PUBLIC COMMENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

5:00 p.m.

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

New Prague High School
Commons Area
221 12th Street NE
New Prague, Minnesota

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MR. EK: So what I'll do is I guess open it up. Maybe we can start a line going that way (indicating), folks can just kind of come up and form a line. I guess the line probably would be best to go that way. Come up and state your comment in the mic, and we can answer questions, comments. Or if you want to supply an alternative, feel free.

Anyone would like to come up? Oh, and also if you want to state your name and spell it.

MR. BAUER: Hello, my name is Bob Bauer, B-A-U-E-R. I'm an attorney with the -- I'm an attorney in the law firm of Severson, Sheldon, Dougherty and Molenda.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you. Turn it on.

MR. BAUER: Hello. I'm an attorney in Apple Valley, and I represent Steve and Camille Coman C-O-M-A-N, and Mr. Coman's company, RES Pyrotechnic Specialties, Inc. They do not object to the project. They cannot stop the project. But what they do have concerns with is the location of the line. They have their business in Belle Plaine, and right now -- they're not an ordinary company. Mr. Coman operates pyrotechnics, explosives, heavily regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and

1 Firearms. And we have provided Mr. Ek and
2 many other representatives of Great River and the
3 Department with their concerns.
4 As proposed right now, one of the
5 lines -- there are explosives on the property,
6 5,000 pounds of explosives, and the line right now
7 will come right through there. And for those that
8 don't understand energy, electricity and explosives
9 do not mix. And so we have asked that the
10 Department and that Great River look at the line and
11 the location of the line and take into account this
12 business, an international business that ships
13 fireworks everywhere.
14 These aren't the sparklers that you see.
15 These are the explosives that you see at Vikings
16 games, that you see at fireworks displays on the 4th
17 of July and all throughout. And care needs to be
18 taken to make certain that their business operation,
19 which we believe cannot be reasonably relocated,
20 heavily regulated, they need to have distances
21 between their explosives magazines and residences.
22 And we have provided all of this information to the
23 Department and to Great River representatives.
24 We did have a representative come out and
25 measure and did confirm that the line as proposed

would come directly through an explosive magazine. And also within their home, the proposed line is within 150 feet of their home. Again, it's also within, I believe, 75 feet of an existing garage and storage shed.

All of these comments have been provided. We have not received a response yet. And I know it's early on, but we would request that Great River and the Department recognize this is a great safety concern, that this business cannot relocate. It's a national -- international business. And the work that's out there, explosives, again, the Department needs to recognize that you cannot have electricity this close to a pyrotechnic business.

Thank you.

MR. EK: Just -- just to follow up on that. We did receive your letter, and thank you for your comment. And at this time, no, we don't comment on letters that come in. You'll see them in the scoping decision, environmental impact statement. But I can let you know we did receive your letter and we have that. Thank you, sir.

If you could state and spell your name, please.

MR. HARTMANN: Hello. My name is Kevin

Hartmann, H-A-R-T-M-A-N-N. I own a local water well company in the area here. I'm studying the application, and this proposed power line could go over potentially a lot of my customers that have water wells in their yard. We are governed by the Department of Health to stay away from power lines with our wells. And I'm just checking what -- when they ran that MinnCan oil line through, we had to relocate people's wells to get far enough away from the power lines -- or away from the oil line.

So do the people here know or do you guys know that when you come over the dwellings and stuff that the wells will have to be moved? Or what is a safe distance to my 50-foot steel towers to a steel cable to a 200-foot steel well going into the ground? There's no better ground than that. How safe am I going to be working near those? Or are you going to apply -- or is there going to be like power switches I can turn this line off so I can work on people's houses or what are we going to do?

I'm pretty sure you don't want to shut this system down just for mom and dad and the kid on the porch or something, so we need to know if everyone knows that your wells will have to be moved away from this and how far is safe from a 345 kVA

line.

Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you, sir. That's actually -- that was a great comment, one that has not come up. And I kind of know what you're talking about. I was a well driller myself. You're talking about the developing and putting up the boom and so forth, correct, getting close to the line? I guess I can't give you a good answer on how that will work, but now that you have that in the record, that's something to look at. That's something new that actually had never, never come up. I haven't heard myself, to be honest with you. So it's something that we will likely include in the scope and something that should be taken a look at, because, yeah, if you're going to need to go out there and develop wells and so on and so forth, there are, I know, those safety concerns of having that boom close to a wire and so forth. So thank you for your comment. That was a great comment.

It looks like we have some young folks up here, which is great. Are they prepared to give some comments? That would be fantastic if you did.

MS. GASSMAN: I think they're on a sugar high right now. Okay, guys. Thank you.

MR. EK: Could you state and spell your name for the court reporter?

MS. GASSMAN: Shirley Gassman, G-A-S-S-M-A-N. And I farm south of New Prague with my family, and the alternate route would run north and across our 97-acre farm, which is located on both sides of Highway 13.

This is our next generation here of little sprouts, who are already actively involved in the farm operation, especially during fall harvest, riding in the combine with Grandpa and bringing in wagons to unload. From start to finish, they're there. This century farm is meant to be passed on to them from their --

FIRST GASSMAN CHILD: -- great --

SECOND GASSMAN CHILD: -- great --

THIRD GASSMAN CHILD: -- great --

FOURTH GASSMAN CHILD: -- grandpa.

MS. GASSMAN: They've got an overview of the farm here. And just to get a little perspective, this is -- this (indicating) is just the shape of our farm right here, and this (indicating) is where the line would come through. Okay, you can put it down a little bit. And this would run through the middle of the section. And I

guess that's one of my big concerns, is that we're not following right-of-way in this area. This is Highway 13 (indicating), and as you can see, this is the building site. What basically this would leave me is the low land, the slough area, some highly-erodable property. The line would pass across the best and most productive farmland that we own out of this 97 acres. So that's the impact that that would have on our farm.

We also have a view here of the farm buildings. And what is located to the very north of the building site would be the grain bins, a 1,000-gallon LP tank, metal farm buildings, and the farmhouse located about 2- to 300 feet south of the grain bins. So the grain bins are the closest proximity to the actual power line. And my concern is during harvest time you're going to be accessing the bins, you're going to be crawling up there to open and close them during -- sometimes stormy weather is approaching. You're going to have somebody on top of those bins. Is there a potential that they could get shocked when they're up there? Who's going to have the liability if somebody falls from those grain bins due to a shock? That one, with the impact of the entire farm, is my concern.

We have in this green area a 40-acre wetland and wildlife area that goes across part of our farm and our neighbor's, and we have a wetland preservation project that we have proposed for this area, and I'm afraid that's going to have a severe impact on that project as well. There's a lot of wildlife, ducks, geese, and other wildlife species in that -- in that wetland area.

The placement of the line along our farm is a longer route and it involves that impact to more land and at greater cost that is ultimately passed on to you and me as consumers. I don't feel that the alternate route is really utilizing the existing rights-of-way to the best advantage. Also, it's going to be cutting through fields rather than following field section lines, and that's a concern that I have because I would like to see that we preserve our agricultural heritage in Le Sueur County. And that's one of my concerns, that we preserve the future for these children and future generations.

And we also found out through this process that there are two people, one to the east of us and one to the west of us, that both have day care businesses, and those day care businesses are

1 going to be in jeopardy if these power lines come
2 through this way.
3 I would like those things to be taken
4 into consideration in the final decision, and I
5 appreciate the chance to give some input. Thank
6 you.
7 MR. EK: Thank you. And I just want to
8 let people know that that is an excellent example of
9 a comment that we'd like to hear. You went into
10 very great detail on your farm, on the areas of your
11 farm, on the impacts that this line could impose on
12 the wetlands and other areas. A lot of people will
13 just -- and we'll take these comments where they
14 say, yes, I like the line, or no, I don't like the
15 line. But it's even more important we get really
16 great specific comments, such as that one, that go
17 into great detail. It helps us out a lot more to
18 look at the impacts and try to work with it.
19 So thank you very much.
20 And thank you, kids.
21 You have a comment?
22 MS. GASSMAN: Yes, he does.
23 MR. EK: Fantastic.
24 MS. GASSMAN: Brian put together a few
25 words of his own, and I forgot to mention that he

wanted to say those as well.

MR. PRCHAL: My name is Brian Prchal, B-R-I-A-N, P-R-C-H-A-L. I'm a fifth-generation family farm member. The farm we own is south of New Prague in Lanesburgh Township, Sections 15 and 16. I am asking the state officials to please not go through farm fields or through wetlands. I want to farm and found out that you have to put a chain behind you if you don't want to get a big shock from the tractor. I also help raise our organic gardens, and we have a lot of wildlife in the area, so we have to put up an electric fence. We turn it off when we work in there; but if it is too close to the power line, it can stay charged. I work in there a lot and take the vegetables to our county 4-H. I also raise chickens close to where the line would be and bring them to the fair.

This line would destroy our farm that our ancestors worked so hard to preserve. Please consider new technology in getting this power to the people. 175-foot poles and lines crisscrossing our earth is not a nice environmental footprint, in my eyes. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you very much for your comment. That was excellent. We love to hear that.

Thank you.

And what you bring up is -- you brought up the chain on the tractor and the fence where your chickens were. That's -- we consider that a stray voltage issue, and that's something we'll look at in the EIS as well. We've looked at it in the past, and we've found that it's been a grounding issue. And as I said before, we include that in the permit. And it's something that an applicant, should it be a problem, that we make sure that they come out to rectify that problem of stray voltage.

And what's great about this EI -- environmental impact statements don't come along all too often. So this is a good opportunity for my office to dig into these subjects such as stray voltage, electric and magnetic fields, to dig into them more and look at the new research that has come out and the new data that's come out. So I'm looking forward to the opportunity of putting together this environmental impact statement, and I commend you for coming up and submitting a comment. That's wonderful.

Yes, sir. If you'd state and spell your name.

MR. TUPY: My name is Roger Tupy,

T-U-P-Y. My wife Joyce and I own a certified organic farm just northeast of New Prague, Cedar Lake Township in Scott County. Last year that crude oil pipeline that Mr. Hartmann was referring to went right through the middle of our farm, and it was not a very good experience. We can see the same thing happening here again where it's neighbor against neighbor. And so my biggest concern here is, everybody here look around. Look to your left and to the right, look behind you, in front of you. Most of us know each other or you know someone that's here. And this is what the state is doing to us right now, through the help of the state and all the representatives here this evening, they're trying to mislead us. They're trying to fence us against each other so that we get disorientated and we don't see the true project, what it is. It's neighbor against neighbor. And we're going to have to live here forever, and these people are going to be out of here. So think about that. That's the big concern. They're pushing a route, route, route, and very little is talked about the need. And that's the real sad part of it, do we really need this? Call your Congress people and ask those kinds of questions. Ask the good questions. We can still

do something about this. We can stop it. The only thing that's going to happen for sure -- that's my story. So thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comment. You might feel like you're being pitted against each other; however, that is not -- that is not what we intend to do or is that -- or is our plan. Unfortunately, projects like this, that's bound to happen, and essentially those are the shoes I'm in. I have to look at a route here, a route there, yeah. So I do understand. But it's not that -- some intentional thing we're trying to pit people against each other by any means.

And the certificate of need that was brought up, as a matter of fact the certificate of need, it's been going on about three years now, and what that is, that's a separate document -- or docket from routing. And the PUC actually, next week on the 15th and 16th, will be having oral arguments on the 15th, and on the 16th will deliberate on whether this project is needed. So -- and you're welcome to attend those meetings at the PUC next week, which is in downtown, and after the meeting I can get that information to you. But what happens there at that need meeting, if they decide

that this project is not needed, this route process goes away. This project goes away, this is done. So -- however, if they decide it is needed, it continues.

And here's the thing: People question why they're doing the need before the route and so on and so forth. Well, essentially, the state can't stop a company from submitting an application for a route. So it's the company's gamble that the state is going to go either way. If they say no, well, then, you know, the company's out however much money and time they spent on putting together this route application. So, you know, sometimes it seems screwy that the cart is coming before the horse, but we can't stop applications from coming in. But just to let you know, all of you are more than welcome to attend that meeting at the PUC next week, and it's Wednesday and Thursday, I believe. And that would determine the need.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is that?

MR. EK: At the Public Utilities Commission. And off the top of my head I don't have the address. It's downtown St. Paul. If you want to see -- you know, as someone else is commenting, I will go ahead and find that address and see if I can

get it out to you, because I don't think it's on any of the forms that you have. Because it is the need process, that's not something I deal with tonight. We're dealing with the routing. But I'll go see if I can find that address so you folks can have that. So I'll have the next person comment. But I just wanted to let you know about that whole need thing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What time?

MR. EK: Oh, good question. I'll find that out, too. I'll -- after the next commenter, I'll get that information to you.

If you could state and spell your name.

MR. MORRISON: Both? My name is Nathan Morrison, N-A-T-H-A-N, M-O-R-R-I-S-O-N.

After hearing everybody up here, I kind of feel a little bit selfish bringing up my points, but I'm going to bring them up anyways. This area is in a projected growth area, as evidenced by bringing of the septic or sewer system all the way down to the south metro area. If you drive 35 northbound every day past 2, you'll see all that area going in there. And the reason that they're bringing in all that septic sewer is that's the part of the country or of the south metro that they've slated to expand. And I'm wondering, why are they

1 running this line right through the area they're
2 going to expand? That doesn't make any sense to me.
3 Why doesn't something of this magnitude
4 get coordinated with future roads, future needs? I
5 know that at some point the Met Council has decided
6 or will come up with another road that goes all the
7 way around the Twin Cities. That's going to be a
8 really big project. I don't know when it's going to
9 be. But it would seem to me that if you're going to
10 do something like that, that you would condemn or
11 use the same land for the same purpose and, instead
12 of wrecking two different sets of -- sections of
13 property, that you would only wreck one section of
14 property once for multiuse and look ahead and buy
15 this property at a fair price for that use in the
16 future.
17 I don't even know who's going to be the
18 recipient of the power of this line, and I guess
19 that's probably a question I'd like to know. If
20 this is property -- is this power coming in, is this
21 for me, for my community or is it for somebody
22 somewhere else?
23 I also wonder how fair is it in terms of
24 the rules of compensation for a project like this if
25 it isn't technically running on my land but it's

within 500 feet of my house, why is it I don't get compensated for that? If you're going to go ahead and go by somebody's house that you're going to go through anyway, you're going to wreck the value of my investment. It seems to me you ought to be paying me something for it and all the people here at least a fair price.

In closing, my house, my home, within 500 feet of this proposed route, is my investment in the future. The economy's not doing really good right now. I sure hate to see what may come when my house is worth less now than I owe on it. Because there's a lot of people that can't afford to make their house payments right now, and I don't want to have a reason not to. Thank you.

MR. EK: We're going to try to turn this up, because we're having problems with folks. And, again, I just ask folks on that side if they could try to be a little more quiet for their neighbors. Let me see how far I can turn this up before it starts squeaking. So -- there.

So I got the information. And just to let you know, the certificate of need meetings that I was talking about, which are next Wednesday and Thursday, they're not opportunities for the public

to comment anymore. I mean, this has been like a three-year process, so all commenting is done, all the information is in. So what it would be is an opportunity for you to listen in on what's been -- what the whole process has entailed and then hear what the Commission would decide when it comes to need. Wednesday it starts at 9:30 a.m., Thursday also at 9:30 a.m., and it's in the Commission's large hearing room. The address is 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, and again, that's St. Paul. And I suppose you could look that up on MapQuest or something. But also you have my telephone number and you have my e-mail address. So if you need directions or anything to that meeting, don't hesitate to give me a call or shoot me an e-mail, and I'll see if I can get you a map or any other information you need to know on that.

