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PUBLIC MEETING - FEBRUARY 10, 2010

In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company
(Xcel Energy) High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit
Application

Hiawatha Transmission Line Project

PUC DOCKET NO: E002/TL-09-38

Plaza Verde
1516 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Met, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 in the evening
on February 10, 2010.

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1 MR. STORM: Okay. I'd like to start the
2 program tonight so that we can get to the reason
3 we're here, that is, your comments basically.

4 I want to thank you all for coming out.
5 I know it's cold out there, and I do appreciate your
6 participation.

7 My name is Bill Storm. Many of you may
8 remember me from the initial public meeting and the
9 scoping meeting we had a few months ago. I am the
10 project manager for the Hiawatha high voltage
11 transmission line project for the Office of Energy
12 Security.

13 The Office of Energy Security is located
14 within the Department of Commerce. And what we do
15 is we serve as a technical consultant or technical
16 support for the Public Utilities Commission. The
17 Public Utilities Commission is a five-member
18 commission who is charged with the responsibility
19 for permitting high voltage transmission lines, in
20 this case high voltage transmission line.

21 Tonight's meeting is to collect public
22 comment on the draft environmental impact statement
23 that the Office of Energy Security released on
24 January 8th. Again, the project is the Hiawatha
25 high voltage transmission line project. The docket

1 number -- the PUC Docket Number is E002/TL-09-38.

2 I want to go over a little bit of
3 tonight's agenda. My presentation is going to be
4 real short, again because I want to get to the
5 reason we're here and that is to take your public
6 comments on the draft environmental impact
7 statement.

8 As I said, I am Bill Storm, the project
9 manager for this project inside the Office of Energy
10 Security, which is located within the Department of
11 Commerce.

12 Before I start, I want to point out that
13 there are some materials on the front table that you
14 may be interested in. There are a couple of fact
15 sheets. One fact sheet explains the permitting
16 process. The other fact sheet outlines how the
17 public can participate and what options the public
18 has for participating in that process.

19 There is a copy of my slides on the
20 table. Like I said, it's going to be a short
21 presentation, seven or eight slides, something like
22 that. So there's a copy of that up on the front
23 table.

24 As I said, we're here to take comments on
25 the draft environmental impact statement tonight.

1 When I'm done giving my presentation, I will call on
2 members of the public to come up to the microphone
3 and speak. We have a court reporter who will be
4 taking a transcript so we'll get exactly what you
5 have to say in the record.

6 If you would like to speak, what I ask
7 you to do is fill out one of these yellow cards and
8 give it to Deb; and after my presentation, I will
9 call on people in the order that we receive the
10 cards. Once I run through the cards, then I will
11 call on people via show of hands if there's anybody
12 else who would like to speak.

13 We have the draft environmental impact
14 statement, which is the subject of tonight's
15 presentation. We have it on disk that's available,
16 and we have hard copies. So if you haven't gotten
17 one yet and you want a copy, see me during a break
18 or after the presentation and I'll give you a copy.
19 One thing I'll say is the hard copies are in short
20 supply because we're trying to conserve the
21 resource. So if you -- if you're really going to
22 benefit from having one, don't hesitate to ask for
23 one, but try to be conservative about it. We also
24 do have it on disk. And the document is also online
25 at our website, and I will go through that at the

1 end of my presentation.

2 If you want to jot some comments down, we
3 have a blank comment sheet up on the table, and
4 there's a drop box for these. These can also be
5 mailed or faxed to me.

6 Following tonight's meeting, we will
7 leave the comment period open until March 10th. So
8 you have until March 10th to submit comments to me.
9 And you don't have to submit them on this
10 stationery. You can use your own stationery. You
11 can e-mail me, and you can also comment through our
12 website. And I will go through that at the end of
13 the presentation.

14 So, as I said, Bill Storm, Office of
15 Energy Security. At the table there is Deb Pile.
16 She is the public advisor for this project. She's
17 also my unit manager for the project. Next to her
18 is William Glahn. He is the director of the Office
19 of Energy Security. In the audience I think we have
20 Trish DeBleeckere from the PUC staff. The PUC is
21 the ultimate decision-making body for this docket
22 for this process. And then there are
23 representatives from Xcel Energy in the back
24 floating around with some of the easel poster
25 boards.

