.

Troy Hradsky
 Western Regional Manager
 Intrans-Corp

9/30/2008

Tankmaster a Division of Intrans

Ph: 218-829-6136

Fx: 218-829-6137

Cell: 320-412-6521

PDA: 218-330-7291

intrans@brainerd.net

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

From: [Scott Ek](mailto:Scott.Ek@state.mn.us)

To: intrans@brainerd.net

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 4:34 PM

Mr. Hdrasky,

I sent the below email to Ms. Christina Doucette. Please review the email, as you were another citizen who formally requested a task force. As described below, I have concluded a focus group comprised of you fellow neighbors would be much more beneficial than a task force of city and county appointed or staff. The focus group would allow for me to hear straight from the people that are concerned the most, thereby allowing me to address your issues in future documents.

Please let me know your interest in this option, if you agree, as I suggested to Ms. Doucette, you should send a quick email rescinding your request for a task force.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. This is going to move very fast, as I need the focus group meeting to be convened before end of comment period (10/06/08). I will keep you informed of specifics, but right now I am trying for this Friday - however that might be pushing it. I want to be sure all who want to be involved are involved and I am at the mercy of the US mail service.

Thanks for your interest it is greatly appreciated.

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

www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

www.energy.mn.gov

From: Christina Doucette [mailto:CDoucette@affinityplus.org]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 4:08 PM

To: Scott Ek

Subject: RE: Southdale to Scearcyville 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

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 DeBleekere

Subject: Southdale to Scearcyville Task Force Alternative

9/30/2008

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 (11th 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

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9/30/2008

Scott Ek

From: Martha Behr [behr_m@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 2:51 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us; Eric Jendro

Dear Scott-

This email is in regard to the Great River Energy project that is proposed to be going up near our home (RE: 08-712). I am highly OPPOSED to this, as our family lives right on County Rd 36. I am worried about the safety of my child, and I am also worried about my future children. I have read the dangers associated with being pregnant near these power lines, and I am not willing to risk anything. I urge you to re-think this plan, and use the existing MN power and light line/alternative E. Please don't put our families in danger. The resale of our homes is also in jeopardy, and this is not fair when this isn't needed.

Thank you very much for you time.

Martha Jendro
13068 11th Ave. SE
Pillager, MN 56473
behr_m@hotmail.com



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 Scareyville 115
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Steve & Kitty Johnson
Address: 13236 21st Ave S.W.
City: Pellagr 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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

I don't understand why you taking the longer route & effecting more property owners. Why don't you use the proposed route as planned? We don't want our property tou up any more then the people on the proposed route.

Signature: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Johnson Date: 9/28/08
Public Utilities Commission
Docket No. ET2/TL-08-712



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 try: 651.296.2860 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 Scarcyville 115
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Russell AND Vicki Keniston
Address: 12546 Upper Sylvan Rd.
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 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 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: Vicki Keniston

Date: Oct 12 2008

TO: Scott EK office of energy security
From: Russ and Vicki Keniston
REF: ET 2/TL-08-712

We, Russell and Vicki Keniston, of 12540 Upper Sylvan Rd. Pillager, MN 56473 are faxing this letter to voice our Strong Objection to any reconsideration of, "Rejected Route E" on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan. As home and 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 or in close proximity to them.

We believe that our property value will suffer severely with the new lines being considered. Our home and property enjoyment will be impacted by this proposed route. We feel that the power lines would be an adverse effect on the "flyway" for water fowl between the Gull River and our Hole in the Day Lake. We have many nesting habitats of warblers, indigo buntings, and scarlet tanagers that nest in the brushy habitat at the edge of our woods. Your proposed route would destroy their habitat.

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 note that the Current "Pole Route" on Hwy18 effects 6 residences and a Horse Ranch Business. If you would just cross the road with the lines in the two open fields the route would only effect 2 residences and the Horse Ranch. The portion of the horse ranch that would be effected would be the barn not the residence. The Proposed Route on Map E effects 29 residences and 7 businesses. Route E will ruin a tree lined road, destroy Lake Shore Property and as far as our property that is personally owned by us which consists of our residence and 2 lots. Our property and residence would be un-sellable, un-buildable, and suffer extreme property value decline. Please take note of our objections and our request for another public meeting if you, in fact, are going to consider route E again.

Vicki and Russell Keniston
12540 Upper Sylvan Rd
Pillager, MN 56473

Russell J Keniston
Vicki Keniston

Scott Ek

From: Vicki Keniston [vkeni@brainerd.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 10:06 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: ET2/TL-08-712

Mr. Scott

My name is Vicki Keniston 12540 Upper Sylvan Rd SW Pillager, MN 56473

I STRONGLY object to your reconsideration of Rejected Route E on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan. Please be advised that we the homeowners on this road are concerned for our property values, easement requirements. We the property owners have fought very hard to keep our section of Upper Sylvan Road a tree lined scenic drive. We have a beautiful mature tree canopy that would be destroyed by this proposed route. Many people come down our road just to enjoy the canopy especially in the fall. We have wonderful wild life that would be effected. Not only that but personally I do not want to open my living room windows wich are a few feet from where the power line would be and listen to the hum of the lines. I am sending this email in hopes that you will at the very least call another meeting. We were not informed of the one at Cragens. I hope that your letter with such a short turnaround time is not another effort to rush this prospsed route through. My letter in writing will be on its way as well as a "community" letter signed by area property owners.

Vicki Keniston

Scott Ek

From: Duane Kern [ddsmkern@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2008 6:33 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Power Line

Dear Scott

I am responding to reference ET2/TL-08-712.

I have just found out this new line may run through our housing development, even tho it was rejected once. We came to this area 4 years ago after we retired and built a new home in a development that has 11 new homes now. The old line goes through, part of our development. We can accept this, because it was here before we all built. Now the maps of E and F wants this big Hugh not attractive line to follow the same route. Our homes run in the 300 to 500+ thousand dollars and we all have taken a big hit from the falling markets and this line would lower them still further.

Please take the line up 36 to 210 which will not affect many, if any homes and no new homes would be affected, like it would us My address 13772 Vista Oaks Dr. SW. This development was owned by Terry Christianson and He still has several more lots to sell.

