From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Karstadt Fri Feb 26 09:39:26 2010 E002/TL-09-38
Date: Friday, February 26, 2010 9:40:40 AM

This public comment has been sent via the form at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Xcel Energy Hiawatha 115 kV Transmission Line Project

Docket number: E002/TL-09-38

User Name: Bruce Karstadt

County: Hennepin County

City: Minneapolis

Email: bruce.karstadt@americanswedishinst.org

Phone: 612 871 4907

Impact: I provide these comments in my capacity as CEO of the American Swedish Institute, which is situated at 26th and Park Avenue in Minneapolis. We are a part of the West Phillips neighborhood and are concerned about the Hiawatha Project for several reasons:

1. One of the alternative routes (Route B, I believe) brings the overhead transmission lines north along Oakland Avenue and then east along 26th Avenue. The consequence of this route would be to wrap these lines around the Institute's property. Today our property consists of the historic Turnblad mansion, one of Minneapolis' most significant historic, iconic structures. None of us can imagine anyone being serious about putting up these transmission lines around this historic structure. A second reason for our concern is that we are about to invest $21 million in a new education and cultural center on our property, and this new investment would be seriously marred by these lines. We are deeply concerned not only about the aesthetic impact, but about the health and safety of our visitors and our neighboring residents along Oakland Avenue.

2. Though we are a non-profit business situated in the west Phillips neighborhood, we are deeply tied to this part of our community through our educational programming. We are rooted in the 19th C. immigrant experience. New arrivals are populating are community, and particularly in south Minneapolis. Our mission calls for us to bridge these periods in immigration history by connecting today's immigrants with our historic roots. As one example, we are working with Andersen school in a creative writing project with 3rd graders based upon students reading the stories of Pippi Longstocking in Spanish and English. All of this work gives us a great deal of empathy for our community and a strong desire to improve this neighborhood for all. Thus, we believe that wherever these transmission lines are placed, they should be UNDERGROUND...this is what this neighborhood deserves, as does each and every neighborhood in this city.

Mitigation: There's only one appropriate mitigation---put these transmission lines underground.

The preferred route would be along 28th Avenue.

Submission date: Fri Feb 26 09:39:26 2010

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
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