So we'll go to the next commenter.

MS. HELMBERGER: All right. Well, my legs are going to shake. I do a lot of conference calls with a hundred people, but in front of everyone I'm a little nervous, so bear with my voice. My name is Cindy Helmberger. H-E-L-M-B-E-R-G-E-R.

Obviously we're all here for a vested

interest financially, health reasons and aesthetic reasons as well. But I'm guessing no one here is in favor of this at all. So we've got about 400 people at one point, so please take note. The original grid system is over 50 years old. That was in the application. But I'm almost 50, and I can't recall a brownout or there ever being no electricity for more than a couple hours. So I just really struggle with this even being a need. 50 years, we've had no problems. The population exploded over 50 years. I don't see that happening in the near future, so I really don't see the need for this.

CapX mailings, they should have certified letters to the landowners. They didn't do that. I've got a real problem with that because we got mailings a long time ago. CapX, it's like, I don't know what that is. I pitch it. So if you can take us back, Craig, to your organization, it really -- flat out, it sucks, because people didn't know about this until the grassroots movement happened. This is by word of mouth because your mailings, it's like okay, whatever, it's set aside. It was junk mail to us. You should have put on there, this affects your neighborhood directly, this has to do with power lines in your neighborhood. So shame on you.

My voice is squeaking. I'm sorry, I am nervous.

Landowners, we were left in limbo for months on end. I've seen neighbors put a couple hundred thousand dollars into their property. I'm staring at the person right now. They're going to lose that. Why should we -- anyone, I don't care where this route goes. Why should people lose hundreds of thousands of dollars? I've done the math. If 8,000 -- I'm sorry. If 80,000 people are using the electricity at a cost of, let's say, $8 million, that's only $100 for year one. But now you're talking you might lose a couple hundred thousand, you're going to lose a couple hundred thousand. Even if you lose 20,000, why should we pay for that? Everyone should get fairly compensated or flat out just don't put these lines out this way. Run them along the freeway. I think you need to look at alternate solutions. I have a problem with the comp plan in Scott County calling for more residential growth. People aren't going to want to move out to Scott County. Scott County representatives, you're here, if it comes my way you're going to reduce my rate because I'm not going to be paying for the property tax I am now if I have

power lines in my back yard.

Look, my hands are shaking really bad. So you did a really good job, because you weren't shaking and I am.

The premise of this was Brookings to Hampton, and now the ALG (sic) basically said you didn't give us enough evidence to show that it should go from Lake Marion to Hampton. That's your propaganda, was Brookings to Hampton. So what happened there? Where did you fail in your application? I know not you, but your organization.

The eminent domain, it's just totally unconscionable. I don't know where it's at with the bill with the state at all. But totally unconscionable.

Again, Scott County, be prepared for a reduction in property taxes. They have Rice County, if it goes down your way, once you give an easement away, god forbid, because you are going to get every imaginable gas, electronic, cell phone, whatever tower, whatever's in the future, it's going in that easement, so you're giving it up right there.

Who is going to pay for extra fire protection?

The other thing too, Scott County, Rice

County people, if you're here, it's an act of God to put something tiny in your backyard. You got to get signoff from every organization. And now all a sudden you got these -- I'm going to call these Fat Man and Little Boy after the stuff that happened in Japan that we dropped, because this is what I think about those lines.

All right, where is my train of thought here? And I don't know where South Dakota's at with this, but let's just all pray that they shut it down, because I'm hoping if they shut it down, it's shut down in Minnesota.

Okay. I'm done talking. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comments. And you did just -- all your comments were great. And they got into the record, and a lot of them are ones that we will be covering in the EIS. Thank you.

On the Hampton -- the ALJ decision on Hampton, that refers to the whole need process. So, again, if you're interested in that, in finding out about the -- you know, what's going to happen on the need, I suggest you go listen in on the meetings then, because that's where that kind of fits into this whole process.

So -- but thank you for your comments. They were well thought out and well said, and we have them in record.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you respond briefly to the loss of property value?

MR. EK: That's something we will cover. I'm no expert when it comes to how a power line will affect property values, and of course that's going to pertain to the property, the area of Minnesota, where the line is, so on and so forth. However, that subject has come up at this meeting, the meeting yesterday, all four meetings last week. So it is a topic that we will be studying in the EIS, and it seems to be a very important one to folks, and it would be an important one to myself as well. I can't give you an answer on how it affects property values because there's many factors involved, you know, when it comes to putting a transmission line and current value.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Would you buy a house right under a line?

MR. EK: Well, that's a personal question, too. I have property -- put it this way, I have power lines on two sides of my property, so -- with a transmission or with a transformer. So

I'm aware of it.

If you could state your name and spell it, please.

MS. MARCHIAFAVA: I'm used to it. My name is Judy Marchiafava. That's spelled M-A-R-C-H-I-A, F as in Frank, A, V as in Victor, A.

I am a landowner due to the generosity of my parents, who farmed many, many years in Scott County. And actually everyone who's been up here before me has kind of spoke to my interests and my notes, but I didn't want to be rude and leave the line. I also think that it's important that as many of us who are here tonight, if it is 400 plus, that we are heard. So please do send in your comments.

I guess my two biggest things were, number one, I haven't heard in all this spiel about how hazardous these really are to us human dwellers, and I also haven't heard what type of compensation is going to be made for people and who gets the right to draw that line? If you're 72 feet, you're not allowed. If you're 75, you're no longer in danger; and we will compensate you with dollars, but your property value is going to go way down. If you're 300 feet away, you get nothing but you get to stare out the window at it. I think that is

incredibly small-minded thinking.

I also think that, for example, if 100 percent -- let's say 78 percent of landowners show up and say they are against this, do we stand a chance? I'm asking both of you, if we are against it, do we stand a chance? If we have 78 percent support?

MR. EK: Well, it's just -- it's not a voting process, you know. We don't take votes yes or no. We look for comments right now. So to answer that question, no, we're not here to vote yes or no on the project. But, however, the more comments that come in, the greater we'll respond to those issues, those alternatives. So the more comments, yes, the better. But it's not a vote, no.

MS. MARCHIAFAVA: Okay. So that reiterates my first point. Stand up and be heard and share your comments, because maybe, just maybe, if 87 percent of us respond that we don't want it, maybe this great state that we all pay our taxes to will actually listen to what we're saying. That's all I have.

MR. EK: I just wanted to -- I think you brought up electric and magnetic fields. And I did bring that up as a topic that we do study and we

have studied in environmental assessments and other environmental impact statements. And we will indeed study it in this environmental impact statement. We've found that there's -- you know, looking at research, there is -- there is little correlation between -- and I say little, so that leaves the door open -- that means that we still need to study this subject on whether there is indeed a correlation between magnetic and electric fields as it compares to leukemia, cancer or any other health problems. You know, we stated -- we stated before, you know, that there is no impact, the impact is little, there are no guidelines in Minnesota for magnetic fields. There is a guideline for electric fields, which is 8 kilovolts; however, as you get far enough away from this line, that field drops drastically.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How far?

MR. EK: I don't have that information. It's in the permit application. And if you want to see me afterwards, we can look that up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many lines?

MR. EK: We can't just be shouting out questions. If you have a question, come up here and we can answer it so we can get it on record. Otherwise the transcriber is not going to be able to

get it on record.

To answer the question on houses being 75, 100 feet, there is no guideline in Minnesota. The guideline is you have a 150-foot right-of-way; you cannot have a structure within that 150-foot right-of-way. So, therefore, you could have a structure right up to that right-of-way. So I guess a number to put out there would be 75 feet. However, National Electric Safety Code says -- I don't know the number, but I believe it's extremely small, like 30 feet that a power line can be next to a structure. However, that's never, ever considered during projects like this. And we -- Minnesota does not have a guideline on 100 feet, 200 feet, 300 feet. However, it's been made very well known to us, to me through these meetings, that proximity to homes is a very, very important issue. And it's something that we're going to look at and consider when we're looking at these alternative routes and so forth as well as electric and magnetic fields.

As I was telling this young gentleman on stray voltage, this is a great opportunity for us in the EIS to update that old information, supplement it and make it better. So this is a stronger EIS, and the people know exactly what these power lines

are.

So hopefully that answers some of your questions. But the EIS, that's what it's meant for. And your comments will be put into the EIS, and we'll take a look at that. And I'm actually -- I'm actually really excited to look at that information again and beef it up quite a bit from past environmental assessments and EIS's we've done. So thank you for your comment.

MR. CALLAHAN: I'm Dan Callahan, spelled C-A-L-L-A-H-A-N. I'm a lifelong resident of the area, and I went to school near where this power line is proposed.

A lot of comments have been said down the line, back and forth. We all share the same concerns. At a hearing about a year ago, I spoke up and said, it seems like this is inevitable. What it's going to boil down to: Where is it going to cross my property, how is it going to affect me as an individual? The woman that preceded me, I'd like to say, okay, in answer to that 75 feet, maybe we'll just put up a little fence with a caution, do not cross line, so you don't stay on there. If you do, don't linger too long.

I'd like to give Mr. Ek some comments and

some pictures that I have taken of my property. I have property in Section 22, Derrynane Township. I've spent most of my life developing that, getting it ready, a lot of nice things. And one of the proposed routes goes right across where I'm planning to build. It would literally destroy everything that I have worked for my whole life. So I'm concerned.

But I share the concerns of a lot of you here tonight, and I'm not going to bore you with all the details of what I have in my life because everybody has issues, everybody is concerned. As far as energy down the road, with the Obamanomics we're moving into and eventually the Obama nation -- we don't want to say that too fast -- we are looking at maybe getting green. And the future of coal is something that may not be viable because some of these environmentalists are saying I don't want to burn coal. At any rate, there will be some form of energy that is going to be put along these lines, and there will be future needs for the power. So we're going to be dealing with this. This line may not be necessary right now, but I think down the road sooner or later we are.

As far as eminent domain, when it

1 happens, it just happens. They drop the poles in
2 your yard, they try to make you feel good, they may
3 give you a little money up front. Bottom line is
4 your property is destroyed forever. Compensation
5 may make you feel good for a little while, but your
6 property is gone, your value is gone. So as someone
7 who loves the land, who's grown up on the land,
8 who's been all over this piece of property and
9 developed it, I want to see the birds fly and listen
10 to them sing. I don't want to listen to singing
11 wires, snap, crackle and pop, whenever there's a
12 thunderstorm, whenever there's humidity in the air,
13 or be concerned about other things that may happen
14 inside my body that I'm not aware of and down the
15 road some study says, oh, yeah, you lived near that
16 line, didn't you, that's why you're so screwed up.
17 So I'll leave you with that, but I would
18 encourage you, to Mr. Ek's office, to please contact
19 him, flood him with information, be correct, be
20 right, use all methods you have. Phone. They will
21 get back you. I've been working with CapX. They're
22 real good at getting back to you. Phone them,
23 e-mail them, send them documents. Give them
24 documents like I did. Make sure you include some of
25 the numbers that are in that mailing that you got

and on the website because, if you don't, those things have a tendency to get lost. So make sure you either put it as a watermark or include it on every page that you send, and they will take it into consideration.

Thanks for your time, everybody. I appreciate it. And I know some of you have been by my place. I'll be heading for the meadow later.

And I'll be in touch with you. Thanks.

MR. EK: Thank you very much for your comment. Just want to let you know, got your comment and we'll put it in the file. And I can't stress enough what that gentleman said about submitting comments. Very important. Very, very important that I receive them. Even reports or other information you might have about EMF. Any information. It doesn't have to be a comment. If you want to send me a report that you've found, all of that is admissible, so please do send that.

Next commenter, please. If you can state and spell your name.

MR. DAVIS: Brad Davis, D-A-V-I-S. I'm the planning director for Scott County, and I'm here to speak on behalf of the County Board of Commissioners. A couple of them, I think, are still

in the audience tonight.

The county commissioners and Scott County staff have taken a position on the proposed routes, and this morning the county board approved a resolution stating their position, and it passed unanimously. So I'd like to read the resolution into the record and leave this resolution with you, Scott.

The Resolution 2009-059; opposing the proposed routes for the CapX 2020 transmission line project and recommending a new alternate route.

Whereas, CapX 2020 Utilities filed a route permit application with the Minnesota PUC on December 29th, 2008 for the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kilovolt transmission line project based on the State's routing criteria and input received from interested stakeholders, including local government officials and landowners in the project area; and

Whereas, the filed Route Permit application identifies a preferred and alternate route, with segments of both passing through the southern half of Scott County; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security has established advisory task force groups with a charge to A) identify site or route impacts

and issues of local concern that should be addressed further in the environmental review, and to B) identify alternative routes or substation locations that avoid negative impacts; and

Whereas, the Board of Scott County Commissioners have been contacted by landowners regarding objections to the proposed preferred and alternate route segments and have been notified in the form of resolutions adopted by Helena Township and Cedar Lake Township requesting that the county offer evidence to the state and CapX 2020 Utilities to ascertain impracticality of the proposed route along County Road 2 in both townships;

Whereas, the Board of Scott County Commissioners finds that the preferred route alignment along County Highway 2 will result in significant impacts to the future planning of this road corridor which is identified as a future A-Minor arterial in the adopted Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update and therefore will require major right-of-way expansion;

Whereas, the Board of Scott County Commissioners finds that the proposed preferred route alignment from the Minnesota River crossing to Lake Marion Substation crosses more existing homes

and areas planned for more future homes than the proposed alternate route alignment;

Whereas, the Board of Scott County Commissioners finds that the preferred route alignment along County Highway 2 will impact numerous properties within the MinnCan pipeline corridor, which creates undue hardship on future private development options for these landowners and impedes local government's ability to provide logical extensions of roads and other public infrastructure to serve that development;

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners in and for the County of Scott, Minnesota, that the Office of Energy Security should consider and evaluate a new alternate transmission line route. This new route should combine the preferred route segment from the Minnesota River crossing north of the city of Le Sueur to Section 15, Derrynane Township, combined with the proposed alternate route segment running from Derrynane Township east into Rice County and then north along the Interstate 35 corridor to the Lake Marion Substation. This new alternate route will avoid the negative impacts and impracticalities as follows:

It will impact the least number of existing homes and avoid areas identified for planned future homes in the adopted Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan; avoids significant impacts and future public costs for public right-of-way expansion within county road corridors in the adopted Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and alleviates undue hardship for numerous properties already affected by the State-approved MinnCan pipeline project.

That passed today on a vote of five to zero and signed by the administrator. And I want to enter that into the record.

MR. EK: Thank you very much. And I will take that comment and put it into the record.

Just like to say thank you. We have not heard from counties or cities yet, and I was very curious as to why. So it's good that they're finally responding.

Next comment.

MR. MEGER: Steve Meger, M-E-G-E-R.

I want to bring up another point that was brought up by going ahead and looking in the future where the roads are going to get built, because right now County Road 2 from 61 and 169 in the next

15, 20 years is going to get expanded. Plus there's a road south of Montgomery that's going from 35W over to 169. Those are the tracks you should pick up because those are the tracks that we're going to destroy the farmland when the road goes through, and then we could just put power lines right next to them so we don't go destroying all these homes on the way. I mean, everybody's going to get affected, but there's something if we look in the future we can just get by without destroying a lot of families. That's all I have to say.