I have heard that there is a meeting next Tue. but we will be out of town that day

Thank You for listening

Take Care

Duane Kern

Scott Ek

From: Jacki Kientzle [jkientzle@atomiclearning.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 9:17 PM
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Objection to Route E - ET2/TL-08-712

Dear Scott Ek,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose any reconsideration of "Rejected Route E" on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan.

As a property owner, I'm very concerned that this will affect the value of the land, and I oppose the increased easement. My husband and I plan to build a home sometime on this land and do not want to contend with the hum of the power line wires. Most of all, I'm upset by the idea of the trees along Upper Sylvan Road being removed. This has been a special road for me and my family ever since I was child. The canopy of trees that covers that stretch of road are what give the area charm, and I know many others who travel down this road enjoy it as well.

Additionally, I would like to join with my neighbors and voice my objection to the previous notice for the proposed route and subsequent meeting which we feel was misleading. Please take note of this objection and request for another public meeting if you are going to consider Route E again.

I'm also sending a letter and have signed a community letter.

Sincerely,

Jacki Kientzle
12595 Camwood Trail
Baxter, MN 56425
218 831-0887

P.S. I was recently married. My previous name was Ellstrom. I'm the owner of Ostenso Acres.

Product Manager
Atomic Learning, Inc.
15088 22nd Avenue NE
Little Falls, MN 56345
866 259 6890, Ext. 245 – Toll Free
603 215 0106 – Fax

Scott Ek

From: Tom Kientzle [tkientzle@maddens.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008 8:56 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Cc: jackikientzle@atomiclearning.com
Subject: ET2/TL-08-712 Docket Plan

My Name is Tom Kientzle
12595 Camwood Trail
Baxter, Mn 56425

I STRONGLY object to your re-consideration of rejected route E on the ET2/TL-08-712 docket plan. I am sending this email in hopes that you will, at the very least call another meeting.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Kientzle

Tom Kientzle
Golf Shop Manager
Madden's on Gull Lake
11266 Pine Beach Peninsula
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401-2080
Direct: 218/855-5906
218/829-2811 Fax: 218/829-6583
www.maddens.com • tkientzle@maddens.com



Please consider the environment before printing this email

Scott Ek

From: carl lange [carlene14@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 7:58 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: ET2/TL-08-712 project.

Dear Scott ,

Please consider these as our comments on **the ET2/TL-08-712 project.**

We are Mark and Carlene Lange. Our family lives on the East side of county road 36. We would like to make the following comments on the 115 KV transmission line project.

From an environmental aspect we think the alternative route E makes the most sense. The proposed lines could follow an already established power line.

At the informational meeting with the power line representatives they really could not tell us where the proposed line would be built: To establish a picture of how the proposed power lines would affect our property we measured 75 feet from the center of County Road 36 to various points along the front of our property. .

If the proposed project is allowed along county road 36 on the east side of the road it affects our property at 13132 in the following negative ways:

- 75 feet from the center of the road way is 50 feet from our house wall.
- This house wall facing the road is all bedrooms. We read from the application materials “During light rain, dense fog, snow, and other times when there is moisture in the air the transmission lines will produce an audible crackling noise...: the wet conductor noise can be heard loudest levels at 0-70 feet. This puts our family’s bedrooms in the loudest audible range. As a tax paying citizens we are seeking to maintain our home to be quiet and restful place it should be .
- 75 feet leaves us with only 50 feet of front yard.
- 75 feet would remove all the planted shade trees in our front yard (this lot is in a new development with very limited trees already)
- We would prefer to plant shade trees at least 30 feet from my house wall. This leaves me with 20 feet to plant trees to keep them out of the proposed power lines. To keep vegetation within the power line measurements we would never really be allowed to have full grown trees in our front yard.
- 75 feet is 15 feet from our septic system.
- The 100 foot construction zone puts this work over our sewer and within 20 feet of our house. We believe this is too close for safety and health concerns for our family.

We feel if the power line is built on our property it will substantially decrease our property value and will affect our ability to sell our home. This is so close to our home we believe the power line companies would need to buy out our home.

If the county road 36 route is the only alternative to be used my comment is it should be on the west side of the road along our property line. On the west side here there is land divided into lots but not homes built close to the road. On the west side there would be minimal impact to people and the effect of decreased property values.

Scott, we hope these comments are helpful to you in the assessment and decision making process. If any questions we can be reached at 218-829-8050.

Thank you,
 Mark and Carlene Lange
 Chris and Amanda Lange (our children)
 13132 11th Ave SW
 Pillager MN 56473

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PROJECT # 08712



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



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: Lloyd Laska
Address: 12822 Little Pine Trail S.W. Brainerd
City: Brainerd State: MN ZIP: 56401

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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

MR. EK I Feel that it is ridiculous to fence in my land on two sides, when you already have a sensible route in Plan E. Your plan to come down Little Pine Rd. will cost me a large loss of oaks, all the way to the railroad, destroying my cover and land value

Signature: [Signature] Date: 9/25/08

Project # 08712

TRY
Alternate
Route # E



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



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: Woyd & Pat Lapka
Address: 12822 Little Pine Trail S.W.
City: Drainerd State: MN. ZIP: 56401

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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

IR. EK - OUR property is the only property where the "proposed" line will surround us on two sides. There is no way we are going to let that happen. It's bad enough on one side, but sides ???; just so Great River Energy can save themselves money? Our property is what they come to when they leave Rd. #36 - cut across a Wetland - have to cut wn hundreds of trees before coming to a field - then continue down Little Pine Trl. on our other side where they will have to cut down hundreds more trees to get Highway #210. These woods & wetland are teeming

Signature: Pat Lapka Date: Sept. 25, 2008

!!! wildLife!