1 Okay. Then I'm going to give a short
2 presentation basically on what we've done to date on
3 this -- on this docket and what we have to do in the
4 future going forward. And then, after that, we come
5 to the part why we're really here tonight, and that
6 is to take public comment on the draft environmental
7 impact statement.

8 Okay. Some of you may have -- this slide
9 may look familiar to some of you who attended the
10 initial public information meeting and the scoping
11 meeting that we had earlier. Also, if you attended
12 the task force meeting -- we had a task force for
13 this particular project -- you may -- this slide may
14 be familiar to you. I just want to run through it
15 real quickly. This is basically a slide of the full
16 permit review process for a high voltage
17 transmission line that comes before the PUC, the
18 Public Utilities Commission.

19 The process starts out with the
20 submitting of an application. The applicant in this
21 case, Xcel. And in this case Xcel wants to build
22 two substations and two 115 lines in the Midtown
23 area. They submit an application to the Public
24 Utilities Commission. The Public Utilities
25 Commission has ten days to review the application

1 and to either accept or reject the application. In
2 this case they accepted the application; and it
3 moved to the next step, application accepted.

4 When they accepted the application,
5 they -- under rule in accepting the application,
6 they authorize the OES, my group, to appoint a
7 public advisor, and we did, Ms. Deb Pile. They also
8 authorized us to form a task force, which we did,
9 and we had a task force. The task force met three
10 times and then issued a report.

11 After the application is accepted, we
12 have a public information meeting. The public
13 information meeting is an opportunity for OES to let
14 the public know what the process is, what the
15 permitting process is, how they can participate, and
16 also to solicit input on what the public would like
17 to see in the scope. Okay? We had the public
18 meeting. We had a comment period following that
19 meeting, ten-day comment period. I received your
20 comments.

21 The next step was I developed a scoping
22 recommendation and gave it to my director,
23 Mr. Glahn. Mr. Glahn reviewed it and ended up
24 signing and releasing the scoping decision. The
25 scoping decision outlines what alternatives and what

1 issues, areas and impacts and mitigations will be
2 covered in the draft environmental impact statement.

3 Once the scoping decision is signed, we
4 begin working on the draft environmental impact
5 statement. We did that. We released the draft
6 environmental impact statement on January 8th. We
7 let it out there for a minimal 20 days before we
8 have tonight's meeting. That's to give the public
9 an opportunity to review the draft environmental
10 impact statement and now to come and comment on it.

11 Tonight is your opportunity to comment on
12 the draft environmental impact statement, and that
13 opportunity extends from tonight until March 10th.
14 So I ask if you have comments, please tonight
15 comment on the record. Or if you're not comfortable
16 talking in public or you want to think about it more
17 or you're just getting into the draft environmental
18 impact statement, you have until March 10th to
19 submit comments to me on the draft environmental
20 impact statement. And where we're at is we're
21 looking for comments on the draft environmental
22 impact statement that -- in areas -- where you feel
23 areas that are unclear that you need clarification
24 on, areas where you think it's deficient and needs
25 to be fleshed out more. So those are the types of

1 comments that we're looking for you to give us.

2 Following the comment period, which ends
3 on March 10th for the draft environmental impact
4 statement, a contested case hearing will be held on
5 this docket. The contested case hearing consists of
6 two parts, a public hearing and an evidentiary
7 hearing. The -- it's presided over by an ALJ,
8 administrative law judge. In this case the ALJ is
9 Beverly Heydinger.

10 As I said, a contested case hearing has
11 two parts, a public hearing and an evidentiary
12 hearing. The public hearing is another
13 opportunity -- and as you can see in the chart,
14 areas -- milestones that allow public participation,
15 which are avenues for public participation, have a
16 little asterisk by them. You see the public meeting
17 is the first one, the contested case hearing is
18 another one, this draft environmental impact meeting
19 is another one. So at the contested case hearing
20 they will be held in two parts, the public hearing
21 and the evidentiary hearing.