MR. EK: Sir, just so I have that correct, you were suggesting going down County Road 2 because it is going to be expanded in the future?

MR. MEGER: No, I'm suggesting you look at -- look at roads that are going to be in the next 15 years expanded and go onto those roads because we don't have houses on those roads yet. And you already -- that's the deal, the highways are going to destroy that land for your farming use, then put a power line right next to it and you're only doing it once.

MR. EK: I understand what you're saying, sir. You're looking for -- looking for those existing rights-of-way and those --

MR. MEGER: Yes.

MR. EK: -- those expanding rights-of-way?

MR. MEGER: Because they know where the roads are going the next 20 years. They say 2 will run up to 169 and there will be a bypass from 35W over to 169 someplace. I don't know where they are, but they do know where they are.

MR. EK: And that's why I said it was beneficial to hear from Scott County or Dakota or any of the counties and the cities, because then they'll let us know what their plans are and that's helpful. Thank you.

Yes, ma'am.

MS. VIKLA: My name is Margaret Vikla, V-I-K-L-A, and I live in Rice County, Wheatland Township, Section 21. We're located about nine-tenths of a mile north of the proposed route on 70th Street.

My husband is a beekeeper. He has about eight colonies of bees that have been in the area since about 1895. And we would like to keep keeping bees. And, as many of you know, there has been problems with colony collapse disorder, and they're blaming some of that onto some of these power lines

and things like that. And we're just concerned about our livelihood, too, because that's our source of income.

MR. EK: I'd just like to say thank you, and, you know, I can't answer your question because, to be honest with you, that's a new one that's never come up. And that will fall into the wildlife and the biological category. Can't give you an answer on what transmission lines do to bee colonies and so forth, but it sounds to me to be very interesting and important to you, something we'll take a look at. And now we have it in the record as a comment. So thank you.

MS. SACKETT: My name is Nancy Sackett, S-A-C-K-E-T-T. I live in New Prague.

I have a lot of questions, more than comments right now. You can't hear me? Is that better? No, it's not better.

One is I'd like to have Craig possibly clarify for me. You had said that there's a difference between a 345 and a double circuit and calling it a 690. Can you clarify that for me?

MR. POORKER: I can attempt. Right now, what we have -- what we have proposed with this project between Lyon County Substation and Helena

1 Substation a double-circuit transmission line. So
2 two 345 kV lines on that. And everything else
3 was -- in the certificate of need was a single
4 circuit. However, that has been proposed by some
5 intervenors in that certificate of need to upgrade
6 everything and make it a double-circuit transmission
7 line, double-circuit 345. It's two 345 kV
8 transmission lines, and it's -- electrically, you
9 don't add them together to make up 690 kilovolts.
10 That's not the way it works.
11 And similarly, I guess you could say you
12 have a couple appliances in your house, and you have
13 one wire running 240 volts to your -- say, your
14 range and maybe 240 volts to an electric dryer. So
15 you have two running side by side, two 240-volt
16 lines. That does not mean you can add those
17 together and you have 480 volts. So it's like two
18 parallel roadways, you might say. So it's not as
19 simple as adding -- adding the two together. That
20 would be -- a 690-kilovolt line would be much, much
21 larger than we have proposed.
22 Thanks, Nancy.
23 MS. SACKETT: Don't go too far. My
24 questions and comments kind of jump around, so bear
25 with me. But reading Volume 1, Section 3, and how

do I get -- page 3-14, the top paragraph, it states, The maximum electric field associated with the Applicant's proposal measured at one meter above ground is calculated to be 3.73 kilovolts per meter. Is this calculation for a single 345 or a double?

Okay. Can I just stand over here?

MR. EK: Stand over -- stand farther, yeah.

MS. SACKETT: Get away from you? All right. We'll try it this way.

So my question is, is this calculation for a single 345 kV or a double-circuit 35 kV (sic) and how would they differ?

MR. POORKER: Referring to the electric fields, there are charts in the application itself, and I think there should be a chart there for double circuits and there should be another chart for single circuit. So I'm not sure which one that refers to. And the same thing goes for magnetic fields. There are charts in there. You can determine that mathematically, what the magnetic fields are for a double-circuit line and also for a single-circuit line, and also distance out from the center line itself, too. So I'm not sure. I would have to look at that particular chart in the

application.

MS. SACKETT: If it was just for the single circuit, because we did find that a little bit later, how would it change? I guess my concern, and we'll get into this, is that the school bus stops are going to be running right along -- the kids on County Road 2 particularly, because that's the area I know, wait for the bus there. And so at one meter there will be 3.73 kilovolts of electricity running through their bodies?

MR. POORKER: That I am not sure about. I'm not an electrical engineer. I wish I could answer that question for you, but I think that is something that definitely the State has to investigate and answer those -- that type of question in their environmental impact statement.

MS. SACKETT: So, Scott, do you research that or have somebody research that to find out that information?

MR. EK: Yeah, we'll take -- you're referring to the application and information in the application, correct? Yeah, so we'll take that information when we put together the environmental impact statement, that 3 kilovolts or whatever, whatever it may be.

MS. SACKETT: Right.

MR. EK: Electric fields, magnetic fields. We'll vet that information in the application that was submitted. We'll verify that that information. We'll supplement that information. We've hired -- the State's hired a third-party contractor to help us beef up that information and to ensure that we're following -- like I said, there was that 8-kilovolt guideline for electric fields. So 3 kilovolts would be below that. However, I can't tell you right -- you know, I'm no expert when it comes to health and so forth and what 3 kilovolts could do or could not do. But it's something that now we know about and it's a concern to you. And it's something we'd study anyhow. But now we have a little more detailed information from you.

But, yes, we'll -- we go through the information. And we don't necessarily just take the information from the application and rubber stamp it. We go through it, supplement it, look at new information and add to it and ensure it's correct.

MS. SACKETT: Okay. So going back to the school buses being underneath the lines. We know that the -- there's a lot of details and whatever,

so -- as far as the calculations and everything like that. I would like to read something, again, from that same paragraph. It states, The standard was designed to prevent serious hazards from shocks when touching large objects parked under the AC -- which is alternating current -- transmission lines of 500 kV or greater. A school bus is considered a large object; right? So it's saying that you would reference to the eight, which is the standard, but you'd like it to be lower. But at what point is it okay for school children to be under there? So that's something that I guess you guys will research, right?

MR. EK: Correct. Correct. And just -- it's not a standard. It's a guideline. It's nothing that's set in a rule or anything. It's something that's a guideline that's been used by the Public Utilities Commission, prior to them the EQB in a different proceeding. So it's not an actual standard you can look up in rule, but you can look up in other permits -- in permit decisions. But, yes, it's a good -- you have a very good point, and it's something we'll look at. I can't answer that because I'm not an expert when it comes to that, but, yes. So...

MS. SACKETT: Okay. So moving on. How far away from the power lines do you have to be to have a 0 reading for EMF?

MR. POORKER: That is also a question I can't answer. But, again, that -- there are charts in there, because it depends on what voltage it is, whether it's a single circuit or double circuit.

MS. SACKETT: It's 345 double-circuit. That's what we've got going up.

MR. POORKER: I don't know how far out you have to be, I don't have the chart memorized. For those of you that have seen our applications, it's hundreds of pages. But I -- a double-circuit line does have less magnetic field as opposed to a single-circuit transmission line. When you get to the right-of-way line, it should be significantly lower because magnetic fields drop off very, very quickly as you move away from the line, probably to the point where it may be even less than what you have around some household appliances.

MS. SACKETT: That leads me to my next question as far as that when we'll start to have -- when is it proposed to have the second circuit started? Because there is more EMF coming off when it's a single circuit still.

MR. POORKER: Right. If the -- if the State does allow us to construct to a double-circuit capability, we don't know when that second circuit would be put on. I think you're either referring to east of Helena Substation when that circuit would be put on. It would have to be when it's needed, and it would have to go through the certificate of need to prove that that second circuit is indeed -- indeed needed.

MS. SACKETT: I didn't get to hear that whole answer, but we'll -- we can talk. Can you explain the difference between EMFs and stray voltage?

MR. POORKER: I can attempt. EMF is -- there are two things there. It's electric field and magnetic field. As stray voltage, it's usually a distribution issue that can be fixed by working through your electric co-op or your distribution company. It usually affects some of the wiring that might be in a barn or something like that. But probably what you're referring to, I would guess, may be induced current, and that's that excess electricity coming off the wires. Is that what you're referring to, Nancy?

MS> SACKETT: I'm just trying to learn.

MR. POORKER: Okay. Induced voltage is that -- there's electricity around, especially high around the wires, and it dissipates as it gets -- as you get further away from the wire. But there's -- and we address it in the application, things like electric fences, pacemakers, things like that, people that have concerns about, that's from that excess electricity. Or somebody mentioned the electric fence. If your electric fence is shut off, you can get some of that induced current into those wires on there. And you could possibly get a shock like you would get when you walk across the -- your carpeting in the wintertime. And a way to alleviate that is to ground that electric fence when it isn't running. So I think what you're referring to, Nancy, is the induced current, the extra electricity comes off of wires.

MS. SACKETT: Another concern that I had was about the groundwater contamination. So I'm wondering, will the State regulate what kind of cement is used for the footings?

MR. EK: That's a good question. That's a question for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

MS. SACKETT: But you're here now.

MR. EK: Right, right, right. And I don't know. I don't know what concrete that they require, the PCA requires, for inputting a transmission line and what impacts it would have on groundwater. My best guess is that it would have none. I've had -- I've put in wells before, and we've used Portland cement and other cement, and it's not been a problem. But that's part of the PCA permit that would be required and -- and identified in our permit, if there was a permit issued, and then the PCA would have all that information in their permit. I can't speak to what the PCA requires here because I'm not with the PCA, unfortunately. But you can get back to me and we can figure that out. Give me a call at the office and I can find out the answer to that question. I'm sorry I can't answer it here tonight.

MS. SACKETT: And I don't expect you to know everything, by any means. But you are our liaison to finding out these answers. And as far as me calling you personally, I will do it. I've spent many hours on this project free. But I expect that you guys will know this information and check it out, because for me to go through or any of us to go through and read all that and double-check it is not

1 realistic. And I don't think we should have to
2 double-check. That was how I got started with all
3 this, is I talked to people who didn't know about it
4 and people who aren't getting the mailings. And I
5 know somebody who didn't get a mailing regarding
6 being denied for the task force. Things will be
7 missed. But I need to know how not -- to make sure
8 that doesn't happen so that things are not missed,
9 because that's been an issue.
10 Okay. Going on to my next point, jobs.
11 Will the lines be put in by people who work, live in
12 Minnesota? And is the State going to help regulate
13 that so that -- we're fighting right now for our
14 budget and to keep jobs in Minnesota and create jobs
15 in Minnesota. How are we going to ensure that these
16 jobs are Minnesota people?
17 MR. POORKER: That I don't have a good
18 answer for you right now, because we do have to let
19 contracts -- eventually we'll have to let contracts.
20 I can -- but there are people working on it now that
21 are consultants or contractors working for us, and
22 they are local -- local companies working on the
23 project for us already. But there is a lot of work
24 to do. There's survey work, there's design work and
25 construction work. And it's my hope -- like you, I

live in Minnesota as well. I pay taxes. I would hope it's people from Minnesota. But can I promise that? That's something that's out of my hands, certainly, but definitely something that the State's going to be interested in as well as the utility.

MR. EK: You know, I just hope you know this is -- sorry we don't have any answer, but at this point this is the information-gathering stage. We're trying to gather the information. Unfortunately, I'm not a wealth of knowledge on the whole project. And that's the point of this scoping, is to get comments from the public, comments from you so we can go back, answer those questions in the environmental impact statement.

So when we say we don't know, we're not -- we're not trying to avoid the question or be sly, it's just simply we don't know and -- because we're not experts on every little subject. But I can tell you the subjects you bring up are being recorded, and we will go back and we will take a look at them and make sure they're addressed. So this is more an information-gathering process of the whole stage.

MS. SACKETT: And that brings me to another point. What will be the next meeting that

the public can come to? Okay? And we'll just start with that. When...

MR. EK: Yeah, they're not scheduled yet. But when I put that flowchart up, it was the draft -- once the draft environmental impact statement's issued -- and I'm -- I'm guessing right around September. We don't have a schedule yet because it's kind of flowing here as we go. But -- so in September at that time there will be public meetings similar to this one here with comment -- opportunities for folks to comment. And that's when you can ask those specific questions on why didn't the EIS cover that, and this information in the EIS doesn't seem correct. And then you can put us on the spot because we've already had done our research and so on and so forth. So that will be after we've done the research, after we've received the comments, and then you can put us on the spot.

MS. SACKETT: Okay.

MR. EK: That would be around September, October, in the fall.

MS. SACKETT: And from there our comments would be -- you would go back and look at them and edit the EIS as needed?

MR. EK: Correct. Correct. We'd address

your comments, and may go into what's called the final EIS, and your comments would be addressed in the final. And so the draft and the final together would be the complete EIS.

MS. SACKETT: Where and how would we get ahold of a draft of the EIS prior to that September possible meeting?

MR. EK: Be sure to put -- get your name on the mailing list, and we'll let you know when it's available. And I guess we haven't gotten that far as to how we'll get it out to folks. But we will get it out to folks, be it on our website, be it by CD, be it by hard cover, however it may be. But definitely get on the website because you will be notified when it is available. And then we can go from there on getting it out to you.

MS. SACKETT: I'm looking over my questions here. One thing I definitely want to get into the record is this report (indicating). I don't know if you have a copy. You do?

MR. EK: I do.

MS. SACKETT: Okay.

MR. EK: Do you want to keep it?

MS. SACKETT: Sure, it was 80-some pages to print off. But I can e-mail you the address. So

how -- you have the report. Do you read it? Do you pull out what you feel is important? How does that process work?

MR. EK: No, we read the report. And actually there's an updated report, and maybe I can meet with you after.

MS. SACKETT: Sure.

MR. EK: And have an updated report to that one --

MS. SACKETT: Okay.

MR. EK: -- that you could look at as well. No, we read through the report and take all of the information. We're not just taking little bits and pieces. We're making sure what's in the report is put down in the environmental impact statement correctly. No, I -- I'm an honest guy. Hey, it's all I can say. We do what we can do to make the best possible EIS that informs permit decisions as well as informs citizens. So...

MS. SACKETT: Going back to the certificate of need and the meetings next Wednesday, Thursday, you said that they're not open for public comment, so people can go and listen. If they are an intervening party, they would be able to comment, which means that they could be a member of UCAN?

MR. EK: You're correct, there is Wednesday -- it's oral arguments. And I'm no lawyer, so I don't know how that all goes. But, yes, they're -- I think people who have intervened and who have been part of the process for the last two or three years, yes, they receive oral -- they have their opportunity for oral arguments on Wednesday, and the Commission listens to all that Wednesday. But the public can't come up and speak. It's just those folks who have been involved. And then Thursday, essentially the Commission just sits there and will deliberate, and you can listen and hear what they have to say about the need process and would hopefully that day come to a decision on the need. So, yes, you're right, there are oral arguments, but it's not an opportunity for just the public members to come in and raise their hand and say things.

MS. SACKETT: But if they want to become a member of UCAN, they would be an intervening party and they would have that right, So I'm pretty sure on that. I can clarify that later.