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

EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, plus Health

TRY
Alternate
Route # E

Project # 08712



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 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 Scearcyville 115
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Wayd & Pat Lapka
Address: 1282 Little Pine Trl. S.W.
City: Prainerd State: Mn. ZIP: 56401

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 Scearcyville 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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

Rick says they are using "existing roadway".
They are NOT when they leave #36 to cut
thru wetland & thick woods, instead of going STRAIGHT TO
310. Having Tall Power Lines on 2 Sides of our
property lowers the value a LOT! Taking this route just
save themselves some money???. IT'S OUTRAGEOUS!!!
NOTE: IN THE LAST 1 1/2 YRS. - everyone ON #36, plus our
neighbor (Little Pine Resort) had one, many had two or
ree visits FROM Co. Reps. discussing the "Line". NO ONE HAS
BE bothered to call on us about the "Line".

Signature: Pat Lapka Date: Sept. 25 - 2008

W, we know why - they want to
SURROUND us on two sides!

Scott Ek

From: Cale LaVoie [calel@kuepers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 10:45 AM
To: 'scott.ek@state.mn.us'
Cc: Laura Paulson; 'Maren Musel'
Subject: reference number 08-712
Importance: High

Scott,

As a resident of Pillager, living on CR 36 I have great concern with the affect your proposed power line route will have on myself and my neighbors. In the current economic times I and my neighbors are scratching to hold on to every economic positive we can to insure the future for our children, as with many of my neighbors my investment in my house constitutes a large percentage of my economic welfare. This proposed route for your power lines would directly affect my and my childrens economic future by greatly decreasing the value of my home. Please reconsider the current MP&L route for these power lines.

Sincerely,
 Cale Lavoie
 Project Manager
 Kuepers Inc.
 218.838.7192

From: Laura Paulson
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:13 PM
To: 'Aaron Anderson'; 'Amy Kummet'; 'Ann Hunnicutt'; 'Ben Thompson'; 'Brian Sedlachek'; 'Canndi Whisler'; 'ctcoley@yahoo.com'; 'Chad Paulson'; 'Don Anderson'; 'Erika Anderson'; 'Erika Sandell'; 'Greg Yeager'; 'Heidi.J.Myogeto@wellsfargo.com'; 'jahonen@sternindustries.com'; 'Jill Anderson'; 'Jim Miller'; 'Linda Anderson'; 'Lucy Coley'; 'Meg Sherman'; 'megger sherman'; 'Pearl Elmer (pjelmer@emily.net)'; 'Roger Twigg'; 'Roger Twigg'; 'Samuel Anderson'; 'Sara Wussow'; ' (Sarah.Bernier@thomson.com)'; 'sawyer-myers'; 'Steph Anderson'; 'benwinsue@brainerd.net'; 'Tammy Tschida'; 'Todd Dahl'; 'pauly@brainerd.net'; 'pauly@clearwire.net'; Cale LaVoie; 'Don Anderson'; Joley Larsen
Subject: FW: I could not have said it better myself...
Importance: High

Friends and family – we need your help – desperately!! Please read the info below and if you have a few minutes of your time – e-mail Scott Ek to voice your concern about the risks of having a power pole running down our road. Right now it would “turn” about 200 yards from our house and run across the swamp, but in a mere 5-10 years.....a huge substation would be located right there.....200 yards from my house. No more pleasant runs in the morning with the sun shining, birds chirping, deer running in front of me – no more long walks or bike rides with the kids down our “rural” paved road. GRE is doing this for THEIR BENEFIT only as this would be a shorter route (under 10 miles) which they can then use the shortened application process. If they are forced to use Alternative Route E, it is over 10 miles and has to go through more paperwork to get approved, yes it would “cost less” dollar wise, but the devastation it would cause by going down County Road 36 is even worse in my eyes, and my neighbors. This route E would affect much fewer homes, run on a route that already has smaller poles and would cut through open fields, not yards – and then this god awful substation will not be put 200 yards from my house. We just spent \$16,000 to remodel and get new windows, trim and stone veneer.....if we are “forced” to move due to these power lines and substation we won’t come out very well on our home – if we could even sell it with the way the market is these days.

Please take a few minutes if you can to e-mail Scott and let him know any reason you can think of to get this proposed route to change to ALTERNATIVE ROUTE E – please make sure to use that in your e-mail.

I appreciate all your help in advance with helping to keep our family healthy and to keep our home that we’ve worked so hard to have to date. Forward to anyone I maybe have missed!

Thanks and call me if you have any questions! 218-355-8687 is my new cell #.

Laura Paulson

9/30/2008

From: Christina Doucette [mailto:chdoucette@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 12:29 PM

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.

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 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 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

From: lindgrons [blindgron@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 5:09 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us

have discussed this briefly with Christina Doucette and defiantly have formed an opinion. I understand how the state can step in and seize control of someone's property but it really scares me that an independent company can step in and do what ever they want. I know myself I have worked my whole life for everything I own and if someone were to step in and try to take that from me would put me on the defensive. I am not sure if this is a common occurrence but I have never encountered this before and surprised to learn of such a thing. Is this something I need to be concerned about? I am going to be contacting my congressman because this seems like a crime. Maybe I should try contacting the better business bureau. I am curious as to how they would react to a business such as this. I understand this is not you who are doing this but I am under the impression that you can do something about it. I would strongly oppose any such action as to let someone come in and do what ever they want on someone else's property.

Barb Lindgron

Scott Ek

From: cjmartin [cjmartin10@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 8:00 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us; Christina Doucette
Subject: Power lines

Southdale to Scearcyville Project. ET2/TL-08-712

I think that most of us realize that we need more electricity. We also know that the poles have to go someplace. I would like to have them go where they affect the least amount of people, and destroy the least amount of trees and property. Our neighbor Mr Foy has a pacemaker, and the high voltage lines will almost go over their home. The power company

says that the lines are less dangerous than a microwave. This could be true, but I don't believe it. Therefore I would like to see either route C, because it has the least amount of homes affected, and is the shortest route. Or the _best route_, and least amount of homes affected would be route E.

Scott Ek

From: Tony [camp@campjim.org]
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 6:15 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: New PowerLine

Dear Scott,

Regarding the proposed new construction of a power line reference number 08-712.

I would like to voice my opposition to this as a home owner along the proposed route.

We already are experiencing large property devaluation due to economic change and to add a major power line and clear trees along our front yards would increase that even more. Please consider using the current right of way and show that your company cares for the communities we live in.

