

APPENDIX I

Summary of Public Comments

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Applicants engaged interested stakeholders and members of the public in a comprehensive public outreach process integrated with route development and selection. Applicants encouraged public participation and comment through the entire routing process. Stakeholders used a number of communication tools to provide comments to Applicants including email, telephone, briefings, meetings, working groups, open houses, direct mail, the CapX2020 website, and comment cards.

A public comment database was developed to organize Project comments received throughout the route development and selection process. The figure below identifies the number of public comments received by various categories. The majority of the comments received were from comment forms provided at the stakeholder working group meetings and open houses. Comments were also received by mail and through the website. Applicants worked diligently to respond to all public comments in a timely manner. The number of comments below is based on comment forms collected at meetings located within the Monticello to St. Cloud Project study area.

Number of Public Comments by Category

Comment Issue	Number of Comments	Percent of Comments Received
Aesthetics	22	9
Agriculture	32	14
EMF	14	6
Environmental Impacts	36	15
I94	43	18
Impacts on Humans	77	32
Wetlands	13	6
Total	237	100

The consensus of those that participated in meetings conducted as part of the public participation process identified a preference for routing the proposed 345 kV transmission line along the interstate, a preference for minimizing the potential for impacts to existing residences, and a preference for minimizing the potential for impacts to agricultural uses. There was also a preference for minimizing the potential for impacts to the environment. Although a number of consistent concepts were derived from the public participation process, these three concepts were the key common messages or themes.