

Minnesota River Crossings to New Prague Advisory Task Force

Second Meeting - Thursday, April 16, 2009

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

The facilitator for the task force, Georgie Peterson, State of Minnesota Management Analysis & Development, welcomed task force members and all present. Task force members were asked to introduce themselves and share their designation (representing a particular constituency or serving as an individual citizen member of the advisory task force). Task force members signed an attendance sheet to indicate their attendance. Observers were reminded that time was set aside, at the end of the meeting, for them to speak to task force members and asked to “sign in” if they intended to speak.

Why We Are Here

Georgie noted the task force charge and emphasized that the work of this day, the second meeting, was to further clarify and prioritize issues and concerns, get a brief review of the two proposed routes, and to begin discussing alternative routes and route segments. She also referenced where the group was in the overall HVTL Routing and Power Plant Siting Full Permitting Process diagram. That is, at a point to influence the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Participants were reminded to continue to be respectful of one another and hold to the discipline of one person speaking at a time.

Review and Approval of Meeting Notes

A task force member, Ms. Hagen, had submitted information about flora and fauna found in the area related to the proposed transmission line placement. The document was submitted electronically after the first meeting. It was included as an appendix to the meeting notes.

One task force member, Ms. Ruhland, submitted a revised statement of her issues and impacts to support the information in the notes from Meeting #1. The revised statement will be scanned and included in the meeting notes.

Two other task force members spoke of data / comments that they would like to give directly to Scott Ek as personal comments on the scope of the EIS. Mr. Ek accepted the comments. It was reemphasized that the intention of the Office of Energy Security is that the EIS be “data and information rich.”

Review and Prioritization of Impacts and Issues

Task force members were asked to look at the “impact and issue” categories that they identified at the first meeting for this transmission line segment. Georgie led members through a “dot exercise” to prioritize these impacts and issues. Task force members were asked to vote as to which ones were most important, very important, or important. The following chart reflects their decisions:

	Economic Impact	Ground Water	Biological Resources	Rec. Areas	Comp. Plans	EMF/ Health and Safety	Socio-economics
Most Important	12 votes	5 votes	7 votes	2 votes	6.5 votes	13 votes	15 votes
Very Important	3 votes	3 votes	11 votes	4 votes	7.5 votes	4 votes	2 votes
Important	2 votes	6 votes	3 votes	7 votes	1 vote	1 vote	1 vote

Scott Ek, OES, noted that the impacts / issues designated “most important” by the group and receiving the largest number of votes (Socio-economics, EMF/Health and Safety, and Economic Impact), reflected the interests of the Lake Marion to Hampton Advisory Task Force and public comments at recent public meetings.

Review of Applicant’s Proposed Routes and Substation Locations

Scott Ek, OES, noted that task force members that were familiar with the applicant’s proposed routes. He invited them to think about what they knew about this area, their own area, and to make suggestions about changes in the applicant’s routes or entirely new routes. They were also asked to add information to the maps (using post-its) if there were errors or omissions.

Identification of Alternative Routes, Route Segments and Substation Locations

Task force members were asked to work in small groups to identify possible alternative routes and substation locations. Each group was provided with a set of six maps representing the MN River Crossings to New Prague transmission line area and asked to use markers and tape to indicate route alternatives and to describe the alternative(s), explain what impacts they were trying to avoid, and suggest what new impacts might be created. The small groups reported back; their ideas and information about alternatives and potential impacts were shared with all present. Maps depicting the alternatives identified are included in Appendix A.

Public Comment to Advisory Task Force

A period was set aside at the end of the meeting for public comment. Key points of citizens who addressed the task force are listed below (with comments made by an individual grouped together).

Speaker I

This person spoke on behalf of another person unable to attend the meeting.

- It was the opinion of the person, after attending six hours of the Public Utilities Commission meeting on April 15, 2009, that in regard to requested changes the “small people” are outweighed by big business.
- She learned that OES is “for” the Certificate of Need passing but is neutral about decisions for routing.
- She requests cooperation of all participants because she believes that it is a chance to make a difference.
- She asks people to make the right decision as it is important to people.

Speaker II

The person has executive experience and wished to share his insights from his experience.

- This task force is the “power group.”
- It has been his corporate experience that the people who control the meetings, make the agenda, choose the topics, have participants do certain work are diverting attention from the actual work that could be done by the group.
- Task force members need to think outside of the box. Get to the guys behind it.
- The state and corporations are working together.
- This process is simply a lawsuit protection so that they can say that they asked you for input.
- The task for should take charge of your meetings, identify the real issues and go to the state.
- The individual also explained the strategies and economics behind wind turbines and urged people to thoroughly research health effects as the information in the applicant package about health impacts is suspect.

Speaker III

A task force member asked to speak at this time.

- Why not organize and put a stop to this transmission line?

Speaker IV.

- The person was sad because this was her third interaction with the state regarding issues with the natural and social environment.
- She was concerned that decisions made regarding this line will result in neighbor vs. neighbor competition.
- She believed that there are health risks.
- She believed that there is no choice. People must take action.
- This is not about alternative energy but about unique areas that will be impacted.