Thank you, Tony Masurka
Brainerd MN
218-851-1297

Scott Ek

From: Brenda Meech [bmeech@northernorthopedics.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 8:27 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Cc: Brenda Meech
Subject: Reference # 08-7_12

Dear Mr Ek,

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 the 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,

Tim & Brenda Meech
1402 Acorn Dr SW
Pillager, MN 56473
Home: is 7/10 mile off of County Road 36
ph: 218-828-8387
bmeech1162@msn.com

Scott Ek

From: Pnseeds1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2008 11:06 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Preserving the Beautiful Tree Tunnel.

docket# et2/tl-08-712
re: rejected route E

Dear Scott et al- I can't imagine dessimating a beautiful country lane which traverses a historic area lake when a straighter, more open route exists just eastward. This is what I see as the case where the proposed hi-line is concerned. Upper Sylvan Raod is special to the area and sought out by area walkers and bicyclists. I don't feel one could say the same about highway 18 (I believe it is 18) just to the east. Nice- yes, but special- no. Let's all step back and think about the direction the world is going in. We have the opportunity to preserve something beautiful and chose the less destructive course of action. I and many others feel this is the right thing to do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Paul Meisner 1597 Lind rd Cloquet, MN 55720

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Scott Ek

From: Dawn.Mudgett@wellsfargo.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 11:46 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Great River Energy power line

Please consider using the existing power line instead of destroying peoples yards and property. Think of yourself and your family; would they want this and would you choose to put a power line in their yard if there were other options?

Thank you!

~Dawn Mudgett~

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Scott Ek

From: Maren Musel [Maren.Musel@isd181.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 11:10 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: reference number 08-712

Dear Scott-

I am writing in regards to reference number 08-712 and the new proposed power line route your company is opting to use instead of the existing MP&L easement. I am a current resident of Pillager and live on CR 36, with the new power line route our economic welfare is at stake and other options should be considered to the residents it would affect. I also feel that residents should have a voice in the matter and would like your company to offer a community hearing so we can advocate for ourselves, families and neighbors. Please consider my request to hold a meeting before you makes your decision; I feel it is our right to have a voice in our children's future. Please feel free to contact me via email.

Sincerely,

Maren Musel

9/30/2008

Scott Ek

From: Chad Paulson [Chad.Paulson@co.crow-wing.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:40 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: reference number 08-712

Importance: High

** High Priority **

Scott,

My name is Chad Paulson and I live on Cass 36 where GRE has proposed a new powerline and eventually a new substation. I am greatly opposed to this project as it poses a health risk for my family and neighbors. It is also a great injustice to the beauty of the area and the wildlife that resides there as well.

I feel that you can't put a price on the health/welfare of residents who live in the area which is why I feel that the extra money should be spent moving the line along the current MP&L route.

Thanks.

Sgt. ChadPaulson 119
Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office
218-851-3007Cell
chad.paulson@co.crow-wing.mn.us

CrowWingCountySheriff's Office
PO Box314
Brainerd, MN56401
218-829-4749 Sheriff's Office
218-829-9459 Fax
www.co.crow-wing.mn.us

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Scott Ek

From: Laura Paulson [laurap@kuepers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 12:28 PM
To: 'Scott Ek'; 'Chad Paulson'; 'Christina Doucette'
Subject: Ref 08-712 Hardly Lake Road Proposed Route
Importance: High
Attachments: Ref 08-712.pdf

Scott,

Please find the attached in regards to the PROPOSED route by GRE.

Thanks!

Laura Paulson
Staff Accountant

Kuepers Inc., Architects & Builders
218-829-0707 | 888-829-0707
Direct Dial 218-824-1772
www.Kuepers.com

September 30, 2008

Office of Energy Security
Attention: SCOTT EK
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Ref:08-712 Hardly Lake 115KV proposed route

Dear Scott and Whom It May Concern:

Everyone has that "special place" that can rescue them from a hard day at work, home or just life in general. Picture a quiet, peaceful morning with the sun coming up on the horizon, crickets and birds are chirping, geese are flying over head, wild turkeys and deer are crossing the road. I hear all of these wonderful sounds and only the noise of my feet hitting the pavement, going for an early run before anyone in my house is awake – the only one up at this time of the morning is me and the natural wonders that I love so much. Now picture this serene image in your head with a HUGE 115 KV power pole paralleling where I am running and buzzing overhead!! My husband and I both are very active and use this route EVERY DAY to better our health to stay in shape and to hopefully extend our lives. We also walk or pull behind our 3 ½ year old daughter Abigail and 1 ½ year old son Wyatt. I cannot bear the thought of any adverse health effects happening to my children because I took them for walks/bike rides down this beautiful "scenic" road.

I live along Cass County 36 and if you can call it "lucky", the PROPOSED route by GRE would turn about 200 yards before my house. However, as I mentioned above, we travel south along this road EVERY DAY as it is the only route to go on as I refuse to take myself or family for any exercise along busy Highway 210. Then I attended the meeting last week only to find out that IF this route is approved, there will be a Hardy Lake Substation located that mere 200 yards from my home. My husband is a Sergeant with Crow Wing County and I am an accountant at a local/large construction company. We have worked hard to make this our home and improving it over the past 6 years and now all of that is being threatened to be taken away. I would be forced to move from our current location as I would not be able to raise our children the way we had planned in a "quiet neighborhood" with all of the luxuries of being out of town, but yet still close enough to those areas for school, work and necessities. Our area is truly a diamond in the rough that we all love so much, as is shown by the very low turnover in homes for sale along this road over the past few years – everyone loves their location!!!

I am STRONGLY opposed to Great River Energy taking everything away from us that we have worked so hard for. I have this Friday off, Oct 3rd, and my husband and I would love to take a few minutes to voice our concern in an "informal meeting" if you are going to be in Brainerd/Baxter. I am pleading with anyone who has a say to stop GRE from taking the "easiest and cheapest route" down Cass County 36 and I urge them to use **ALTERNATIVE ROUTE E** that utilizes the existing Minnesota Power Lines and the route that is already carved into the landscape. With either route, GRE will have to cross the river whether it is on ALTERNATIVE ROUTE E or the proposed route that would travel down Highway 210 toward Cty Road 18 but route E will affect far fewer home owners.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and I look forward to speaking further with you, and anyone else who is willing to listen to our concerns and frustrations over this issue.

