From: Owen
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Comments on High Voltage Line threat to Midtown Greenway
Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010 8:36:02 AM

Greetings,

Regarding the proposed Hiawatha Project power lines, I have the following concerns:

First, I understand that no formal or complete needs assessment was done. I believe conservation and better use of more modern energy management and generation technology should be explored before a new power line and substations are approved.

Problems with the DEIS:

*Not enough attention paid to electric and magnetic field impacts on health.

*Inadequate response to neighborhood concerns about the Hiawatha West substation site that would take away an important greenspace on the Greenway.

*Energy conservation is not addressed as a potential mitigation measure, but it should be in order to keep the lines and substations from expanding in the future. Ideally, the whole project should be avoided with conservation, alternative means of generating electricity locally including solar, and smart grid to tie it all together.

GENERAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

*Don't mess with the Greenway or our neighborhoods.

*If the lines have to go in, put them underground.

*Regarding Hiawatha substation, don't put the substation there, save our

greenspace on the Greenway.

*Energy conservation should be a part of this project.

*Environmental justice:

-Communities most impacted by the aesthetics and potential health risks are primarily low-income and people of color.

-If the lines go in and are put underground instead of on overhead towers, the extra cost for underground should be paid for by the widest set of rate-payers possible, such all metro, or all state, or Xcel's entire midwest region.