



Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Attention Moderator: William Storm (MDOC)

**Public Comment Sheet
Scoping Meeting
Xcel Energy Hiawatha HVTL Project
PUC Docket Number: E002/ TL-09-38**

Name: Perry Firkus

Representing: Crew2, Inc.

Address: 2650 Minnehaha Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Email: Perry.Firkus@thecrew2.com

Comment:

Impacts to Community (Hiawatha Substation Alternative—East)

Crew2, Inc. was established in 1986, located in Roseville, Minnesota, and was courted to Minneapolis approximately seven years ago. Crew2 chose to move to the city as a response to the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development plan; intended to revitalize the commercial corridors and create sustainable, livable wage jobs in the City of Minneapolis. Since its relocation in February 2003, it has created approximately one hundred jobs locally, additionally; it employs another fifty people in five branch offices (Madison, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Indianapolis, and Omaha), has contracts with nearly five hundred LLC, Inc. organizations, and provides services in at least eleven states. Its Minneapolis office is headquarters for this operation and continues to grow amidst the recent, economic downturn. Altering its ability to operate will inevitably impact the city, the organization, its employees, the local community and the environment.

If Xcel energy is allowed to develop a substation on the lot labeled “Hiawatha East”, Crew2 will be challenged for its land by way of “imminent domain”. If by all means necessary, Crew2 is required to leave its current location it will not retain an alternate location within City limits and will consider its options of relocating to a neighboring state. As a result of this position, it is imperative to formally announce the impacts as a result of Xcel’s request to build a substation on land currently occupied by Crew2.

City

- Minneapolis will have lost a Corporate Commercial Business, delivering sustainable revenue to the city.
- The City of Minneapolis will lose more livable wage jobs.
- There will be increased demands on already strained state and local resources (Minnesota Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Unemployment Revenues).

Organization

- Crew2 as an organization will not recoup the investment loss in the development of its current commercial headquarters, due to current economic conditions.
- Crew2 will incur additional fiscal costs to relocate a commercial hub of this size to an alternate location.
- Operations will be impacted dramatically during the transitional relocation; eliminating the corporate office will result in the delay of services to nearly 13,000 customers on a monthly basis in at least eleven states. In addition, it will affect support, services, and materials that are supplied to its branch locations.

Employees

- As stated above, job loss in the State of Minnesota will be inevitable. Although employees will be given an opportunity to relocate, there will be periods of unemployment during the transition.
- Employees who are impacted will be forced to face concerns of finances, housing, and sustainability for children.

Community

- Decrease in property values to surrounding business and housing complexes located in this commercial corridor.
- Decreases in revenue spent with neighborhood business (Buy Seward/ Longfellow: Target Corporation, Rainbow Foods, Fast Food Chains, as well as other commercial businesses in area).
- Impacts to Nonprofits in surrounding communities receiving volunteer hours and financial donations from Crew2 directly; Urban Homeworks (sustainable housing for low income families in Minneapolis), Toys for Tots, Humane Society, local schools, and more.

Environment

- Potential loss of green space located on the south end of Crew2's location.
- Potential health concerns for neighboring schools; potential diseases associated with EMF and particles displaced in the air.
- Decreased conservation requirements and lack of renewable energy initiatives explored. City of Minneapolis to receive Federal Stimulus monies within a year's time, dedicated for businesses and homeowners to use towards green initiatives. (Crew2 is more than willing to set the tone for potential energy alternatives- solar, wind, etc.)

Final Statement: Transmission lines are effective up to ten- twenty miles from origination of generation. In this case, its is Crew2's formal request that the substation location for Hiawatha East be removed from the build with an alternate unoccupied area designated for the substation development, and that all transmission lines associated with this build are placed underground.