Sincerely,



Laura Paulson
12815 11th Ave SW
Brainerd, MN 56401
Home 218-828-2932, work 218-824-1772, cell 218-355-8687

Scott Ek

From: Jennifer Person [drjaperson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:28 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: 08-712

Reference [08-712](#)

Please accept this as a strong opposition and concern regarding the application that is being processed to allow Great River Energy to construct a new high voltage power line (115KV) down the existing power line that connects with county road #36 and then turning to the north to follow down county road 36 to the highway rather than continuing down the existing MP&L route that is already in service. I feel that although it is unfortunate that it would cost Great River Energy more to use the existing MP&L easement, it would be money well spent. The residents of county road #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. I do not wish to see a huge power line adjacent to county road #36 and would like to make sure that you are informed of my opposition regarding this matter.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Dr. Jennifer Person

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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: Joan Peterson
Address: 12918 17th Ave S.W.
City: Brainerd State: MN ZIP: 56401

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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

I would like to see alternative Rt. E used

Signature: Joan Peterson Date: 9-29-08

Scott Ek

From: Darrell Pulak [dpulak@associatedagents.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008 4:20 PM
To: 'scott.ek@state.mn.us'
Subject: project#08-712 proposed new power line from baxter to east gull lake through sylvan twnship
Importance: High

Scott,

thank you for visiting with me last week about this proposed new power line. I am greatly opposed to the proposal. i have reviewed their permit application and it looks like alternate plan E would be a much better option with much less destruction of the current landscape, property values, & view. we all moved to the country to get away from these types of things. I do not want a massive power line running along my property for 1/4 of a mile. I understand that this plan E would cost more, but the cheapest and easiest way for a long term project is rarely the best way.

if the route can not be changed to Alternate E, i plead with you to not run it on the North side of Hwy 210. If it does run on the north side of the highway 210, i would be negatively affected in the following ways:

1. i will loose the entire buffer zone of trees and vegetation between my house and hwy 210.
2. the new power line will be almost exactly over the top of my children's play set.
3. the proper line would run down my south property line all the way to the river, which would absolutely destroy the land that i have on the shoreline. I was planning on building a home overlooking the river. The power line would be my view.
4. i have lived on this property for 38 yrs and i have never had a problem with my neighbors. if the proposed route is approved, my neighbors on the south side of hwy 210 & I would be pitted against each other. They will want it on the North side of 210 and I will want it on the south side of 210. This will be the case all along the proposed route.
5. on the north side of 210 is 100% residential with about 5 homes, within 50 yards of 210, being affected. much of the land on the south side of 210 is zoned commercial with only 2 homes within 50 yards of hwy 210 (of which 1 of the homes is a trailer house located inside of a commercial building and the other is far enough to the west of the proposed route so the line could actually cross 210 to the north side just before her home and not even affect her view). the view for a home i feel is a lot more important than a commercial piece of property.
6. when the proposed power line crosses 210 to be on the North side, my entire front yard would consist of all the support poles and guide wires. this would in essence make my home unsellable or significantly decrease the value.

i also am asking that you form a focus group of interested people from the area to look at this project in more detail. I would be interested in being a part of such a group. thank you for you consideration.

Darrell Pulak
President of Brainerd/Baxter Office
Associated Insurance Agents
218-855-0331 - Office
218-855-0923 - Fax



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10/3/2008

Scott Ek

From: DAVE ROSIE REDDING [DAVEROSIEREDDING1@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 7:26 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: 08-712

Scott,

I live on Cass Co. 36, where the proposed power line is to go. When I built this home I intentionally left lots of trees between the house and the road to block the view and noise from the of the road and do not want this disturbed. Furthermore have you noticed that Cass co. 36 has only two power poles which are very close to Hwy 210, Why not keep it this way? The way I see it Alt.E is the best way to go, the easements are already in place and the property owners are already inconvenienced with a powerline. Why make more unhappy people? Please use Alt E

Thanks
Dave Redding

Scott Ek

From: Scott Reeves [SReeves@affinityplus.org]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:33 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: reference number 08-712

I am a current Brainerd resident and the very idea that a utility company can take over someone elses property for their own benefit is appalling. Then to force the resident to pay the easments. This seems like double dipping to me. Is it a common practice for a company to steal from somebody and then make that individule pay for it? If it is that easy to obtain land then I want to be a power company. I could retire and not have to worry about a thing. Please review the request and do the right thing. They have the land to do it without disrupting so many families lives. I say do the right thing. So in support of my friends, and in support of my neighbors and above all in support of my self we need to put an end to this and we need to do it right now.

Scott Reeves
Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union
Ext 9923
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This message has been checked for all known viruses by the MessageLabs Virus Scanning Service (www.messagelabs.com/stats.asp).

Scott Ek

From: Melanie Junker [mel_junker@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008 1:29 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Cc: southdale@grenergy.com
Subject: RE: ET2/TL-08-712 - Upper Sylvan Rd SW

Attn: Scott Ek
CC: Rick - southdale@grenergy.com

Dear Mr. Ek:

As former landowners and vacationers 2-3 months of the year adjacent to this proposed rejected route we wish to add our concern about this situation.

This route would destroy the natural beauty along this small road and have a devastating impact on property values. In addition, Hole-in-a-Day lake, we believe, is classed as an Environmentally protected lake. We recall it as a staging area for migrating wild gees and swans. It is also a known nesting area for bald eagles and osprey. A route of this magnitude could pose a threat to them.

It is ironic that the residents along this proposed, already rejected, route have had to fight tooth and nail to just obtain home building permits. It is incomprehensible they now face a proposed high voltage line paralling the full length of this small lake.

It looks like the original route up Highway 18 would be a more direct approach and certainly less costly.

We believe another meeting is needed to address their concerns and possibly a full environmental impact evaluation.