Okay. If someone was to get shocked from these lines, who is liable, the homeowner or Xcel or Great River Energy? Whose home -- whose insurance

1 does that fall on if somebody gets injured from a
2 shock?
3 MR. POORKER: Well, these lines are
4 constructed so that you should not get a shock. I
5 mean, I think you're talking if somebody comes in
6 contact with the wires. That would certainly be
7 dangerous. It's something you don't want to touch.
8 As far as getting a shock, I can't imagine that
9 there would be a shock strong enough to injure
10 somebody coming out of -- coming from the induced
11 voltage.
12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you answer the
13 question?
14 MR. EK: Here it is. What I think --
15 what Craig is trying to say is the shock, it's -- if
16 there was a shock, it would be small, it would not
17 injure somebody. But at the same time, if you have
18 some guy climbing the pole and touching the lines, I
19 don't know, that would be a whole different story
20 and get into legal matters. But just to let folks
21 know, we are -- as part of the permit, there's a
22 complaint procedure, a complaint form that when
23 you're on the mailing list you will receive, you
24 know, the permit and the complaint form and so
25 forth. And as a matter of fact, we've looked at the

complaint form and we're beefing that up as well for this project. So if somebody does get shocked, that would be something you could likely put down in a complaint form and it would be sent to the Public Utilities Commission and then they would follow through with that. And to be honest with you, I don't know how that works from that point. But I know the landowner, homeowner, whomever, would have an opportunity to, you know, submit that -- that complaint form to the PUC. I don't know where the PUC takes that complaint and if they go to the utility or what it may be. But we are beefing up that complaint form as well to make it more friendly and available for citizens.

MS. SACKETT: Regarding adjacent properties, monetary compensation will be given to the property owners whose land the transmission line footings are in; but if the adjacent property has a home close to the line, shouldn't they be able to have the Buy the Farm Act as well? Do you want me to repeat that? Okay. So whoever's footing -- whoever's property the footing of the transmission line is going in receives the monetary compensation. Somebody who is adjacent to that line will get nothing, even though they may -- their home may even

be closer to the line than the person who owns the property. So I'm asking, shouldn't they be able to use the Buy the Farm Act at that point?

MR. POORKER: That's -- I think you're asking a legal question that -- it's hard for me to answer that. But let me tell you a little bit about easement acquisition. It's not just where the pole goes. It's 75 feet on each side of the center line of the transmission line. That is where we have to get the easement. So even if you do not have a pole on your property, there are wires going over your property, over your private property, we have to get an easement across anybody that we go over, whether you have a pole on there or not.

As far as acquiring easements from adjacent landowners, there is nothing that requires us to do that, but that is something that we do wrestle with and we do understand. My boss and I talk about that very issue. So we've had discussions on that -- on that very issue. As far as the Buy the Farm Act, there is a statute out there that if we are going to cross your property and you want us to buy you out, there is legislation that does do that. There is a statute that does allow that.

MR. EK: Nancy, we have other folks just comment and ask -- there should be a time limit. You know, there's other folks that do want to comment. So if you want to get with me after the comment period or give me -- we can go over your sheet of questions. But I think it's only fair to allow these other folks to comment as well.

MS. SACKETT: I don't appreciate that. I don't. I've worked very hard on this, and this is my time in front of the public. And I'm sorry that there's a line behind me. Okay? But Scott Ek said that he would be here until everybody got to ask what they need to ask. It doesn't matter if it's 8:00 or not. This is your one chance to get in front of these people and to see what they know and what they'll give you answers to. So if you want to stand up here and tell him your personal things, that's fine. Okay? But -- so thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You did great. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you, Nancy.

If you could state and spell your name, please.

MS. TERI POLSON: I'm Teri Polson, T-E-R-I, P-O-L-S-O-N. This is my husband Dave and

1 my daughter Erica, E-R-I-C-A.
2 We live on County Road 2 right where the
3 MinnCan project went through. And I just have
4 questions on the safety, the wisdom and the security
5 of putting those two lines right together. Has any
6 study been done where they even overlaid the two
7 maps to see how many properties are both of these
8 going through or -- our property, we've got ten
9 acres and the electric line's supposed to go through
10 our front yard. The MinnCan pipeline is adjacent to
11 our property, immediately behind our property. So
12 we're kind of stuck in the middle. But I just -- I
13 question, is there any safety issues of having the
14 two right together? Any concerns that way? And
15 even national security issues of having those two
16 major energy sources that close together that one
17 bomb could take them both out? I'm -- I know that's
18 a wild situation, but it's a concern. I live right
19 there with both of them right there. And our farm,
20 we really worked hard to build it up, to make it a
21 good place for our kids to ride their horses. And
22 my daughter has some concerns about the side of that
23 with the horses.
24 MS. ERICA POLSON: Yeah, the power line
25 would be running right through a front pasture where

we have horses running free range, and I don't know how that would affect them. And that pasture also doubles as a riding arena. And I have little brothers that ride, are learning to ride high-speed horse events, and we ride out in that pasture as practice. And I'm very concerned about -- I mean, any little mishap problem at all, I mean, horses can do weird things sometimes. And if there was to be a problem out there with a novice rider on a horse and the horse gets out of control, and a big metal post in the middle of that arena could be a serious safety issue, could harm the horse or even my little brothers. And so that has been a major concern for me, just the safety of that.

MR. POLSON: I had a couple of things. First, I just want to reiterate one of the comments about the process being flawed. And I think Nancy's left, but I wanted to thank Nancy. If it wasn't for the hard work of my neighbors bringing this to my attention, I would have never known that this was happening. I did not receive these mailings. I know you guys were very proud of your process and had the graphs and so forth, and it might be very hard to admit to yourself that this process is flawed. This thing is plowing right through in

front of my house, and I -- up to a couple of weeks ago, I didn't know. And the fact that I wouldn't be notified is unacceptable.

I also wanted to reiterate that I fully support this Scott County resolution. I want to thank the hard work for those guys in Scott County. Sounds like a lot of the other counties haven't done it, and so it's a blessing to live here in Scott County. And especially the part -- and maybe this is biased on my part. But especially the part about those of us who have already been whacked by our property values with MinnCan, to come back and have to get whacked a second with this is financially devastating to us. And I think that's immoral to do that to the same people twice.

And then the third one is I wish you guys would come with better answers. You know, I wasn't going to get into this; I wrote this at the very end. But this question about the shock was an excellent question. We live in Minnesota. We get ice storms, for goodness sakes. We've all seen pictures of power lines coming down, and it happens. And to -- so that was an excellent question about when these things happen, when these power lines come down, what happens then? And when people get

hurt, you know, whether horses or livestock or whatever, when these things come down on our livestock, those are excellent questions. And I would like to believe that you guys were prepared to talk about those questions instead of always giving this same answer, well, we don't know.

MR. EK: Thanks for your comment. And, sir, I just want to make sure that you had signed up on the sheet, then, before you came in.

MR. POLSON: Yeah. I signed -- I signed up on there. I'm on the website.

MR. EK: Good. Good.

MR. POLSON: I'm all plugged in now, but a month ago I had no idea.

I'm sorry. I'm all plugged in now. I'm on the website, thanks to Nancy and others. But a month ago I had no idea, and this thing is going through my front yard. It's crazy.

MR. EK: I apologize for that. And then to answer your question about the pipeline, I do believe the maps show the pipeline as well as the proposed transmission lines --

MR. POLSON: Yeah.

MR. EK: -- on the maps. I think that was one of your questions that you asked, whether

the layers were there?

MR. POLSON: I didn't see it. I asked.

MR. EK: Okay. And then also, just last night a gentleman brought up the question you had about the pipeline right-of-way and its proximity to a proposed transmission line right-of-way. And that's a new subject that had never come up ever before either. And I'm sure they can't overlap, but it's something now that --

MR. POLSON: They cross.

MR. EK: It's somewhat similar to the bee issue. It's something, you know, we've really never looked at before. So now that's two people who have brought that up.

MR. POLSON: There are a lot more here have that same issue.

MR. EK: Good. Great. So that's something we can be sure to put that in the EIS, then. Thank you.

MR. KRASS: My name is Rod Krass. I'm here representing Tom and Kim Purdin (phonetic), who are in the preferred route and are here opposing this project and wanting it to go away but, knowing the realities of the situation, have a good number of concerns.

One of the things I want to make certain everyone here understands about the process that's going to occur and is going to affect you, because I've represented 55 of the landowners who were -- had property taken by MinnCan for the oil line. And in 2006 the Minnesota legislature passed new condemnation laws giving property owners certain rights they never had before, good rights. For instance, there was always an allowance of only $500 for an appraisal. You can't get an appraisal for $500 for condemnation purposes. The legislature increased it to 5,000.

They also said no more of this business of condemners low-balling property owners. If the property owner goes to a hearing and gets 40 percent more than was offered, they get attorney's fees. That's the penalty. There were relocation benefits given now that never existed before, business interruption benefits that were never given before. And those new rights exist when the State of Minnesota takes your property, when the county, the city, the school district, the HRA -- when they take your property, you have all of those rights.

But guess what? The private utilities, with their ability to hire people to lobby the

legislature, got exempted. None of those rights will exist for anybody in this room whose property is taken in this project.

Now, a group of us went to the legislature this winter and spring and attempted to get that law changed. Some of the people who worked hard on that are standing in this room. We were unsuccessful. The legislature just didn't seem interested, didn't think it was a big deal. And I want to say this to you: Shame on everybody in this room who doesn't go home tonight or tomorrow and write their state senator, their state representative, and the governor of this state saying, enough of this. We should have the same rights when private, profit-making utilities take our land as we do when the government takes our land. We ought to get compensated based on our loss, not based on who takes our land.

That law is never going to get passed until people like you let your legislators know this is unacceptable and you want the same rights if your property is taken for this utility as you would have if the State of Minnesota took your property.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comments, sir.

If you would state and spell your name, sir.

MR. DOCKEN: I'm Jeff Docken, and that's spelled D-O-C-K-E-N. I'm a farmer, and that's spelled E-I-E-I-O. I also am Fifth District Rice County Commissioner, and that's spelled several different ways on any given day of the week.

So, as we heard today or this evening, Rice (sic) County passed a resolution opposing the line going through Scott County. They also say that they have an alternative route, and some of the townships were mentioned by the gentleman who was reading the resolution.

First of all, my question is is has anybody seen the map of this alternative route that they're proposing? Second of all, could Rice County please get a copy of that map? We'd like to know where you're thinking that it should go. We at Rice County have all the same concerns you do at Scott County. I would expect a resolution with as many whereases as Scott County has by next week coming from Rice County. At our very first meeting of the task force I said I don't want this to get to be a north versus south route. And I can see it's quickly becoming that. That's my -- that's my

feeling. I know Scott County doesn't want it. Guess what, Rice County doesn't either. We have all exactly the same concerns as Scott County has.

On a personal level, I am on Chester Avenue, which intersects with 57th Street, so I'm a quarter mile from where the line goes. A couple of questions.

First of all, does it affect the pacemaker? That is a serious question. My dad cuts hay for me. So he will be cutting underneath them lines. I can't see any other way around it. So do I need to fire him?

Second question is, will my cows graze underneath these lines if it's pasture?

Third question is, will it affect my organic status?

MR. EK: The pacemaker issue we've looked at in other environmental assessments and EIS's and have found that there is -- that there is the potential for the older pacemakers. I don't know them by name. I think Uni -- by Unipolar, I think it's the older ones. We've spoken with Medtronic and Guidant, and the newer pacemakers that have come out are not impacted by the electric and magnetic fields, from the information we've received from

them. And we've had that documented in other environmental assessments and so forth.

For the cows grazing underneath the lines, I'm sure they're free to graze underneath the lines.

MR. DOCKEN: Will they?

MR. EK: I'm sure they will. I guess I don't know. I'm not a cow. But I'm sure they will graze underneath the lines.

And your question on organics. I know you brought that up before. It's something we're going to look into because I don't -- to be honest with you, I don't know what the criteria is for a farm to be considered organic and how a transmission line plays into those criteria that -- but you brought that up at the ATF, and I know it's going to be in the notes that we have coming up for the next one. And it's something I found interesting and we're going to take a look at to find out what exactly is the criteria for a farm to be considered organic and whether transmission lines do indeed play into that criteria. So...

MR. DOCKEN: Just one more question. That's about Sky Harbor Air Park. We are pretty close with the line to that. And if there's some of

the poles that will be 175 feet, I'm not sure -- it's on approach and landing, whether or not that will affect that or not either. So that's one of the things I'd like in the record too.

MR. EK: Would you know a little bit more about Sky Harbor? I do know we -- I know one part of this process is we do have to talk with MnDOT and FAA on when it comes to the placement of these transmission lines and the flight and safety zones of each of these airports, be it small ones, large ones, whatnot. As a matter of fact, I believe my supervisor is meeting today about that particular issue with MnDOT for an airport. And so we do look into that. They have restrictions on pole heights. And I'm sure it depends on the type of airport, the type of aircraft that are flying out of that airport, so on and so forth. So, yeah, it's something we look at. And it's one of the agencies that are required to work with the Department of Commerce on this EIS to make sure that this route isn't going near an airport or through a safety zone of an airport that would impact the airport.

MR. DOCKEN: Just to clarify, we are in the record of -- or in the last minutes from ATF that it was 20 planes. Actually it's 70-plus planes

from that airport, so it's not -- and they are all small planes, but it is not small. So, thank you, Scott.

MR. EK: Thank you.

State and spell your name.

MS PRCHAL: I'm Jody Prchal, P-R-C-H-A-L. I'm a co-owner of Czech (phonetic) Country Farms south of New Prague. We are on the southern alternate route running from south of Union Hill north of Heidelberg, south of New Prague, north of Lonsdale.

My comments relate to this particular section south of Highway 19; but, for the record, I am also greatly opposed to Le Sueur crossing route that was chosen as well. I am on the task force and I've met a lot of people, talked to a lot of people, and we put together their stories of impact over here. I wasn't going to go into the north versus south aspects of this either, and I'm glad that Jeff talked about Rice County is going to be doing their resolution, and I'm one of the representatives of Le Sueur County. So when you say you don't want it there and name the alternate route as being the southern one, well, that's us. So I wasn't going to stand here and say this is what I -- we feel that it

shouldn't go our way. There's numbers as far as homes, there's numbers as far as number of poles that take more resources. I think this whole project is wasting of natural resources. I have issues as far as the whole need for this as well, but a lot of that has been said already.

I think alternatives should be taken into account. There's talk of this Green Power Express that's even a bigger project that no one really seems to know what it's about. There's already talk about CapX Phase 2, and we're battling today over Phase 1. So it seems like maybe the state needs to look at this and slow things down and figure out what we do need and then how to do it.

More efforts to recycle and stop filling the landfills with things that take energy to make and trying to conserve what we do have should be of utmost importance to the state of Minnesota. It seems like the utilities are all trying to do their own thing, and maybe they need to all work together.

There was a comment about, you know, the children. There's children in all of the counties, there's bus stops all over the country, all over the countryside. We all have concerns. This is going to be a huge environmental footprint on our earth,

on the people who live here. If the line is truly needed, they need to take the most direct route wherever it may be, use existing right-of-way to avoid the century farms, natural areas, businesses and landowners, while maintaining prime ag land.

And maybe it needs to be looked at is where is this power going? What is it for? Is it for the Twin Cities? Does it need to be closer to the Twin Cities? And that's things that need to be addressed, which I haven't really heard the answers to that. The city of New Prague, you know, it's made up of both Scott and Le Seuer Counties. So I guess just keep us in mind and help support us, too.