22 Following the contested case hearing, I
23 will finish the -- I will finish the final
24 environmental impact statement, and I will submit
25 that into the record. The environmental impact

1 statement basically is the comments I receive
2 tonight and the comments I receive during the
3 comment period from the public, from local units of
4 government, from other state agencies, and my
5 response to those comments. And that response may
6 be a simple yes or no or a simple clarification of
7 something or it may actually be where I go back to
8 the drawing board, think about the comment I got, do
9 some more research, and actually re -- edit or
10 rewrite a section of the environmental impact
11 statement.

12 So the contested case hearing comes to a
13 close. I submit the final EIS into the record. The
14 next step is that the judge will release a report.
15 Now, the judge will take the application, the
16 comments received during scoping, the comments
17 received through the draft EIS process, the final
18 EIS, and she will release a report. And her report
19 will have findings of fact, conclusions, and a
20 recommendation for the PUC.

21 Once she's done with that report, the
22 record comes back to the PUC and OES, and I will
23 present the document in front of the PUC for a final
24 decision. At that time the PUC has three decision
25 points to make: One, is the environmental impact

1 statement in the record adequate; two, should a
2 route permit be granted to Xcel; and, three, what
3 route should be selected, what position should be
4 put on that permit.

5 And, again, this is the same milestones,
6 just with the dates filled in. As you can see, the
7 application was submitted April 24th, '09. We moved
8 through the process to where we are tonight, which
9 is the draft EIS public meeting.

10 Moving forward from here, we have the
11 contested case hearing, which again has two parts,
12 the public hearing and the evidentiary hearing. And
13 right now the public hearing is scheduled for
14 April 5th and 6th of this year, and then the
15 evidentiary hearing is scheduled for April 12th and
16 then it extends out about two-and-a-half weeks,
17 depending on how long it takes for the formal
18 parties to go through putting witnesses on the stand
19 and crossing them. The ALJ's report and the final
20 decision are yet to be determined. The process is
21 designed to take one year from acceptance of the
22 application till completion to final decision.

23 If you're interested in tracking the
24 various documents that make up the record, there are
25 two ways you can do that. The first way is going to

1 the energy facility permitting website. That's a
2 website that OES staff maintains for the PUC. And
3 on that website, if you go to this URL, which will
4 take you right into the docket page for this
5 docket -- there are many dockets on the web page,
6 but this URL will take you to the Hiawatha docket,
7 on that page you will see a filed register, which is
8 basically a list of the documents that make up the
9 record for this process, this docket. They include
10 the application; the scoping decision; the meetings
11 (sic) I got from the scoping meeting, the public
12 scoping meeting; the draft EIS; the comments that I
13 receive from the draft EIS will be on there. So the
14 paper trail that makes up the record will be located
15 on that website. And they're PFD (sic), so you can
16 go there -- if you want to look at the draft
17 environmental statement, it's on that website. You
18 go down the list and find environmental impact
19 statement, click it, and it opens up to the draft
20 environmental impact statement, which is broken into
21 sections so that you can deal with it reasonably by
22 section. And they're in PDF, so you can pull them
23 down and look at them.

24 There's a second website that you can
25 look at if you want to see the official record. Our

1 website that we maintain at OES not only has the
2 official record but it will have other stuff in it.
3 Anything that I think is useful to the public, I'll
4 put up there that's relative to this docket.

5 The second URL, which is the e-dockets
6 website, is the official record for this docket.
7 And, again, you'll find the application in there,
8 you'll find the scoping decision, you'll find the
9 draft environmental impact statement in there, and
10 the other -- public comments and other things that
11 make up the record.

12 If you go to the e-dockets, you have to
13 go to that URL that's listed up there, select search
14 e-dockets, and then you need to enter the year and
15 the number for this particular docket. And as I
16 said in the beginning, the number for this docket is
17 09, which represents the year, and then 38, which is
18 just a case number.

19 Okay. Before I turn it over to take
20 public comment on the draft EIS, I just want to go
21 over a little bit of structure so that the meeting
22 doesn't go off into the ditch, so to speak. I ask
23 that -- again, what I will do is I will call on
24 people based on cards that were submitted. I ask
25 that you limit yourself to five minutes to speak.