Respectfully,

Robert & Kahren Rudbeck
HC 1 Box 2435
Glennallen AK 99588-9503

Cell: 218-820-0643

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Scott Ek

From: Bill Salo [wsalo@brainerd.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 8:48 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Fw: ET2/TL-08-712

Mr. Scott Ek, Project Manager:

We are writing to you regarding the Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Breaker Station. We reside on the Rejected Alternative Route E (on Upper Sylvan Road SW). We are extremely concerned about the possibility of this power line being routed from the Proposed Route back to the Rejected Alternative Route E.

The road we reside on, Upper Sylvan Road SW, is a narrow, wooded, scenic road. The residents on this road take pride in the natural beauty and rustic appearance. It is not economical to put this high voltage power line through this area because of the homes that reside right up to the road side and because of the vegetation and trees that would potentially have to be removed. With the Proposed Route that you have identified according to the map we received, it is apparent that the route along Co. Rd 36, onto Hwy 210, and then up Co. Rd. 18 has a much wider area of cleared trees, ditching, ect. already. We do not understand why going along a more wooded area would be a logical choice. As we were informed, residents along the Proposed Route roads have expressed significant concern at a meeting that was held at Cragun's Resort. Of course, no one wants to have vegetation and trees removed which can significantly alter the landscape and decrease the value of their homes and acreage. However, we expect logical and economical decisions to prevail. We also note that the Proposed Route is much shorter in distance than the Rejected Alternative Routes which obviously indicates less power line length, poles, ect. The Rejected Alternative Route E is not a route that would provide you with neither logical nor economical results. We received a "before and after" picture that showed the old and new power line. This photograph very deceiving because in it there is no apparent removal of vegetation or trees; however, when we emailed Rick Heuring and Kodi Jean Church of Great River Energy, we were informed that indeed removal of trees would occur. There are so few rural areas left intact from expansion and growth. We need to realize that it is right to preserve those areas that can be preserved by looking at other options. Originally, you had determined the Proposed Route for what we assume were sound logical and economical reasons.

In addition, we have a number of waterfowl that access the lake upon which we reside from the south and southeast crossing over the existing power line at low altitudes. We are very concerned what the additional height in power lines will do to their flight patterns and ability to access this body of water for their nesting, feeding, ect. Again, a significant environmental impact with the placement of this power line.

In conclusion, when looking at the Proposed Route that is indicated in red on the map that was sent to us, it appears this route runs along bigger highways which already have a wider right-of-way established. It is evident that the environmental and economical impact along that route would be much less than what we understand with the Rejected Alternative Route E.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns in this proposal. Please look at this information closely and take into consideration picking the route that will be the least destructive to the environment and to the value of acreage in this area. We expect businesses to be conservative and respectful of the environment in order to maintain a high quality of living. We take pride in our scenic road and will do whatever it takes to preserve the natural beauty and environmental benefits it provides.

We would like to know of other opportunities to voice our concerns, whether in person or via telephone. Would you please indicate to us other opportunities to do so.

Thank you for your time and for accepting our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

William and Lisa Salo
12697 Upper Sylvan Road SW
Pillager, MN 56473
218-746-3294

Scott Ek

From: Jeffrey Schmidt [jschmuck56@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 10:08 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us; Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: USE EXISTING MINNESOTA POWER & LIGHT LINE!

I am writing in regards to the new power line proposal for Great River Energy. (RE: 08-712). I am a land owner on Cass County 18 west of Brainerd, Minnesota. I am totally against the idea of loosing trees in the front portion of my property and having this depreciate the value of my property. This whole idea is totally unexceptable. Great River Energy can use the existing Minnesota Power and Light line. (Alternative E).

Please take this into consideration. Thank you,

Jeffrey Schmidt



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main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 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 Scarcyville 115
Kilovolt Transmission Line Project

Name: Roger Schwarze
Address: 13447 11th Ave 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 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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

I am opposed to the power line running down city rd. 36 (ie loss of trees, health concerns, and possible lower property values). I believe Alternate E would be the best route. Mainly because it would follow existing power line routes.

Signature: RA. Schwarze Date: 9-24-08



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 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: Lois Stillwell
Address: 12625 Upper SILVAN 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 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: Lois Stillwell

Date: 10/1/08



LETTER

TO;;; Scott EK Office of Energy Security

From: Lois Stillwell

Ref: ET2/TL-08-712

We, Lois Stillwell of 12625 U. Sylvan Rd. S.W.
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

Lois Stillwell

Scott Ek

From: Mike Storm [stormyshare@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2008 4:08 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Cc: stormyshare@yahoo.com
Subject: ET2/TL-08-712

| 13096 Lincoln Drive SW
| Pillager, MN 56473

| 218-828-5094

| stormyshare@yahoo.com

October 3, 2008

| Scott Ek
| Minnesota Office of Energy Security

| 85 7th Place East, Suite 500

| St. Paul, Mn 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Scott Ek,

I am writing in regards of the proposed Southdale to Scearcyville 115 kV Transmission line. We are not for the proposed route as we own real property on County State Aid Highway 36. We acknowledge the need for electricity and upgrades to the existing grid for reliability for the growing Brainerd Lakes area, but we feel an alternative route would be the way to go.

With new developments on both sides of CSAH 36, the faltering economy is driving real estate prices down. With no end in site, the situation at hand will take years to level off before values slowly climb. I don't think the hard working people in this area can take another property value hit that would happen if a new power line was built here.

On a more personal level we built a house in a new development on the west side of CSAH 36, the same side the proposed power line will be on. Our house being built a couple hundred feet from the center line of the highway and with the 85 feet needed(50 foot right of way and additional 35 foot clearance), that power line will be right on top of us. Being so close to the highway we also planted over 20 spruce trees that are in the clearance zone. They would have to be dug up and moved at a significant price to us, hoping none would die from being transplanting.

With problems like this from so many property owners on this proposed route it just seems logical to use an alternative route on an existing line that all ready has the right of way issues resolved. Thank you for having the informational meeting and giving all of us an opportunity to document all of our concerns.

10/6/2008

Sincerely,

Mike Storm

Scott Ek

From: Joe Sundgaard [Joe.Sundgaard@ci.baxter.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2008 5:52 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Cc: josundgaard@hotmail.com
Subject: 08-712 Use Alternative E

Scott,

My name is Joe Sundgaard and I have been with Christina Doucette for more than two years. In that time I have grown to love her and talk as of late has been about us getting married. Though I have not proposed to her yet we often speak about the future. I am currently employed by the City of Baxter as a Police Officer and plan on finishing out my career in this great community.