I'm speaking for the past generations who settled in the rural areas and for the land that has no voice and for the future generations that will have to live with all this someday.

I urge all of you to visit the display of impact stories we've set up, add your name to the e-mail list, and we'll get you information on how you can make your voice heard. There's also form letters if you want to fill one out, take it home with you, mail it. If you want to give it to me, I'm on the task force and I'll be meeting in Henderson two more times in April, and I'll take it

there and we'll talk about it and bring it up. So they're over on the table over there. And if you have any questions, our e-mails are on there. I'm working with people from Lonsdale and all throughout this area in the southern part of the route.

Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you. I just want to add, again, that was a perfect and effective comment, all the comments you made. That's exactly the kind of items we want to hear, very specific such as that. So that's just an example to you folks on kind of what we'd like to see and hear. Great. Thank you very much.

MS. HOY: My name is Anna Hoy, H-O-Y. Okay. Bear with me, I'm horrendously nervous. I don't normally talk in front of adults.

I live about six miles west of New Prague. My husband and I have a small hobby farm where I run a home day care. I have two sons of my own and about eight to ten other kids I have every day of the year.

This power line -- you know, like Jody said, north versus south, I don't want to go into that either; but, unfortunately, it happens. We're on the alternate route. Our house is tagged as one

of the houses that's 75 to 175 feet. I just got my map printed out tonight, and the line comes south of the road, right in my front yard or over my house. Not something I'm really looking forward to.

So my business is to care for children. I not only teach them, but I protect them and take care of them while they're in my care. With these lines so close, you know, the children will be exposed to the EMF rays -- or fields, excuse me, and the stray voltage. That's a huge thing for me. That's my biggest concern. I'll deal with wherever the line has to go; but when it comes to the safety of the children, I'm not going to deal with that. That's just not acceptable. The EMFs are given off constantly. They'll never decrease. I know that they'll only increase, being that more power is needed. My kids play outside three-quarters of the time. We live outside. We live on a farm. I have all boys in my care. They are true boys.

I'm concerned about the long-term health risks for these kids. I take them for walks every day. They either walk, they ride, or I pull them in our little red wagon. We follow the lines, we're going to go under the lines, and it's just -- the concern is the shocks. You know, they say don't

park your cars under them because of the shock. Well, am I not supposed to walk under the lines, along them, in my own yard because of this? Do I need to drag a chain behind my little red wagon with my toddlers in it?

I'm not sure that the risks, you know, that you're willing to put towards any of us, especially children, is worth it. Move the line, help push it north of our road to the thousand feet. Even then we'd be much, much safer. And it's a fact. In your own books you have, you know, that there's, you know, there is concern. It's not enough to regulate aggressive investigations, but it's a concern.

I know that, you know, with -- sorry, I totally lost my train of thought.

EMFs increase the risk of activating diseases that you may already have. Childhood leukemia is a big thing. And any time a person Googles EMFs, that's the first issue that's brought up. There's no clear case stating that, no, it doesn't cause it. Yet California, they made a law that these lines have to be so far away because of those risks. In Anoka County I know that the electric lines were rerouted to miss schools and

1 golf courses. So why wouldn't you reroute these
2 away from residential places? You know, I got to
3 imagine people and children are much more important
4 than golf. Maybe that's my own opinion, but it
5 really is.
6 What about the stray voltage? I've heard
7 a few people mention it. Actually, you've mentioned
8 it on a few times, but nobody's really said
9 anything. You know, according to your book, a small
10 current passed through a person's body to the
11 ground. Maybe, it's a potential. Well, you know,
12 that will be accompanied by a small shock, spark, or
13 mild shock. Like I said, you park under those
14 lines, every time you touch a vehicle you get
15 shocked. And I know this because my dad did
16 construction for years. I parked next to him. I
17 visited him, zap. He'd get zapped. It's not fun,
18 it gets annoying, and I'm not going to put my
19 children or other people's children that I care for
20 through that.
21 You know, it says in your book that the
22 farmers should drag a chain behind their equipment
23 to ground themselves, that when you're watering --
24 when the farmers and their giant water things --
25 sorry, I don't know what they're called -- their

1 irrigation system needs to have a chain touching
2 them. Or your electric fence that will hold a
3 charge. Well, I have an electric fence. You know,
4 I don't farm my land, but I watch farmers. I had my
5 boys all -- have -- they're all infatuated with
6 tractors and everything else. And when they get the
7 chance to ride in the tractor from the farms around
8 us, they will. They jump at that. I don't want to
9 worry that when they -- when that farmer stops that
10 they're going to -- he's going to jump out, he's
11 going to drop. I don't want to worry that my kids
12 are going to run out, jump up in the tractor and get
13 zapped. It's just a huge concern, you know.
14 And like that other lady had said, the
15 power line runs right across our driveway. My kids
16 get on the school bus every day, rain or shine.
17 They will for years upon years upon years. And when
18 my kids are gone, you know, God willing, I'll be
19 working still and having more kids -- maybe not
20 mine, but day care. Do I have to ground their
21 umbrellas? It just -- there's so many what ifs
22 about it. And their health factors are enormous.
23 You can say you don't know, but why take the chance?
24 Why is it worth it? You know, these kids are our
25 future. Put yourself at risk before them. Any

parent knows that.

Sorry. That's all I've got to say.

MR. EK: Thanks for your comment. And, again, as I said, you brought up the EMF. We have studied that before, and we have found in the studies there is little risk with the magnetic fields. I suggest -- there's a WHO fact sheet, WHO fact sheet 322, you go on the Internet and there will be plenty of sites that point to the World Health Organization fact sheet on EMF. You're correct, there is no concrete proof that it does or does not, but they have determined that the risk is little. What little means, I don't know. What that means to me, little means that it should still be studied more, and that's exactly what we plan to do. And that's exactly, I think, something the State of Minnesota should plan to do and beef up in this environmental assessment, and maybe in general. This needs to be taken a look at, and we plan to do that.

Stray voltage, the power lines -- you are -- I can say you are safe from being zapped. You can't go under them and be zapped. There would be circumstances if there's a grounding issue, if something wasn't grounded properly. I know there

was a -- in the Cities there was a bike path or a walking path that was near a transmission line, and you got zapped. Reason why, it hadn't been grounded properly when it was installed. The problem was fixed though with proper grounding. So that shock -- that shock issue you're talking about, we believe it's not a factor. But we still will study it. Yes. Yes.

And one other item you brought up is the line was -- you said it was close to your home?

MS. HOY: My house is within 200 feet of the road.

MR. EK: Right. So what I -- I said earlier that route permits get very specific. You could -- you could say I would like that line on what would be the north side of your road.

MS. HOY: Pushing it a thousand feet away.

MR. EK: Yeah, you could write that, get a map and actually draw that in and submit it as a comment, and we'll take a look at that and consider that. That's what I mean when we get very detailed. We'll do that for windbreaks for farmers, you know, those windbreaks have been there for years, so of course you'd want to go around those as well. So

why not -- it is possible for these lines to jump the road to avoid landowners, obstacles, whatever it may be; and we'll definitely look at that. And I suggest you put that in as a comment. Thank you.

MS. SALABA: Hello. My name is Delores Salaba, S-A-L-A-B-A. I was not going to talk, but I heard something that I just had to come and try to correct it.

I live in Section 22, Wheatland Township, Rice County. We're on the alternate route. Our farm runs along Highway 19, so we'd have a nice row of poles running there. We have five sons, nine grandsons, three granddaughters. Our farm is more than a century farm. It's 134 years.

But Brad Davis threw out a number that I do not agree with pertaining to the Scott County resolution. And this is documented in the CapX book. He said there are more homes in the preferred colony than the alternate route. In the book it says there are 436 homes in the preferred route and 486 in the alternate. Now, if Mr. Davis wants to argue with me, he can come right ahead. But it's in the CapX book.

And that's all I have to say. Everybody else has really done a good job. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comment.

Yes, sir. If you could state and spell your name.

MR. HUSEBY: Steve Huseby, H-U-S-E-B-Y. I'm on the proposed route or -- it really doesn't matter.

But I'm an electrical engineer, power engineer, done it all my life. So I'm your best advocate and your worst nightmare all wrapped up in one pretty package. I'm also not a real good speaker, but I do want to throw out a few things. This project is important for anybody that has electricity in their home, which is, I would guess, all of us. There is no winner. This is going to happen. It's going to go somewhere, someplace, sometime, whether it's the alternate, the preferred, a third, a tertiary or a fourth route. It doesn't matter. It's going to go somewhere.

It's a complex project. These guys have been working on this for a long time, and hats off to you. It's a difficult project. These projects are very difficult to get through and make everybody happy, and not everybody will.

I'm a master electrician. I'm a contractor. I work in the power industry. I work

in wind turbine erection. We do a predominant amount of business in areas of the state, which, ironically or coincidentally, have great wind regimes and build a lot of turbines where you can get a lot of power.

There's a problem. There's no way to get it to where you need it. If you want green, you got to get it to where you use it. And I don't know, but maybe you can tell me, is this project taking any of the Buffalo Ridge power, any of the power in the southwest state to where metro is, to deliver, so to speak, that green power to where the power is used? And if you want to step in on that.

MR. EK: Yes, you're correct, that is an aspect of this line.

MR. HUSEBY: That being the case, it's just a plain fact, you know, we all want to be green, but there's a cost to it, and there is no winner.

There is a thing they call power delivery. It's called wheeling power. You're delivering it from one place to another. This thing is no more than a big pipeline. The comparison I like to make to people that don't really understand EMF or stray voltage and all that, it's a

high-pressure pipeline. The higher the voltage, the higher the pressure.

Now, where is your electrical engineer tonight? There's a lot of questions about what is this EMF? What is this, how dangerous, how close, how this, how that? And I hear a lot of I think, I know, I might, I do, whatever. You guys owed us somebody technically literate. Nothing against either of you, all of you. You've done a great job. They've done a great job. They have a hard job. But we have questions that are technically difficult. And these guys are doing the best they can, but in the future you need a spark here. You need somebody that can answer those tough questions and say this is how it is, this is how it is.

There's a reason that this pipeline -- what they like to call stray voltage, it leaks. That's it, it leaks. It's not perfect. Any pipeline. The Alaskan pipeline, if you've read up on that. What goes in point A does not come out point B. It goes everywhere. It goes to earth. It goes through things to earth. You guys have referenced studies on 8-kV lines that you kind of have some background on. What -- this is a 345-kV line?

MR. EK: The 8 kV reference was the electric field that -- the guideline that the state uses for underneath these high-power lines.

MR. HUSEBY: Yeah. So it's more of a state thing than it is --

MR. EK: It's a guideline.

MR. HUSEBY: Yeah, a guideline. Let's all keep in relation what an 8-kV line is to a 345-kV line. Divide 345 by 8 kV, it's a garden hose to the Alaskan pipeline. It's a big difference. In my opinion, they don't really apply. It's a different -- whole different scenario. So what is called stray voltage is what's leaking out of that line. Again, I think I -- for future meetings, I think you guys really need an expert on that subject because that seems to be a big topic with these people is let's get some real facts on it.

If any of you know hydraulics and if you have a pinhole leak in a high-pressure hydraulic line, the last thing you want to do is put your hand over it, because it will cut your hand off. A pinhole leak in a high-pressure line is dangerous. This is a high-pressure line. Small leaks are dangerous. Precautions will be taken, but don't miss -- don't underestimate it.

One circuit versus two circuits, yeah, there are some cancellation effects that happen when you throw another circuit in. The magnetization takes effect, and there all sorts of issues with that. Again, technically, somebody who could speak to the technology of this would be important.

Again, nobody wins. Again, the stray voltage is all about a safe distance. I think everybody should consider this: There will be compensations made for the right-of-way, your land is impacted, your cows, your horses, your land, just because it passes through. The bottom line is: The distance you live from that line, the distance your babies sleep from that line, the time you spend near that line -- it's distance, it's voltage, and it's time, that's the hazard.

Compensation shouldn't be made for people on a right-of-way. It should be made for the babies sleeping under that line, the time they sleep there, and the proximity to that line. I could care less if the transmission line goes a half mile from my house because I'm safe. And, literally, that's what it is for me. But my neighbors, they're literally right under it. And I don't think the eminent domain laws really apply to that specific instance,

that it really is about the time you spend, the proximity you spend to it, and the level of voltage that this line is.

The utility, they brought up the NEC, the National Electric Code. It is a guideline to keep people safe. It's also a fire protection code. It keeps house from burning down, keeps people safe. Guess what, utilities, exempt from the National Electric Code. And there's kind of a reason. It's almost impossible for you to be able to follow that code. But the distances and clearances provided by the NEC do not apply to large utility projects.

Again, there's a lot of talk about what you think. I just want to know -- I'd rather know what you know than what you think. And, again, it comes down to having some real documents, some real data. There's a loft stuff out there on EMF. It's not a perfect science, everybody. It's really -- it's a gray area. But it's a real science, and there are some good topics out there. It's just tough to pin down, and it's tough for these guys to pin down. But I have a feeling there's a reason there's not an electrical engineer or a team of them here, because this thing would go till midnight or maybe longer, and it would be difficult for them to

even explain in laymen's terms what this is all about.

Eminent domain. Who determines the fair -- is there a monetary distribution made and who makes that decision on what the fair market value is?

MR. POORKER: That's a question that's going to be on everybody's mind, regardless of where this transmission line ends up going, is easement payments and eminent domain, issues like that. And you do bring up a good point. You mentioned proximity to the line. We don't -- we're going to be paying for easements regardless of whether you have a pole on your property.

It's based -- we base our payments on your land value, what land happens to be selling for, impacts to crops. If we do crop damage, we pay for that. Impact to soil, if we impact your soil. Proximity to homes is an issue. And there are -- there may be cases where we are impacting the value of your property, and that is something that we also are required to pay for, is impacts to your land values. Oftentimes we can negotiate that sitting in your kitchen. Sometimes we can't. That's why eminent domain is there. We use it as a last

resort, and I -- in most cases, most projects we have to use it very little.

MR. HUSEBY: I guess I heard this one coming before earlier, and the jobs that this line will generate will be substantial. I have friends and neighbors that are out of work, and they're very, very knowledgeable people that just -- it's the way the economy is. I think I would like to see some more concentrated effort on a way that people that need jobs that want to work on this project because it's going to come. Like I said, nobody wins. But if it's going to come, let's at least put people in this state that are out of work back to work. And there will be an enormous amount of work that needs to be done over the next few years, and I guess I would like to see a tool for those people that want to find out how to get working on this project if it's going to happen, a way to do that, whether it be the website, contact somebody or whatever. I haven't really gotten a clear picture of how to do that.

I'm sure there will be several general contractors involved. There will be all sorts of people involved. But I think there's a lot of people that can be put to work on this project. And

if it's going to happen, it should be in-state employees or in-state residents that are going to be impacted by this project.

And I've got one last comment. It's never going to happen, it's never going to happen, but I think it's a great idea. Everybody that's impacted by this project is going to get one lump sum. They're going to get decided upon what their impact is and here's your check and you're done. And I would love that opportunity. I would love to buy a bottomless pit gold mine for a one lump-sum check and walk away and say I got it. I'd rather take a fraction forever, as long as that line is there, for every kilowatt that's passed through that line -- kilowatt hour, sorry, I'm an electrical engineer, I've got to say it right -- for every kilowatt hour, megawatt hour, gigawatt hour. This is a huge line. I don't want your money now. I want it forever, and I want my kids to have it forever. If I'm going to be impacted, I want a piece of your pie forever.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comments, sir.