1 The second item is this is not a Q -- we
2 don't have this set up as a Q and A format because
3 it would just take many, many days if we did it that
4 way. What we ask, if you have a comment or a
5 question, we ask that you just come up to the mic,
6 state it for the record, the court reporter will
7 take it down, and then we will respond to that when
8 we put together the final EIS. So I try to stay
9 away from a Q and A format. If you have a minor
10 clarification question, I might have the latitude to
11 deal with that. But given the size of the crowd we
12 have here tonight, I'd like to sort of stay away
13 from the Q and A type sessions.

14 Once I get through the cards, then I will
15 ask if there's anybody else that wants to speak by
16 show of hands, I'll call on you, come up to the mic
17 and speak. Once we get through that, then I'll --
18 then we can come back to if you spoke and you want
19 to speak again, somebody jogged something in your
20 mind or what somebody said triggered something new
21 that you want to say, I'll give you another
22 opportunity to speak.

23 Okay. Since we have a court reporter
24 here because we want to keep official record of the
25 comments we get tonight so that we can respond to

1 them accurately in the final EIS, when you step up
2 to the mic, I ask that you please state your name
3 and spell your name for the court reporter and
4 probably talk slower than I've been talking tonight
5 so that the court reporter can keep up with you.

6 Your comments should be specific to the
7 draft environmental impact statement. So if there's
8 an area in the impact statement -- in the draft
9 environmental impact statement that you don't think
10 went into enough depth, that's what we want to hear.
11 We want to hear, Bill, you didn't cover this aspect
12 of EMF the way -- the area that I want you to or you
13 didn't drill deep enough on another aspect of the
14 document. So that's what we're trying to get at.
15 We're trying to make the document better, and we're
16 seeking your assistance in pointing us in the right
17 direction to make that document better so that when
18 the final comes out, it's even that much better of a
19 document.

20 You can -- as I said, the comment period
21 is open till March 10th. You can comment, as I
22 said, with the comment sheets that we have on the
23 desk there. You can e-mail me or write me on your
24 own stationery. But you can also comment via the
25 website. And I know some of you have done that

1 already because I've received them already. If you
2 go to that website, the first website that I listed
3 on that slide to this docket, you will see there is
4 an option for comment; and you select that button
5 and it will give you a sheet that let's you comment
6 on, you hit submit, and it gets sent to my computer.

7 Just a reminder, you have until
8 March 10th to comment. This is not your only
9 opportunity to comment here tonight. You can, as I
10 said, snail mail me, e-mail me, fax me, or comment
11 via the website.

12 So, with that, I'm going to take public
13 comments.

14 MS. PILE: Anybody else have any cards
15 you want me to pick up?

16 (Off the record.)

17 MR. STORM: Okay. David Peterson. Would
18 you please step to the mic, state and spell your
19 name?

20 MR. PETERSON: Sure. My name is David
21 Peterson. D-A-V-I-D. P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N. I'm the
22 chair of the Longfellow Community Council
23 Environmental and Transportation Committee. And I
24 wanted to mention, I do work for the city in the
25 pedestrians and bicycle program. And I want to

1 mention I do go out on the Greenway, and there are
2 for a number of people who are bicycling on the
3 Greenway. And I think we need to remember whenever
4 we discuss the Greenway, it is by far the most used
5 bicycle trail in the city of Minneapolis, in
6 Minnesota, and probably one of the most used bicycle
7 trails in the country as well.

8 So members of the Environment and
9 Transportation Committee have reviewed the DEIS with
10 respect to how the proposed project will affect
11 environmental and transportation resources in the
12 Longfellow neighborhood and have prepared these
13 comments. Our comments will focus on the portion of
14 the DEIS that deals with the Hiawatha substation.

15 Several hundred native trees and shrubs
16 were planted on the east side of Hiawatha around the
17 Midtown Greenway and surrounding the eastern
18 approach to the Sabo Bridge. Nearly 1,000 hours of
19 volunteer time were put into this project for two
20 Arbor Day celebrations.