Speaker V.

- It was this person's conviction that the applicants are interested in the transmission of power by any means and are not really interested in the use of wind power.
- This is not green energy but will include coal generated power.
- He referenced two bills currently at the Legislature that would change an existing eminent domain law to make it more beneficial to the citizen. The existing law needs to be removed.
- He had a concern about how the public information is to be analyzed. How is it to be pulled together? (Scott Ek, OES, replied that the Department of Commerce, with the assistance of a consultant will collect, categorize, and analyze public comments. This type of analysis is performed regularly and successfully for permitting processes).

Speaker VI.

- This individual was concerned that the recent release of the Scott County Comprehensive Plan referenced that it would be best to move the line to Le Sueur and Rice counties because they are losing population. This troubled the person because of Century Farms and the rural way of life that she and her neighbors value.
- Concern about the impact on day care facilities was expressed
- There was an appeal to use existing ROW and not go through existing sections of land

There were general comments and an interest in getting the applicant to talk about the sources of power and where the power is literally going. Scott Ek, OES, noted that such information was related to the need for the project and could be obtained by contacting the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Next Steps

Maps indicating all of the identified alternatives, changes, and new possibilities will be sent to task force members with meeting notes. Task force members were asked to review the alternatives in preparation for the next meeting. The next meeting will be April, 30, 2009, 1:00 – 5:00 PM in Henderson.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Energy Facility Permitting



Attendance Sheet
Proposed Brookings County - Hampton 345 kV Transmission Project
Minnesota River Crossing to New Prague Advisory Task Force
April 16, 2009

PLEASE FILL IN ANY BLANKS, MAKE SURE INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND CHECK BOX TO INDICATE ATTENDANCE

Last	First	Title	Local Government Unit	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email	
Brockway	Kathy	Planning and Zoning Director	Le Sueur County	88 South Park Ave.		Le Center	MN	56057	507-357-8209	kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Hagen	Dolores			PO Box 68	212 North 6th St.	Henderson	MN	56044	507-248-3824	dhagen@closingthegap.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Holicky	Howard	Township Supervisor	Tyrone Township	30970 281st Ave.		Henderson	MN	56044		holickyhowardp@hughes.net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Lambrecht	Joe	Township Supervisor	Lanesburg Township	436 Maplewood Circle SW		New Prague	MN	56071	612-747-1515	iv12345@aol.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Logue	Kelly			1800 East 260th St.		New Prague	MN	56071	952-758-9597	klogue@bevcomm.net	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Maas	Terry	Township Supervisor	Helena Township	26121 Aberdeen Ave.		New Prague	MN	56071	952-200-5809	tamaas@bevcomm.net	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Minar	Dave			25816 Drexel Ave.		New Prague	MN	56071	952-212-9506	daveandflo@cedarsummit.com	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Ondich	Kenneth	Planning Director	City of New Prague	118 Central Ave. N		New Prague	MN	56071	952-758-1136	kondich@ci.new-prague.mn.us	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Prchal	Jodi			32155 Sanborn Dr.		Montgomery	MN	56069	952-758-4213	mrsprchal@aol.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Rist	Linda		Henderson Township								<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Rucks	Maynard	Township Clerk	Jessenland Township	35493 226th St.		Henderson	MN	56044	507-317-7158	king70@frontiernet.net	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Ruhland	Theresa			8375 W. 280th St.		New Prague	MN	56071	952-873-6105	truhi@hotmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Schmidt	Brian	Township Supervisor	Blakeley Township	17501 W. 250th St.		Belle Plaine	MN	56011	952-873-4402		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance
Slack	Kevin	Township Treasurer	Belle Plaine Township	7982 228th St. W		Belle Plaine	MN	56011	952-492-2081	kevin142@aol.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Attendance



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Last	First	Title	Local Government Unit	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email		
Swenson	Keith	Mayor	City of Henderson	PO Box 431	208 N. 5th St.	Henderson	MN	56044	612-532-4483	keithswenson@mchsl.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
Wagner	Joe	County Commissioner	Scott County	18020 Xanadu Ave.		Jordan	MN	55352	612-270-2660		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
Wicks	Darvin	City Councilman	City of Le Sueur	101 North Morningside		Le Sueur	MN	56058	507-665-3919	lsdiner@hotmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
Ek	Scott	Office of Energy Security		85 7th Place East	Suite 500	St. Paul	MN	55101	651-296-8813	scott.ek@state.mn.us	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
Kirsch	Ray	Office of Energy Security		85 7th Place East	Suite 500	St. Paul	MN	55101	651-296-7588	raymond.kirsh@state.mn.us	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
Peterson	Georgie	Management Analysis & Development		50 Sherburne Ave.	203 Admin. Bldg.	St. Paul	MN	55155	651-201-2274	georgie.peterson@state.mn.us	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Attendance
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Appendix A

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Maps of Alternative Routes and Substation Locations