State and spell your name.

MR. ZELENKA: Earl Zelenka,

Z-E-L-E-N-K-A. I'm going to make this short and sweet, because I'm not a public speaker and I know a lot of you other people are not either.

But one thing I've got to say, I'm just a little speck amongst all these people that this line is going to generate problems for. Why don't we all stick together? I look out here now. We've got probably 100, 125 people here. We started out at probably 400. Are those people going to be heard? No. We're going to look in the New Prague Times on Thursday, we had a wonderful crowd. But how many of these people were heard? 10 percent, maybe? What about the rest of the 90 percent?

If we all stick together, I think we can move this line someplace out of our area. We don't need it in Rice County. We don't need it in Scott County. We need it someplace else. I'm sure everybody realizes that we have to get this power from someplace. It doesn't have to be here, not if we stick together.

I look at this information that we got handed out to us here, and I see this is the seventh meeting now. How many people have come to these meetings if we average 400 people, 500 people? How many of those people are being documented as to

their opinion? 10 percent. You want to be one of the ten percent? Get up here then and say something. If you don't, just sit there and let things happen the way they are.

I think what we should do is we should have a petition signed. We should have had it by the door. There are a few people that asked right by the door. Let's get a petition. Where's the petition? Let's get it out there. Get 98 percent or 78 percent, whatever it's going to take. Let's get it out of here. Neither one of us needs it. We don't want to pit Scott County against Le Seuer County or any other county. Let's just say good-bye.

That's the only comment I got.

MR. EK: Thank you, sir.

And the gentleman brings up a good point. However, just by speaking tonight, orally comment, is not the only way you're going to get your comment heard. You can send it in by e-mail, by mail, by fax. So if you're not speaking tonight, you still have that opportunity before April 30th to get your comment in. And many have done so in those last -- I forget how many meetings we've had in the past week. So just by speaking tonight is not your only

opportunity. If you feel you'd like to go home and think it out and write it down on paper, that's just as fine as speaking tonight. But the gentleman has it right; if you don't comment, we're not going to hear it. So he is correct in that fact.

Yes, sir. If you could state and spell your name.

MR. JAMES RYBURN: I'm James Ryburn, J-A-M-E-S, R-Y-B-U-R-N. And we have eight people in our family, and we all like to play outside. And we have ten acres and use most of it. Like we snowmobile and we do four-wheeler in the summer and just play games any time we want or feel like it. And with those power lines there, I think it would be kind of scary to play outside. And to tell the truth, I don't want those power lines anywhere near Minnesota. So, yeah. Thank you.

MS. REBACCA RYBURN: My name is Rebecca Ryburn, R-Y-B-U-R-N. I'm seven years old and I have five siblings. I don't want to wait for the bus under the power lines because I don't know what it could do to me or anyone.

MR. EK: Thank you, Rebecca. That was very brave of you both. And thank you for your comment. That's very important, and we'll take a

look at that for sure. Thank you.

MS. CHRISTI RYBURN: Thank you. Those are two of our six kids, and my husband Chad is here too, and this is our youngest, Luke. I'm Christy Ryburn, R-Y-B-U-R-N. I'll keep it short, or try to.

Just a couple of things. I know my mom and other people in the room have researched this about milk production and if cows are under the lines and that the protein content is less. And nobody's brought up nursing babies. And so that's one thing I wanted to bring up, that there's a lot of moms and kids and nursing babies under the lines. And that's, obviously, I don't think, safe, in my opinion, for milk production for animals and human.

I also found something out of the New York Times today on the Internet. And it -- I wish this was a headline that we got to read pretty soon, coming up here. It says, Consortium Drops Its Plan to Build New Power Lines. And I wish that was the case. But I was just curious if this could be investigated, because it says that there was a ruling on Tuesday by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington upholding the review process that demands that each such project be subject to a cost/benefit analysis and receive the

support of 80 percent of the beneficiaries.

So, I guess, who are the beneficiaries? And if they dropped this whole project, it would be wonderful to -- this was in New York -- to drop this one too. I mean, other people, I'm sure they put all the time that everybody else did on this one in New York, and it's gone now because of this Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruling.

And, lastly, I again agree, we cannot do north versus south. I think that's what they want us to do. Somebody once had this in the plan to have two routes. I have relatives on both routes. I just think that's unfair. We need to band together. If you haven't given your e-mail to somebody in this room, there's people -- you know, Jody is a good one, Nancy or Natalie, just so we get the e-mails going around, petitions. If you're not getting heard or you want to know who to contact, representatives, senators, that kind of thing, you have questions, give somebody your e-mail and we can all work together. Because, in my opinion, if they said they drove these routes, I'm wondering if when they came through this area, north and south, maybe they fell asleep or something, because all of the things they talked about with the farmland and the

1 people and the impact, it seems like they weren't
2 paying attention on either route.
3 So that's all I have to say. Thank you.
4 MR. EK: Thanks for your comment. I was
5 just going to write down --
6 Ms. CHRISTI RYBURN: You can have it.
7 MR. EK: Okay. Thank you.
8 Yes, sir.
9 MR. SULLIVAN: My name is Clarence
10 Sullivan. I represent Wheatland Township in Rice
11 County. And I want to commend Commissioner Jeff
12 Docken for his comment that a resolution is going to
13 be forthcoming from Rice County. And I know we have
14 been in touch with each other, and from day one we
15 have said we do not want the north versus the south.
16 And to say -- to have a statement made that this is
17 not pitting neighbor against neighbor, friend
18 against friend, and relative against relative, to
19 me, that's an understatement.
20 We all know the economy is in a downturn;
21 and, like all of us, it involves all of us,
22 including myself and my wife and family. We have to
23 make adjustments. And we, instead of buying what we
24 need, most of the time we buy what we want. And in
25 my opinion CapX is a group that is a group of want

rather than of need. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comments, sir.

Hi. If you could state and spell your name.

MS. BROCKWAY: Kathy Brockway, B-R-O-C-K-W-A-Y. I'm with the Le Seuer County Environmental Services.

On behalf of the Le Seuer County Board of Commissioners, I have sat here tonight and listened to all your concerns and comments, and I will be taking them back to them. And like Rice County, I would like to see Scott County's alternative route. As governmental agencies, we should be working together, because our role is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens of all counties.

Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comment.

Please state and spell your name.

MR. WEIERS: Hi, I'm Roger Weiers, W-E-I-E-R-S, Scott County resident. Live in Belle Plaine Township.

I'm on the preferred route, and the preferred route goes between our township road and our house. Our house is offset 150 feet from my

road, so it's obvious that that line would be within 75 feet of our house. And I do have a concern. We have grown children but getting married and having grandkids, and we won't allow them to play in the front yard anymore. They're going to have to go out the back and in the back 40 and to do what we've done all our lives, is play in the front yard, play with the dog. You can't -- I wouldn't want them to do that after that.

Just a couple items that people have touched on. The mailings, we were not notified of this project, you know. Like she said, CapX got thrown in the mailing, we threw it out. Yeah, you heard about it. All of a sudden we got a notice that that preferred line was coming right through our front yard, and we were never notified of that before. So I don't understand how Great River can come around and all of a sudden plop that in your lap and say, hey, this is where it's going.

Some comments that some of the other people had, you know, keep it in the road right-of-way. That road right-of-way is going to affect so many more families than -- like that existing line that goes from Minneapolis down to Iowa. We farm around that and under that. I've

done it all my life. And they obviously pulled a string, and you avoid these farm yards, these families' houses by going some other route. The only -- I feel one of the reasons they don't want to do that is because it's going to cost them more money to go down the section line and stay out of road right-of-way. They want to be in that road right-of-way because they're going to get by way cheaper than having to buy prime farmland and putting that footing out in the field, and that's their purpose of doing it that way.

And then another -- another thing that they had said, well, we'll jump across a road, you know, if it affects your farm. Well, I don't want that line in the front of my house, and I certainly -- I don't want it across the road in front of my house either. What is the difference? They're going to jump across the road and they're going to eliminate any payment that they have to make to you. They'll get eminent domain on somebody's field that's open, they're going to get by for a quarter of the cost, and it's going to save them money that you wouldn't believe. So they'll jump back and forth. They told you that right here, they'll jump back and forth. That will eliminate

all the property that they're going to have to pay for when it's in front of a house.

And then I just had a couple of questions on -- for Craig. This energy that's coming from these wind farms, do we actually need this line that large, the capacity for a wind farm? I highly doubt it. And I'd like to know how big this line is, how many coal plants can be on that line that it would carry?

MR. POORKER: The question is wind generation, how much is on the line, right?

MR. WEIERS: How much wind energy is coming, how the ability of that line has to carry that coal. Two coal plants, three coal plants? How much energy needs to be created to come down that line?

MR. POORKER: I'm not sure how much energy can be created on that. I heard that we can carry 600 megawatts of wind generation from Buffalo Ridge. And that's a huge part of this project, is getting that wind source to where it's needed, all along that transmission line, not just for the Twin Cities. We are proposing substations every 25 to 50 miles. They'll serve as off-ramps to get where it's needed along the route, and at the same time it

can serve as onramps to get other renewable energy on line too.

It was just two years ago that the legislature passed a Renewable Energy Standard of 25 percent renewable energy by the year 2025. And that's -- this line is a very important part, a very important first step in getting that wind generation from Buffalo Ridge and other areas along the route as well. You're seeing wind farms come up around Austin, Rochester, and all those wind generators are going to have to get on line somewhere.

MR. WEIERS: But you didn't answer my question. I asked you how many coal plants could be carried on this line besides this wind farm, in a percentage? Is there 20 percent of the capacity on this line coming from wind energy and the other 80 percent of the capacity is slated for coal plants? Is that -- does that sound correct?

MR. POORKER: I would disagree with that. I think the real question is, is this going to be carrying coal-fired generation. That's the question.

MR. WEIERS: Right.

MR. POORKER: The answer is most likely yes, because there's all kinds of generation mix on

there. This line is not designated to only carry wind. That would be a line that would be not advantageous to get other new generation on line, renewable generation that could come on line. So when the wind isn't blowing and it's still hot and muggy and we all have air conditioners on, there's probably going to be other sources of generation on there that could very well be coal. It's an energy mix. It's all in the grid system.

MR. WEIERS: But I asked you again how many percent, and you still didn't answer. I want to know how many percent of this line is carrying wind energy. And if you're creating energy in Rochester and Austin, that's a heck of a long ways from this line that's coming from Brookings to Hampton. I mean, why don't you send that energy from Buffalo Ridge down to Sioux Falls and the surrounding towns that need it, instead of hauling that energy from there out to the other side of Minneapolis, which you're losing energy by -- it's obvious when you're pushing energy that far, like you said, it's a hydraulic line that's leaking, and, yeah, when you lose energy, it's going someplace. So why not capture that energy in the spot that it's created and then get new wind energy or bio energy

1 somewhere else?
2 So I'd like a percentage on where you're
3 at with that wind energy coming across the state.
4 MR. POORKER: Because -- because the
5 energy draw is so different all the time. I mean,
6 on a hot, muggy day there's going to be a
7 significant draw. And if it's windy on Buffalo
8 Ridge, it's going to be a huge percentage. If the
9 wind all of a sudden just dies down because a front
10 comes through, the percentage is going to change.
11 It's always -- it's not static. It's always going
12 to be changing.
13 So it's hard to know what percentage at
14 any given moment is coal-fired, what percentage is
15 biomass, or what percentage might be wind-generated.
16 It's going to be always in flux, and it's always
17 transverse transferring on the whole grid system
18 itself, not just one particular wire.
19 MR. WEIERS: So you're saying that it's
20 going to be a coal-fired energy line that will carry
21 wind energy when it's available; is that correct?
22 MR. POORKER: That is not what I'm
23 saying. There's all kinds of wind -- Buffalo Ridge
24 in southwest Minnesota and South Dakota and portions
25 of North Dakota is a huge generating source of wind.

1 That's a huge power plant. And we are required to
2 somehow get that to the people that are where the
3 demand is, and that is here in the Twin Cities area.
4 MR. WEIERS: I just had one more comment.
5 This is a large undertaking. And I would suspect
6 that, as a large company, do you have the financial
7 funding to be able to take on this kind of project
8 or do you go outside your company to find different
9 funding for this large a project?
10 MR. POORKER: Like any capital
11 improvement project, we're going to have to borrow
12 money to get the job done. Just like when we build
13 a new home, we have to borrow money, or we buy a new
14 home, we have to borrow money to do that. And we
15 buy a car, we have to borrow money. And the same
16 thing for the utilities as well.
17 MR. WEIERS: I just have one comment to
18 say, then, that I have heard previously that this
19 project may be funded by Lehman Brothers out of
20 New York. And I do believe that Lehman Brothers
21 probably got some of the government bailout, and
22 it's the taxpayers' people -- we're paying the
23 bailout, and then they're going to go borrow that
24 money to a division like this, and they're going to
25 build a power line that the public doesn't want. So

it's kind of -- you know, we're stepping on our own feet, but we have no control over it.

So that's my comment. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comments, sir.

If you could please state and spell your name.

MR. NYTES: I'm Peter Nytes, spelled N-Y-T-E-S.

Yesterday I was approached in the afternoon by some of my neighbors and was told about this meeting. And they asked me to come and make some comments because they felt that the issues that I have and the farm that I own would be important to what they need to hear.

So I wrote down the issues, and I'd like to read that to you. And then, after that, I'd like to make some comments on it.

Issues with the power line. First of all, I have an in-ground pool, had it for 20 years. And it has a metal lining around the edge of it. And, yes, you say I can fix the shock problem by grounding it, but it hasn't been grounded for twenty years. Why do I need to ground it now just because you want to build a power line? I've got a

chain-link fence around it. I'd have to ground that. I've got metal lawn chairs sitting on the concrete around it. I'd have to ground each one of those. So there's a lot of things that we would have to do because of what they propose to do. And I haven't heard anyone say that we'll compensate you for those things that you need to do in order to survive or not have to deal with the adversity.

I don't think my grandchildren would be willing to go in that swimming pool if every time they stepped in they had to first endure a light shock. Any kind of shock to a little kid is severe.

On my farm I have 75 acres, and I have devoted that whole farm to wildlife. There's a 14-acre pond on it, a wetland, and I've planted 3,000 trees and shrubs. The value of the property, because of me doing that, has dropped dramatically. And now they want to go and wreck it by putting a power post on it, and my compensation for that would be minimal because of the value of the property now. But I chose to do that because that's what I wanted to have done with that farm.

We enjoy it. My wife and I walk around that pond in the spring and summer and fall, every day. We just enjoy the wildlife. And I'm fearful

that with that power line coming in it's going to chase the wildlife away. The ducks aren't going to nest there. The geese won't nest. The pheasants will leave. I don't -- haven't heard any comments at all on any studies that have been done on environmental impact towards the wildlife. I haven't heard anything about that.

Another issue is on that farm I have two pole barns. One has been insulated and heated and now, as of late, converted into a cabinetry business for my son, who is just getting started and trying to make a living for himself. Again, it's a metal building with a metal door. Any customers coming there are going to get a shock. And, yeah, I can ground the building and go through that process, but again, no compensation for having to do that, having to deal with it.