21 Over half of this developed park space
22 could be destroyed if Xcel's preferred location for
23 the Hiawatha West substation is granted. The
24 destruction of this developed park space was not
25 adequately analyzed in the DEIS. It was hardly even

1 mentioned. Details of the sections where it needs
2 to be analyzed will be included in the written
3 comments. The major impacts that we identified of
4 the preferred Hiawatha West substation include:

5 Parks and recreation. Both the Midtown
6 Greenway and the Hiawatha Avenue corridors have been
7 identified as residential growth corridors as
8 industrial uses leave the area. With this
9 increasing residential population, there's a need
10 for additional park land and tree cover. This need
11 has been identified in both the Minneapolis Park and
12 Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan and the
13 Seward/Longfellow Greenway Area Land Use and
14 Predevelopment Study.

15 Flora. The project as proposed would
16 remove many trees and shrubs and resulting in loss
17 of the land use that trees provide. It will be
18 impossible to restore a vast majority of the
19 vegetation lost, given the current footprint of the
20 proposed substation. Other mitigation measures need
21 to be presented.

22 For urban forestry. The project as
23 proposed would remove a large number of trees that
24 contribute to Minneapolis; urban forest, which is
25 more than just street trees in residential areas.

1 No mitigation for this loss is included in the DEIS.

2 For air quality. The loss of trees and
3 shrubs that provide carbon sequestration and other
4 pollution-removing benefits would occur. This is
5 especially important to consider in this part of the
6 city with little vegetation and a large number of
7 transportation and industrial pollution sources.

8 For aesthetics. This area has been
9 planted with trees and shrubs, in part, to improve
10 aesthetics. And the substation will remove those
11 beneficial resources and replace them with far less
12 pleasing, a precast wall, elevated power lines, and
13 tall utility poles. Restoration for the majority of
14 vegetation would be impossible.

15 We also identify several omissions.

16 First, simulated views provided in the
17 DEIS of the Hiawatha West substation are missing two
18 key views; from the elevated land rail track at 28th
19 Street north and southeast, and the Midtown Greenway
20 directly to the north of the proposed substation
21 looking south. The current views omit the view of
22 two key groups that will see the substation; bike
23 trail riders from the elevated tracks and people in
24 the Midtown Greenway paths.

25 For the land use map, Figure 5.2-1, this

1 omits parks -- sorry, it omits parks, recreation, or
2 preserve designation for the Midtown Greenway east
3 of Hiawatha Avenue -- this is not true of -- it is
4 representative of Greenway west of Hiawatha
5 Avenue -- an area on the east side of Hiawatha going
6 from Hiawatha Avenue on the west, the industrial
7 park on the east, the Sabo Bridge on the north, and
8 the railroad tracks to the south. This is the park
9 space, which I mentioned before. That is not shown
10 as parks, recreation, or reserve.

11 The substation will have local
12 distribution lines leading from it. The impacts of
13 these lines were not analyzed at all, and they need
14 to be.

15 And, finally, a key land use planning
16 document for the area, the East Revival Plan, was
17 not included or analyzed in the DEIS. This was
18 completed in 1999 and identified the need for park
19 land and green space in this area.

20 The Environment of Transportation
21 Committee of Longfellow Community Council requests
22 that the EIS thoroughly address all potential
23 impacts to the vegetated park and open space to be
24 removed by the proposed Hiawatha West substation as
25 well as the omissions we have identified.

1 Thanks.

2 MR. STORM: Leslie Ebbertt. Please state
3 your name and spell it.

4 MR. EBBERTT: Leslie, L-E-S-L-I-E.
5 Ebbertt, E-B-B-E-R-T-T. I am a frequent user of the
6 bike -- I'm a frequent biker of the Greenway. And
7 looking -- so my interest is, of course, visual
8 impact. And I'm concerned that this being a
9 Greenway --

10 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. Bill, could
11 he use your microphone?

12 (Off the record.)

13 MR. EBBERTT: As I said, I'm a frequent
14 user of the Greenway biking, and I'm concerned that
15 turning essentially a parkway into the type of urban
16 jungle is not in my interest. Page 270 of the EIS
17 says, last paragraph, The overhead lines would pose
18 an aesthetic impact to recreation in the Greenway.
19 That's true, but it's really an understatement.