I currently reside in a home north of Baxter near Brainerd International Raceway. I love my house but I live in a neighborhood similar to what you may find in a suburb in a metro area. Lots are about an acre in size and homes are back to back. When I met Christina she had just finished her house. She was so proud of what she had accomplished. And really she should be considering most twenty-three year old females don't have the knowledge and will to build their own home! Sometime, Scott, while all this is going down (or when it is over) you should see her home. It is beautiful. Christina has come to respect you, and despite what the outcome is I know she appreciates the time you have put in. Therefore, I share the same sentiment.

In the event that Christina and I get married there is one definite thing that is going to happen. My house would have to go and I would be moving to her lovely residence off of Cass Co Rd 36. I'm sure you can tell how high her level of commitment is to keeping this power line from going through her property. It has consumed virtually all off her time as of late. And who can blame her? Christina has put everything she has in this home and to lose it because of such a greedy move is quite a disappointment. I cannot say I am surprised nowadays, as the mood has changed and corporations don't think twice about stomping on peoples lives. Fortunately for us "little people," this process is in place so that we may feel like we can affect the outcome.

I have to admit, however, that I believe all our hard work might be in vain. It just doesn't seem possible that blue collar folks really have a chance against a big company with big interests. Especially when it sounds like the State of Minnesota appears to have interests in line with the company in question. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but the State will support a line down Co 36 vs Alt Rt E if the impact to the environment would be lessened. Well I have to say that plenty of trees will have to be cleared to put that thing (power line) in place over people's heads. I just hope and pray that this process is not a façade to put our minds at ease after the power line gets shoved down our throat.

One thing is certain if this project yields a colossal power line through Christina's yard, and that will be her house on the market effective immediately. In addition, Christina will be moved out before it is functioning. Most of Christina's neighbors appear to be retired folks enjoying the good life in the country. I'm guessing that many will not have the same option to move since financially their homes were intended to be their last.

Christina's family has a history of medical problems that put her at a greater than average health risk. I have to say I really don't feel much like being exposed to that eyesore either. My family has a history of cancer and I don't feel like leaving my family early because I decided to stick it out and lived near a mammoth power line. This is absolutely not an option.

And seriously, Scott, who in their right mind would want to raise a family anywhere near such a potential health risk? I only wish to have a healthy, happy family someday and this certainly won't help the matter at all. In fact, I am already looking for land in the area near there. If we lose to Great River Energy I would still like to be able to stay in that general area as I have come to appreciate its rural character. I have only lived in this area for four years but I can honestly say that the land in question is one of the most sought after places to live in the community. Say goodbye to that after the power line goes in.

10/3/2008

Christina did the research and found that property values would be negatively affected if a power line went in. Considering the nature of the housing market right now that will really hurt a lot of people. Home buyers have more houses to choose from in the area than in past years. You really think they would be interested in moving into a new house that sits that close to a giant power line? I know if I were looking for a home I would spend my hard earned money on a home with a clear, unobstructed view of the surrounding woods without the buzzing power line and seventy foot tall power polls.

After the meeting last week with you and the Great River Energy salespeople I came away with the obvious impression that money, and maybe time, are the only factors in this. Utilizing Alternative Route E where the power line takes on the east end of Co Rd 36 only make sense to me. People there are already accustomed to having a power line near their property. I cannot see a reason not to utilize the route that already exists where they need to go anyways. In addition, the current route is through very hospitable terrain with what appears to be low environmental impact. I just wish, for once, that the human factor would come into play in such a decision. Please help us urge GRE to do the right thing. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Joseph Eric Sundgaard
3798 Shady Lane Circle
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-839-0183

Scott Ek

From: Jeff Torfin [jeff@lakehome.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 10:01 AM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: reference number 08-712

Attachments: jeff.vcf



jeff.vcf (372 B)

Scott:

reference number 08-712

Our family has a Cabin on Hardy Lake.

I am in opposition to the Great River Energy request for a 200 ft wide easement that could be cleared down co rd 36 to construct their line.

We are proposing that Alternative Route E be chosen and Great River Energy to upgrade the existing line. Please do what you can to deny this permit or re-route the line.

Thanks.

--

Jeff Torfin

Scott Ek

From: Nedra Torfin [ntorf@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2008 4:43 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: power line

Dear Scott,

I am writing to tell you how much I oppose the thought of a power line coming down hwy 36 in Pillager. Ref #08-712. There is an alternate route E that could be used instead of cutting all of those trees and subjecting those residents to health concerns. I have a cabin on Hardy Lake. I love the drive down 36. It is beautiful and I want it to stay that way. My cabin address is 924 Camp Jim Rd. I would appreciate your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nedra Torfin

2005 Graydon Ave.

Brainerd, MN 56401 Phone: 218-828-0554

Scott Ek

From: Michelle Underland [munderland@paulsontvl.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2008 3:22 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: Reference: Docket No.ET2/TL-08-712

Mr. Ek,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to this project.

As a concerned home owner in the projected area, I do not agree with the proposal. I believe that due to the environmental impact to the area, the best choice would be to upgrade the existing line.

Thank you.

Michelle Underland

Scott Ek

From: Melissa Urbanski [murbanski@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 5:44 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: GRE power line request-- reference number 08-7_ 12

To whom it May Concern:

We are expressing our opposition to Great River Energy's request to construct a new high voltage power line through privately-owned property on County Road 36. Granting this request would cause unnecessary disruption of natural areas and the reduction of property values..

GRE can continue down the existing MP&L route that is already in service. While this may come at some greater expense to them, it seems reasonable to expect GRE to incur the costs for their endeavor versus asking area land owners to pay for it via decreased land values.

Please require GRE to use Alternative Route E and upgrade the existing line. NO NEW ROUTE NEEDS TO BE CLEARED!