Last thing that the neighbors asked me to bring up, and for those of you that know me, back in 2004, March, I was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. I spent the next nine months in the Rochester Mayo Clinic in the hospital, going through numerous surgeries and then trying to recuperate. I've done quite well. I have to say that there's still some issues, but I'm doing just fine. As of the 14th of

last month, my last visit down to Rochester, they gave me a clean bill of health. They checked my health every six months on a regular basis to make sure there was no recurrence.

With that, I would like to ask a question. Has there ever been a study done as far as these power lines being a major contributing factor to a recurrence of someone who has had cancer? Have you guys ever heard of anything like that? You know, there's -- you hear the issue, someone brought it up earlier, about leukemia in children because of power lines. Leukemia is a form of cancer.

MR. EK: Right. And, no, I don't know of a study that addresses that. It does address -- the studies do address any connection between power lines, leukemia, cancer. I haven't read anything about how it would affect cancer to recur, yet it might be out there, be something we'd look at.

What was I going to say? I just lost my train of thought. It's getting late here. I forget what I was --

I was going to bring up your stray voltage issue really quick, that people seem to have the impression that no matter where you live along

the line, you're going to have stray voltage. That's not the case. These are special circumstances where stray voltage could happen, and I stress could. It's not -- it's not going to be prevalent along the line, not everybody that has a steel shed or a steel swing set or what will have stray voltage, or a steel fence.

If it does happen -- and there are occurrences of it happening. It's not widespread as it's -- I think it's -- people have been led to believe here tonight. It is in the permit that we -- that would be issued for any transmission line that the power company who is proposing and building this project has to come out and fix that stray voltage issue, not the landowner or homeowner. And it's not your cost. And that's in the -- that's pretty boilerplate for all of our permits.

And as for the wildlife, once the power lines are up, no. If you're crossing a river or areas like that, I'd defer to the DNR. But sometimes that are avian problems, raptor problems with the transmission line once they're up. But if you're in a field, no, there's no issues with wildlife. However, during construction, you know, it gets a little dusty and trucks everywhere.

They're going to displace the wildlife, the pheasant, the fox, the whatever, those common animals. But once it's built and back up, they come back. And we have done studies, and they rehabitat those areas once the transmission lines are in place. So, continue.

MR. NYTES: In rebuttal to that, with the wildlife, if they do come through and go through the land and reestablish it and all that stuff, you know, I don't know what kind of studies have been done to see when the wildlife does return. But I'm getting older and I've not got a lot of time left to see how much of that is going to come back, and that's a concern to me.

And with the cancer recurrence, with all the pain and suffering that I went through in order to recuperate through that, it scares the heebie-jeebies out of me to think that there's a possibility that that could happen again. So if there is such a study or something that could be done to find that out, I would certainly appreciate that. And I know I'm not the only one, because there's a lot of other people that are cancer survivors that would be interested in that.

MR. EK: Yes, sir.

MR. NYTES: It wasn't brought up too much about alternative routes other than the two that we're talking about right now. But I've got a suggestion that you said she would probably put down. Awhile back there was a pipeline put in and there was easements allowed for that, and that all -- that ground had been worked up and done and some people say wrecked or whatever. But why can't we do like some of the European countries do and put the power line underground instead of overhead and then follow that pipeline where there's already an easement, and they could just join right in and now you're only wrecking a smaller portion of the ground, I guess is what I'm asking?

So that's all I've got. Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you for your comment. For the underground, there are some -- there's certain voltage lines we can -- that can be underground very easily such as your distribution lines to your house, you know, a lot of them are underground. Sometimes 69s, 115 kV you're getting a little high there. That's when you get into problems with technology. When you're getting up to a line the size of 345 kilovolts, technology still has yet to catch up with undergrounding lines that size in

kilovolts, from my understanding. It's not impossible. It's very expensive, as well, and it's also very invasive to construct.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Temporarily.

MR. EK: Temporarily, you're right. Correct. Correct. And the problem with the line and undergrounding it is, my understanding is, the heat. These 345-kilovolt lines give off a lot of heat. And the cost comes because there's different ways of doing it. But I know one way of doing it is they encase it in concrete in a liquid to keep it cool. And you can understand undergrounding a line that way for so many miles would be very, very costly, and I'm not sure how that -- how the whole cost works out.

Another thing with undergrounding a line is if there's a problem with the line, if power -- if there's a problem with the line, it's not easy to just, you know, drive along and see, oh, we have a problem with the overhead line. With an underhead (sic) line, it's much more difficult to find where that problem is, so outages could be longer than they would for a high volt -- or an overhead line because they're harder to find. And then at the same time you're going to have to dig that line up

again to find that problem in the line, to fix it. And so that's more construction and more costs.

So technology, I guess I'd say, has just not caught up to make it a real feasible option yet, not to say that it won't in the future. I know there's small sections of line that can be underground for certain areas, if needed. But in this case it's a very long line, and to underground it would be -- would be pretty unfeasible in this case. And it's a matter of technology and money. So -- but you bring up a good question that's been brought up before. So, thank you, sir.

Your name.

MR. SHAMBOUR: I'm Leonard Shambour, S-H-A-M-B-O-U-R. And I don't have a comment, but I have a serious question that I'd like to ask.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in the global guidance systems by farmers, by fertilizer spreaders, by many, many different -- will this power line interrupt that system and its gift that it brings to us?

MR. EK: Actually, this is one I'm really interested in, and it's just come up in the last meetings, is the GPS. I wasn't aware of it myself. So it is something new. It's like the bees that

were brought up.

MR. SHAMBOUR: It's been out for quite a while.

MR. EK: Sure, sure. But I don't think we've addressed it ever in an environmental impact statement or an EA. And -- go ahead.

MR. SHAMBOUR: The reason I bring it up is my son farms probably seven miles along the alternate route, and he invested a lot in his equipment. Is this going to be obsolete, then?

MR. EK: Unfortunately, that's a question I can't answer because it's something new that we haven't studied. But it was brought up pretty much at every meeting we had last week, including last night, now tonight, about these GPS systems that the farmers use. And so it's definitely going to be something we have to look at and have to research.

My understanding is it wouldn't. In my opinion, it wouldn't be an issue, because when the workers are out there for the power companies siting lines and using their own GPS, the hand-helds and so forth, underneath these power lines, they're not impacted. So just going off of that, I can say probably not. However, at the same time, it's a subject we haven't studied in an EIS, I don't

1 believe. And so it's something we will study in
2 this one just to be sure.
3 MR. SHAMBOUR: Well, it's not only the
4 farmers, it's also the commercial applicators, the
5 fertilizer plants, and the herbicide applicators and
6 so forth.
7 MR. EK: Yeah. And that's another one,
8 the crop-dusting and all that stuff that's been
9 brought up kind of in the whole same subject, that
10 we're going to take a look at. And we have that all
11 on comment numerous times now. So thank you, sir.
12 Very good comment.
13 Please state your name and spell it,
14 please.
15 MR. VIKLA: I'm David Vikla, V-I-K-L-A.
16 I just have a question for the utility company.
17 Nobody wants this big power line. So I
18 was wondering, what are the utilities doing as far
19 as exploring alternatives to putting up a big power
20 line, such as exploring renewable energy such as
21 windmills, private owner -- you know, with private
22 owners on, you know, farms throughout this state or,
23 you know, more localized areas that wouldn't require
24 these big power lines? Could I get a comment on
25 that?

MR. POORKER: Sure. That is a good question. And as an electric cooperative, generational transmission cooperative, we do assist a lot of farmers in smaller projects. A good example is anaerobic digesters. Some of these big dairies have huge manure pits with methane coming off of them, and we are helping them to tap that to get the electric back -- or the electricity generated from that back down to the system.

So we are also looking at smaller generation projects, not just big ones out there. But there are people that are investing and putting up their own wind turbines to get themselves off the grid, if you will, or sell back to their local utilities. So there are a lot of smaller utilities coming on line as well.

MR. VIKLA: Could you give us an idea of how much -- what kind of scope of a project that would be, you know, to replace this big line, how many people it would involve? Could -- would that be possible?

MR. POORKER: It's hard to know what numbers of people there would be. But some examples of some of the raw materials that go into something like this, not just surveyors and not just engineers

and designers, right-of-way acquisition people. But then you get to the construction part, whoever owns a concrete manufacturing plant is going to be really busy for a while. There's a lot of concrete that goes into the ground for these transmission structures. Steel, hardware, cable and a lot of just construction on the ground as well. Anything from crane operators to truck drivers and dozer operators. It's a significant project. It's going to take a lot of effort and a lot of equipment as well.

MR. VIKLA: Just one more. Would that be able to replace what you're doing in time? I mean, you think you'll need this in 20 years, this big project? Wouldn't it be better to explore these smaller projects and avoid these big lines?

MR. POORKER: That's all part of the energy mix. Southwest Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota have huge wind resources. So that's something that's going to be very important to get transmitted to where it's needed, as well as at the same time other energy mix. And all this adds up into that Renewable Energy Standard. It all has to add up, not just big projects, but small ones as well.

MR. VIKLA: Thank you.

MR. EK: Yes, sir, if you could spell and state your name.

MR. VIERE: Hi, my name is Steve Viere. Last name's spelled V-I-E-R-E. I live on the corner of Highway 23 and 2, which is Panama Avenue and 260th Street.

We live in basically a nine-house development, and every one of the homes are all new homes. It's right next to Wildwood Estates. The name of our development is called Hunter's Crest.

This power line would be right basically within a hundred feet of the houses that were just built along Highway 2, which every one of these houses all have children in them. There's a day care center just southeast of the intersection, the four-way stop where Highway 2 and Highway 23 intersect. It's a four-way stop. Every one of them homes in there are all executive homes that are 6- to $700,000 homes, and these people have a lot of money invested in their homes.

I myself, I'm on my third home. I basically traded labor with every plumber, heating guy, everybody I could, just to get where I'm at today. And now, all of a sudden, I find out that my

1 property values, I'm going to have a 175-foot tower
2 basically in my front yard. Who is going to pay me?
3 I'm not going to get any money for it because it's
4 not directly on my land. However, how am I going to
5 be able to ever sell this house, currently valued
6 around 500,000?
7 It just seems like, you know, if you can
8 put this thing in the ground, I don't care how much
9 it costs. How much is it going to cost us all in
10 property values? I mean, let's weigh the cost here.
11 Should the company have to, you know, absorb the
12 cost of doing an alternate way as opposed to all the
13 people absorbing the cost in land values decreasing?
14 MR. EK: Good comments. I was looking at
15 your map.
16 MR. VIERE: I'm right here (indicating).
17 MR. EK: Yeah.
18 MR. VIERE: There's my neighbor. He was
19 right here (indicating).
20 MR. EK: Right. And the line --
21 MR. VIERE: These people here, they're
22 all new homes, every one of them just built. The
23 line is going to be right in their backyard. They
24 all have children.
25 MR. EK: So that's the purpose of these

whole scoping meetings, is I've been trying to explain that, you know, you're not limited to this yellow area, but --

MR. VIERE: It's still visual. You'll still see it.

MR. EK: No, no, no. But, you know, you could take your purple pen and say the line should go up here, over around to a whole different location from where it's at. Just because you see it here -- that's what we're looking for, is alternatives that people see. You live out here you know, where it might be better, where there might be less impacts. So you -- you know, that's -- we're relying on folks like you to give us ideas on where --

MR. VIERE: Want my phone number?

MR. EK: -- an alternative -- yeah, that's the whole idea, is turn this in with your information.

MR. VIERE: It will be.

MR. EK: And -- certainly. And give me a call and we can work --

MR. VIERE: I'm going to light a fire under my neighbor's butt, and we're going to fight this thing.

MR. EK: No, that's exactly what you should do. And I would hope you would give me a call then, so...

MR. VIERE: Thank you.

MR. EK: Thank you.

Yes, sir.

MR. SKLUZACEK: Hi. My name is Bruce Skluzacek. S-K-L-U-Z-A-C-E-K.

A couple of points I want to make here. For the record, a certified letter would have been nice. Never did get any information. Like others that did say we did, just didn't even involve -- get involved. It's hard to go back now. I do live in Lonsdale, Minnesota, urban reserve. They made a big issue where we can build our houses. They wouldn't let us build our house where we wanted it. Now they're going to come and run a power line right in front of my house. What are they going to do to for the community by putting trees back that they're going to take down? Power company put a new power service up on our road last year, and the road was completely demolished. And they might have thought they fixed it, but we have to deal with it for the next how many years after that.

So I guess I hope they address, and you

1 looking into it, being that there's something done
2 by making sure everything is put back the way it
3 should be, because we're the ones we're going to pay
4 with it with our communities. These guys are going
5 to be in and out and gone. That's one main concern
6 I have.
7 These power -- this company that's coming
8 in here, what are they going to give back to the
9 community? It would be nice if they would give
10 something to the communities. Build parks, put
11 trees up, do something for the communities that
12 they're devastating with this eyesore thing that's
13 coming through. We are paying for it, absolutely.
14 We're paying for the power. What are they going to
15 give back to us? I mean, it should be addressed.
16 The only other thing I'd like to say is
17 thanks for the representatives from our communities
18 that are here. But you people need to look around,
19 and the people that aren't here, your
20 representatives, get in touch with them. And,
21 remember, vote for them people that are here and
22 involved. Don't vote for the ones that don't help
23 us out.
24 MR. EK: Thank you, sir. Just to address
25 that comment about the prior construction. You're

right, that shouldn't be happening. And as I said earlier, we do have a complaint form, and I would hope, you know, what -- if a permit was to come out, people could take that complaint form, send it to us, and we can then follow up and ensure that those -- that the companies are complying with the permit requirements that require them to repair, fix, or repay any damage that has been done when the line went in. And so, sir, I do agree, it should have been fixed.

MR. SCLUZACEK: One question.

MR. EK: Yes, sir.

MR. SCLUZACEK: Is this the first power line that you guys are involved in? It sounds like this is the first power line that you guys are addressing going across. All these questions should have been studied already and it should be there, this information should be there. These questions that are -- they must come up all the time. I guess these concerns should have been addressed when they were putting this impact study together. I mean, you guys -- do you have -- is this the first power line that you did?

MR. EK: No, this is -- no, this is not the first power line. And as I said --

MR. SKLUZACEK: Things they were asking you, well, we're going to take it into effect (sic).

MR. EK: Because, as I told you, this is a comment-gathering session for this project, to put that information into an environmental impact statement. We've done plenty others. I have information on the EMF. I said, you know, we found it to be little, we found it to be noncausal. However, in this EIS we're going to take it another step and look at it. You know, we looked at stray voltage. We found it to usually be a grounding problem and other -- you know, this is a special project, and I'll tell you what, no, we haven't had a project -- a 237-mile project that goes across Minnesota in quite a long time. So, yeah, this is unique, but we have done others. And this is an information-gathering session, and the questions will be answered in the EIS. And that's where they should be answered.

MR. KABES: Hi, I'm Bill Kabes. Last name is spelled K-A-B-E-S.

This whole area of New Prague, Lonsdale, it's right on the southernmost edge of the Twin Cities metro area. Growing, thriving, building a lot of housing. I have a hard time figuring out why

they chose this area to run this power line.

Farms are smaller in this area. So when you split up a farm, you're making a huge impact. If you were to go, say, 20, 30, 40 miles south from here, now you're dealing with huge farms, you know, 1,000-plus-acre farms, which are typically separated by sections. Then you run your power lines down these sections so you have a lot less impact. So I guess my question is, how set in stone are these routes? Have you considered anything like that where you're running actually a little bit more out of the metro area and property values are cheaper, so purchasing land is going to be cheaper? What are the chances of doing something like that?