20 And on the next page, 271, The presence
21 of transmission line structures may have a negative
22 effect on the overall experience, perception, and
23 sentiment associated with using the Greenway. I
24 think that's a strong understatement, and I'd like
25 to see some better analysis and some numbers with

1 that.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. STORM: Linda Jensen, please.

4 MS. JENSEN: My name is Linda Jensen. I
5 am a resident four blocks from here. I've been in
6 South Minneapolis neighborhood now for just over a
7 year. I moved here because of the Greenway, and so
8 I thought I'd use this as an opportunity to explain
9 the concerns that I had and ask that the EIS
10 emphasize those issues a bit more.

11 I agree about the last comment about the
12 park space. In making the choice to move to this
13 area -- I lived in south Minneapolis on 32nd Street
14 25 years ago, spent many years in St. Paul, and came
15 back here because for a short time I was renting a
16 unit in the Uptown area and discovered the Greenway.
17 It is a wonderful park space with, in addition to
18 the lakes, a principal form of recreation for bikers
19 and rollerbladers and walkers and hikers, and our
20 family uses it extensively.

21 In addition, when I reached the point in
22 my life where I didn't want to rent anymore and
23 wanted to buy a home, I instructed my realtor to
24 look for a location within easy walking distance,
25 six to eight blocks at most, from the Greenway

1 running across South Minneapolis. And part of the
2 reason for that is that that's where the economic
3 development is occurring, in South Minneapolis.

4 The change that I've seen in the last
5 couple of decades is that there is substantial
6 housing development running from Hennepin over to
7 Lyndale and now stretching further toward the east,
8 four-story condominium and apartment units, that if
9 there were high voltage power lines, that would be
10 the view looking out those folks' windows of these
11 nice new developments. And that's the principal
12 residential development occurring in this area, and
13 that's driving business development.

14 And I guess I didn't appreciate a long
15 time ago when the Greenway was put in how important
16 it would be. It's real obvious when you go through
17 the neighborhood now that that is a real driver of
18 economic development, because of the houses being
19 built and because it impacts the broader development
20 of the area. And that's especially important.
21 Given our housing situation with depressed economic
22 circumstances, it seems shortsighted to have a high
23 voltage power line running through a principal
24 aesthetic space outside the prin -- the area where
25 people are coming in order to enjoy that space.

1 The third factor -- not only the park
2 space and the fact that it's an area of economic
3 development, the third factor and the most important
4 for me is that the Greenway serves as a safety
5 facility. And what I mean by that is I had -- when
6 I moved here, I had a daughter in high school who
7 was attending South High, which is on 31st Street
8 just south of the Greenway. And for many kids that
9 go to that high school, the Greenway is their form
10 of transportation. There's -- under the safety or
11 health section I don't see reference to the fact
12 that South High is there. It has a substantial
13 student body. There's no public -- schools don't
14 provide transportation within a two-mile radius, so
15 those kids have to get there on their own volition.

16 I was pleased to see that my daughter has
17 made good environmental choices. She chooses to
18 bike to get back and forth to go to school, to
19 commute across town. The Greenway is an important
20 path that runs the entire width of South
21 Minneapolis. It intersects with major south bike
22 paths. It intersects with a train station. It's a
23 very viable transportation option for people who
24 choose not to drive.

25 From my perspective as a parent, it's a

1 safety issue. There's no trucks, there's no buses,
2 there's no cars like there are on Lake Street and
3 28th and 26th. It's the only -- when my daughter
4 left in the morning riding a bike, I felt that she
5 was safe when she was riding the Greenway. And for
6 me that was a factor in choosing to move here is
7 that I knew that commuter option was available for
8 her.

9 And, again, like I said, I didn't see
10 anything in the EIS -- and I think health and safety
11 was covered in Section 5.6 -- the fact that that
12 school is there, and that so many of the children
13 rely on that and the families as a form of
14 transportation I think should be addressed.

15 So, to summarize, I think it would be
16 extremely shortsighted to take this -- what's a
17 jewel of South Minneapolis and turn it into a site
18 for overhead lines for both the destruction of the
19 aesthetics of the park space, for the damage to the
20 economic development that's occurring along it, and
21 because of its role as safe transportation
22 alternatives. I urge that the overhead option along
23 the Greenway route be rejected; that the Commission,
24 at minimum, look at undergrounding options in order
25 to address some of those concerns; and, finally, on

1 the cost issues, because this isn't a distribution
2 plant, it's a transmission line, that the cost be
3 spread across the entire area of the grid that uses
4 that resource.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. STORM: Thank you, Linda.