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe and Melissa Urbanski

Scott Ek

From: chalotte walkowiak [charlotte_walk@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008 6:06 PM

To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us

Mr. Ek,
re; 08-712

My husband and I are sending you this e-mail to let you know that we are not in favor of Great River Energy running a new power line along our property . Great River Energy should use the existing Minnesota Power and Light line (alternative E). If you have any questions our phone number is 218-829-4596. Our address is 13014 11th Ave. S.W.

Thank You

William Walkowiak
Charlotte Walkowiak

Scott Ek

From: Amy [amwa@brainerd.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008 7:02 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: County Road 36

Please vote NO on the County Road 36 project (reference number 08-712).

This would affect too many people. Thank you for listening to us and considering other options such as using the existing route which would have less impact on the residents in this neighborhood and the environment.

Respectfully,
Amy Wangerin

Scott Ek

From: BW [bobwa@brainerd.net]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 4:30 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: cty rd 36 project

Hi Scott I talked to you before but would really appreciate you voting NO on ruining our quality of life along this stretch of country road. Sounds like the alternative is such a great idea. So what if it's a few extra bucks, the utility companies make so much profit already from us.

Thanks a bunch. And please vote NO!!!

Thanks.

Bob and Amy Wangerin.



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: Jonathan Wilson
Address: 2114 128th St 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 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 with ET2/TL-08-712 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2008.

Dear Sir —
about this power line coming down
upper Sylvan Road. I object & I don't
want you coming down the road. I
don't want to lose any more trees or
and. you'll be right in my front yard.
How about a meeting so we can all
talk in on this. Call me if you
need any more info. 215-746-3208

Signature: Shirley Carlson Date: 9-30-08
Jon Wilson

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

How about a meeting
reference to ET

Thanks

Scott Ek

From: Sara Wussow [swussow@larsonboats.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 1:16 PM
To: Scott.Ek@state.mn.us
Subject: reference number 08-712

This is an absurd choice! I believe you will risk the health of many people, including some of my good friends. I am opposed to this potential substation running through the yard of people when you can spend a little more money and not affect any people by using an alternative route and running these poles through a field. To me it is a no brainer! Run the line and put a substation where it will not directly affect the lives and home of the great people who live in the area.

Something needs to be done and I appreciate you reading this email and take into consideration and alternative place for these items we need in place.

Sara Wussow Sales & Marketing

700 Paul Larson Memorial Drive, Little Falls, MN 56345
Direct 320-632-1413 // **Toll Free** 800-452-4834 // **Fax** 320-632-1423

Visit us online at www.larsonboats.com



September 28, 2008
13420 – 11th Ave Southwest
Pillager, Minnesota 56473

Scott Ek
85 – 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: GREAT RIVER ENERGY & MN POWER SOUTHDALE TO SCEARCYVILLE
115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Mr. Scott Ek:

I am strongly opposed to the construction of the 115 KV transmission line that is proposed to run down County Road 36. The construction of this line will greatly devalue the property, potentially cause health hazards to my wife and me, and destroy the beauty of the land we had purchased just two years ago. In fact, the main reason we purchased our property was due to the scenic view, which is largely maintained due to all the utilities are underground.

I am sure there is an alternative routing that you can find that does not effect so many people. One alternative would be to run the power line down Little Pine Road and straight through to the existing power line. This would greatly reduce the impact on Pillager residents. I would also be happy with the alternative that was discussed at the county meeting on September 22, 2008 held at Cragun's Resort.

If you wish to speak with me personally, feel free to call me at 218-829-3723.

Donald J. Zetah



Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 3

7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425-8096

Tel: 218/828-5700
Fax: 218/828-5814
Toll Free: 1/800/657-3971

September 19, 2008

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2008

Mr. Rick Heuring
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

LAND RIGHTS

RE: Route Permit Application
Southdale to Searcyville Transmission Line and Breaker Station
PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-712

Dear Mr. Heuring:

We have received a notice of Great River Energy's route application regarding a future transmission line between the Southdale Substation and a new Searcyville Breaker Station. Part of the proposed route is adjacent to Minnesota State Highway 210 west of the City of Baxter. We offer the following comments regarding the future route:

1. A future safety expansion project on Highway 210 between County State Aid Highway 18 and the beginning of the four-lane in Baxter has been identified in our 2030 plan. At this time District 3's long-range plan is being updated based on current funding projections and priorities so there is uncertainty in the planned time frame of the project.
2. Future expansion of Highway 210 could impact a 300 foot corridor.
3. Since expansion would most likely occur to the north, our preference would be to route the line to the south along Highway 210.

Please contact me at (218) 828-5780 if you have any comments or questions regarding our comments detailed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Safgren".

Mary Safgren
Senior Planner

mln

cc: Ken Larson – Mn/DOT Baxter
Jim Hallgren – Mn/DOT Baxter
Steve Voss – Mn/DOT Baxter

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-4037



October 10, 2008

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

RE: Southdale to Searcyville 115kV HVTL Project Environmental Assessment Scope
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-712

Dear Mr. Ek:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the project information for the proposed Southdale to Searcyville 115kV HVTL. It is our understanding that, in addition to the proposer's preferred route, two previously rejected route alternatives will also be examined in the Environmental Assessment (EA). The DNR offers the following comments.

In reviewing the materials provided, Rejected Alternative Routes E and F appear to follow the statutory boundary of Crow Wing State Park. The DNR strongly recommends the HVTL not be placed within the statutory boundary, and asks that any impacts associated with routing the HVTL adjacent the boundary be examined in the EA. Any crossing of State Land will require a Utility Crossing License, subject to DNR approval.

The area within and near Crow Wing State Park along Routes E and F has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The DNR recommends contacting the State Historic Preservation Office to identify the cultural resources present in this location.

The Gull River supports an important bird migration route. The DNR requests that the EA evaluate methods to avoid or reduce the potential for bird collisions at any crossings of the Gull River Flowage. In addition, the EA should evaluate and describe Best Management Practices for placement of power poles proposed in or near the Gull River riparian area. Any crossing of Public Waters will require a Utility Crossing License, and possibly a Public Waters Work Permit from DNR.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the EA scope. Please contact me with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Langan".

Matt Langan, Environmental Planner
Environmental Review Unit
Division of Ecological Services
(651) 259-5115

c: Rian Reed, Tim Brastrup, Jade Templin, Joe Rokala