MR. EK: I can answer one of those questions. I can't answer how the routes came to be. These are proposed routes. Proposed, I stress proposed. They can change.

In many cases during these transmission line projects, what's in an application and what would finally be permitted does not look the same. The route does not look the same. And that's because people submit alternatives and issues that need to be addressed and routed around and studied and mitigated and so forth. So, yes, it does

change. It could change. It depends on comments from the public, depends on comments from your local governments, from state agencies and so forth. So, yes, to answer your question, no, they're not set in stone. They're proposed, and they can change and likely will.

I can let Craig answer the question on why they were routed in the area. I think you wanted to know why they were routed through the area, and I wasn't part of that.

MR. POORKER: Part of the reason that it got routed through this area, first of all, we're starting in Brookings County, South Dakota. And I've heard other people mention we should just simply draw a straight line to get from point A to point B, which would be Hampton. But that's not feasible because we're attempting to follow roadways, we're attempting to follow quarter section lines. And the reason that we came across where we did is there were several areas along that southern -- the corridor here in southern Minnesota that are -- that have grown a lot. There's a bigger demand for electricity.

An example is Marshall. Marshall has grown a lot in the last 20 to 30 years, and we're

1 going to add on to that substation east of Marshall.
2 Granite Falls, we're proposing a new substation out
3 there to bring on some of that -- the huge amounts
4 of additional wind power that are right in that
5 vicinity. The area of around Redwood Falls and
6 east, Franklin, there's some huge voltage problems
7 there. Not a huge population, but there is a lot
8 going on there as far as agriculture goes, ethanol
9 plants. So we have some voltage issues there.
10 Helena substation allows us to get down to the
11 345-kV grid system that's right there with that
12 substation, so two 345 lines are connecting.
13 The Hampton sub -- excuse me, the Lake
14 Marion substation along I-35, just south of County
15 Road 70, that's a very important area for us to
16 build a new substation as well. I'm sure some of
17 you have seen some of the growth that's happened
18 around Lakeville, Farmington, just huge housing
19 developments, including even New Prague, Lonsdale
20 has grown a lot. The population of the Twin Cities
21 in the last 30 years has doubled.
22 Our electric consumption has doubled in
23 that same time. Our homes are bigger. I grew up
24 without air conditioning, and now almost every home
25 has air conditioning in it. And there are homes I

drive by and see that have two air conditioners outside. We have computers in every bedroom now, it seems. Every kid wants their own television set. So there's a lot of -- lot of demand across the whole corridor.

So these are areas that we're trying to not just drop off electricity, but again, like I said, it offers opportunities for new renewable energy to come on line as well. And it's difficult when we get to Scott County, Le Sueur County, Dakota County -- this is where a lot of growth is happening in the last 30 years, and it's really difficult for us, as hard as we try, to avoid homes.

MR. KABES: What about coming out -- you talk about the substations, hitting the substations and then getting back out of the metro area and then going across, you know, like I mentioned, 20, 30 miles out where the land values are cheaper, come back up to your substation, get back out there and then go across that way? It just seems to me that would make so much more sense.

MR. POORKER: Yeah. And, again, the reason that we're -- we need to get to Lake Marion and even Hampton is because of all the growth there. So we could -- even if we did go way far south, we

would still impact a lot more land. I mean, we'd have to buy a lot more right-of-way. It impacts more properties. And eventually we'd still need to get back to the --

MR. KABES: The land values are cheaper down there, so that would help you in that respect.

MR. POORKER: They may be. They may be cheaper, but we still need to eventually get to the Twin Cities area. So we could go way down south, but eventually we're going to have to still come back north to get to the Lake Marion area and the Hampton area, because, again, it's the Twin Cities where we need to get to.

MR. KABES: You talked about crisscrossing your power lines, you know, going this side of the street, that side of the street, and then come back again. Well, those spaces, that distance adds up, you know, you keep going back and forth. So I guess that's where I'm saying, too, you come up to a substation, get back out of the metro area to where the land values are cheaper, the farms are further, you can follow section lines, come back up to the substations, feed those, go back out again. That's my point.

MR. EK: Thanks.

MS. LEMKE: Can I ask a question in regard to that? Am I allowed to do that?

MR. EK: Actually --

MS. LEMKE: My name is Amy Lemke, L-E-M-K-E. I just wanted to make a comment.

We live on 286th Street in Derrynane Township, and until tonight I'd finally gotten noted that our road is labeled wrong on the maps. I've been trying to get in contact with someone, and I don't know if anyone has gotten my comments. But, finally, 286th Street is wrong on the maps.

Also, if you've been driving the routes, I'm not sure how you wouldn't catch that. But we're the little red line on the map, preferred and alternate. And with explosives at our neighbor's house, it's very frustrating to know that this route, preferred and alternate, could go within hundreds of yards of our property with that being our neighbors.

That was the comment I wanted to make.

MR. EK: Just -- when you say 286th Street is wrong, how is it?

MS. LEMKE: It says 280th Lane or -- it's 280th Lane or 280th Street. It's the wrong number.

MR. EK: And it should be 2 --

MS. LEMKE: 286th.

MR. EK: -- 86th. Okay. We have that now and we can change it. Thank you very much.

MS. PRCHAL: Jody Prchal, P-R-C-H-A-L. And I just had a question that I was thinking about as I was sitting here.

Being on the task force I did want to know why -- and I don't want to see this going on County Road 28 either, which is the southern, alternate route. But what was the reasoning for coming out of Le Sueur, following 28, and then diverting northeast and then back south, back onto 28? And in that time it's diverting, it's going over, you know, the property owners with no right-of-way and over gravel roads that are narrow. And I'm just wondering, why does it do that diversion?

MR. POORKER: I guess I'm not sure exactly where that is. But in most cases there's a good reason why we went where we did. It could be -- okay.

MS. DIETZ: This is our driveway, right here. This is 28 to the south of us. So what she's talking about is it comes out of Le Sueur, 28, heads north for a couple of miles and it crosses here and

then goes right along our driveway. This is not a quarter section. Right?

MS. PRCHAL: Right. They're not quarter sections and they're not always field lines.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. It goes back, down a gravel road, and then back up.

MR. POORKER: Yep. I think, Jodi, if we could take a look at a map, I can probably try to find -- it's probably not fair to everybody here to spend time doing that. But there are a lot of issues that we take into consideration. It's not just -- it's proximity to homes, it could be a huge wetland expanse.

MS. PRCHAL: I guess, is that something that we're going to know going into this task force, what those reasons are, so that we can talk about it?

MR. POORKER: I think that's probably important. I'm not sure how your task force is operating, but I think those are very important things that we need to address, on why we bypass something there. I think I know the area you're talking about. I just can't envision what's in between that area right there.

MS. PRCHAL: And one more quick question.

Has it been considered to go across I-90 and up 35W?

MR. POORKER: I-90, no. There is a transmission line down there already that Xcel Energy has built that's also a 345-kV line. That's also probably 80 miles south of where we are right now, 60 miles south. I'm not sure how far south. But it would add hundreds of miles of transmission line to the project. So that's not quite feasible, to be going that far away to get to the metro area.

MR. EK: Thanks.

If you could state and spell your name.

MS. KABES: Renee Kabes, K-A-B-E-S.

I have a question. The World Health Organization really doesn't really have a whole lot of information on the health effects. How are you going to study that? Because it will take literally years to find out what the health effects will be. I mean, they don't happen overnight. Even the MRI scanner is of concern now with the magnetic situation. So how are you actually going to study this when there's really no information out there?

MR. EK: That's a good question. But there is a lot of information out there. There's plenty of information. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. There's a lot of literature out there. That's what we do,

is we go through the literature and both sides of the literature. It's not just the World Health Organization, it's the National Institute of Electrical Health and Safety -- off the top of my head I can't think of all of them, but there's plenty of literature out there when it comes to electric and magnetic fields, and we -- and we study it.

You're right, it is a subject that, you know, it's -- that may take years -- you know, years to find out. Like I said, there's still people on both sides of the fence that still don't know, you know, is it a risk, is it not a risk? Is it a little risk? Is it a big risk? But that's something that is being studied, and we will look at that literature. And there is plenty out there, believe me, I've looked at it. So just to answer your question.

MS. RYBURN: I was thinking the same thing when you talked about cancer and somebody talked about childhood cancer. 2011 is so quick. We don't have time to figure all that out. I mean, that is -- those questions can't be answered in that short a time. I mean, as far as taking a chance with all these kids under these lines and the

population, it just seems like it would be impossible to study all that. And to put a -- I mean, nobody knows what causes cancer. My dad died of a brain tumor. I would give anything to know how he got that brain tumor. We'll never know. I mean, it's just, in my opinion, statistics. You know, there's this many people here. This many people are going to get cancer, this many people are -- different things are going to happen. And then it will just be, oh, well, it probably was that power line.

That's just my personal opinion, that there's not enough time. You know, first CapX 2020 and here we're at 2011, and it's already going to be here no matter where it is. It just seems like we're running out of time to figure out all these questions that are being brought out at this stage of the game when it already seems like a done deal.

MR. EK: I understand your concerns. It's a good question. But if you think about it, we have many, many, many transmission lines throughout the United States. So there's been plenty of -- plenty of studies done. Just isn't -- 345 isn't something new to the United States or to Minnesota, for that fact. So there is information on EMF, and

we will use that. And we'll use the most current that's out there.

So there -- I don't know, when you talk about time, they've been studying this for 30, 40 years. We've had electricity for that long. So they've been studying the potential effects of electric and magnetic fields for a long time. So there is a lot of data to go back on and to study. And, again, this isn't -- there's lines that are even higher voltage that they can study what EMF does.

MS. RYBURN: I was referring more to like the causes of cancer. We don't know all of that. You know, ask somebody who lost a child with childhood cancer, leukemia, you can't...

MR. EK: Right. But those are the studies I'm referring to. They are trying to find if there is a causal link between EMF, electric and magnetic fields, and leukemia, cancer. They're trying to find out if they even want to call magnetic fields a carcinogen or not. There's many studies out there that have been done over the last, you know, three decades, three or four decades. So it's not just a knee-jerk reaction for this transmission line. There is information out there,

and we want to find it and utilize it for this project.

MS. DIETZ: I did to want make a comment. I'm Laurie Dietz, D-I-E-T-Z, and Laurie is L-A-U-R-I-E.

I guess what I wanted to say is I'm kind of worried, sitting here. I've been listening all night, but I'm kind of concerned that maybe we're just here as a formality, it's just something you have to do. You have to hold a meeting, you know, you have to listen to us. But are you going to act on what we think?

You told me when I came in I could suggest another route. I heard you tell it to the gentleman over here. If we all did that, it would zigzag. You couldn't accomplish anything if we all did that. We all want to do it, but we know that that's not possible. So tonight I'm just worried that we're not getting the answers to the questions that we're asking. You're saying things that you think we want to hear, but you're not answering the hard questions. And that makes me upset.

MR. EK: I think -- I've told you once and again I've told the crowd, we're gathering information. I do expect there to be many, many

alternatives. And it's probably going to be a jigsaw puzzle in trying to put it together, you're right. This is not a formality. We're not just doing -- I could be at home with my children. No, I'm doing my job for the State of Minnesota and for the citizens of Minnesota.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We all have jobs too.

MR. EK: Yes, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But we come here and you can't answer all the questions.

MR. EK: Certainly. Because this is --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We want all the questions answered.

MR. EK: This is an -- we're gathering information from you on your concerns that you would like addressed in an environmental impact statement that is to come.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I came here hoping to get information, not have you gather, but to give it to me.

MR. EK: Okay. Well, then I'm sorry that you had the wrong impression of this meeting. The meeting is a scoping meeting to try to get your concerns, to try to get the public's concerns with

regards to this proposed transmission line and where it's going, where it's going by their houses, the issues they have with it so we can take all that information and assemble it into a document, which is the environmental impact statement.

That document will answer all the questions that you have all provided in comment. That document will have the alternatives, the pros, the cons, the positives, the impacts, the mitigations. It will study all that. So tonight is not a formality. Tonight is actually the first best step at getting what information we need to study this proposed project to ensure that it's good for Minnesota and the PUC has the right information eventually when it comes to making a decision on whether this -- you know, where this line should go or whether it should even get a permit.

So, no, it's not a formality. It's important. Your comments are important. And I can tell you myself, they come to me. They come across my desk. I read them all. I have stacks of them right now. So, no --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So can I just ask, so if you get 400 submissions for different alternate routes, then what do you do? What's the

next step?

MR. EK: We'll have to sort through them and put them on maps and see what they look like and see how they would connect. We'd have to look at the impacts. Maybe your route alternative that's suggested has more impacts than what was originally suggested. So we have to look at that. We look at mitigation to those impacts. We compare the alternatives. Yeah, we put it on maps like you see, similar to what you see up there, and we try to piece them together. And we'd go from there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you're willing to almost start over with this?

MR. EK: Of course. Yes, yes. This -- that's part of the whole process, to get the public input. And it's very important, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You spent years getting to this point.

MR. EK: The Applicant spent years getting to this point, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Somebody did. Somebody did.

MR. POORKER: Years.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So somebody spent a lot of time, and you're saying you're

willing to start with square one, just start over?

MR. EK: We're not willing, the State's required to do that. It's in rule, it's in statute. We're required to take these applications. We'll try to -- we're required to vet all the information. We're required to take in public comments, seek comments, seek alternatives. We're required to put together an environmental impact statement.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then I guess I'd like to just recommend that instead of saying north and south or Rice or Scott or Le Sueur, let's all of us form a group, band together and get it away, because you'd be willing to take a look at that, getting it away from here. Can we all maybe agree to do that?

MR. EK: You're not limited. Like I said before, you're not limited to what you see in the blue or yellow lines. And we will look at that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. EK: Certainly. Thank you.

MS. KABES: Renee Kabes, K-A-B-E-S. This stray voltage, by very little chance it hit me, can it kill me?

MR. EK: No, it cannot kill you. No. It's -- it would be a shock such as, you know, if

1 you --
2 MS. KABES: Can it kill me?
3 MR. EK: No, it cannot kill you.
4 MS. KABES: How about if I had a
5 defibrillator?
6 MR. EK: We answered that question. And
7 the newer defibrillators, no, it doesn't impact
8 them. The old ones, there is some questions whether
9 it does impact the old ones, and we have that
10 information from Medtronic and Guidant, the
11 manufacturers. But, no, the stray voltage cannot
12 kill you.
13 MR. SABALA: Who's going to pay for a new
14 pacemaker?
15 MR. EK: Do we have any other commenters?
16 MR. SABALA: I got a question.
17 MR. EK: Come up here, sir.
18 MR. SALABA: Okay. My name is Clarence
19 Salaba. I was up here before. S-A-B-A-L-A.
20 And the question -- the lady asked about
21 the defibrillator. Who is going to pay for a
22 defibrillator if it has to be replaced, if someone
23 has an old one and it has to be replaced?
24 MR. EK: I'm sorry, I don't know how to
25 answer that question, sir. Thank you for your

comment.

Any other comments?

Well, I urge you all to submit comments, e-mail, writing, fax, online, before April 30th at 4:30 p.m. So please do. It's important.

Thank you all for coming and staying so late. I appreciate it.

(Public comments concluded.)