7 Joseph Spangler.

8 MR. SPANGLER: Thank you. I'll try not
9 to use the Teleprompter or check my (inaudible).
10 (Inaudible.)

11 My name is Joseph Spangler,
12 S-P-A-N-G-L-E-R.

13 COURT REPORTER: I didn't catch your
14 first comments.

15 MR. SPANGLER: I'll be happy to turn my
16 comments in in writing. It seems a little strange
17 to be talking to a dictation rather than a group up
18 here that will be making decisions on this. But
19 that's just an off-the-cuff comment.

20 Madam, what didn't you get?

21 COURT REPORTER: What they were clapping
22 about when you were turned around.

23 MR. SPANGLER: There was an appreciation
24 from the audience about my comments about the
25 elected officials, both city and county.

1 Bill --

2 MR. STORM: Face the court reporter.

3 COURT REPORTER: Why don't you come just
4 stand by me? And that way I can hear you and you
5 can look at them.

6 MR. SPANGLER: Bill, what I found in your
7 report that did not thrill me, satisfy my concerns,
8 and that I have a direct involvement in are, one,
9 the effects on the historic sites; Chicago,
10 Milwaukee, and St. Paul historic district; Pioneer
11 Cemetery, Sears building, and the Dayton Rogers
12 building on 13.

13 I do my family genealogy and discuss our
14 area with a number of people who have come here to
15 see the sites. They stay at the hotels and our
16 restaurants. This would have a negative effect on
17 that positive aspect of our life.

18 Two, noise. Currently I hear a buzz or a
19 high ring from the current lines, the higher voltage
20 lines at the top of the alley poles. Mostly
21 intermittent, but in the cold some days very
22 frequent. It is now an annoyance but getting
23 stronger, and I would not be able to live here any
24 longer. That's after 51 years in the same home.
25 For those of you who are here, maybe -- it's a house

1 with redwood siding and a country flag flying out in
2 front of 15th. I'm a proud member of the Phillips
3 community.

4 Three -- three, a bill to give Xcel to
5 maintain a dangerous overhead line. A number of us
6 have been trying for four years to get Xcel to
7 repair a blinking floodlight in this very parking
8 lot that they are responsible for, and they are not
9 capable of even doing that.

10 Thanks.

11 MR. STORM: Jim Howitt.

12 MR. HOWITT: My name is Jim Howitt.

13 J-I-M. H-O-W-I-T-T. I use the Greenway on a daily
14 basis nine months a year bicycling. I'm also a
15 member of the Sioux Line Community Garden, which is
16 along the Greenway but further west than this
17 project is intended to go.

18 My comments are primarily in regard to
19 option A, the routing of the lines along the
20 Greenway. The draft EIS does not adequately address
21 the impacts of constructing these lines along the
22 Midtown Greenway. The Greenway is not like other
23 parks of the city. It's a unique trail, and the EIS
24 does not give enough weight to the fact that
25 disturbances to it will be to a great community

1 asset that's rare to the city.

2 Construction along the trail will lead to
3 restrictions or closure of the Greenway. Unlike
4 automobile traffic, bicyclists do not have similar
5 nearby alternatives. Past construction detours have
6 not been adequate in terms of safety and
7 convenience.

8 Further, the presence of vehicles from
9 one construction project after another is against
10 the spirit and purpose of the trail, and the EIS
11 should address this more thoroughly.

12 Preservation of the plantings along the
13 Greenway was given no attention in the EIS. Much of
14 the green space along the Greenway has been -- has
15 required hours of volunteered labor and years of
16 developing the grade soil. Replacement of plantings
17 that have been dug up is not the same as
18 preservations of established plantings.

19 The visual impact of the lines and the
20 substations is unacceptable in the Greenway
21 corridor. The Greenway's a combination of
22 low-impact development and a linear park. Xcel
23 should not be allowed to reindustrialize this area
24 simply because it's the least-expensive solution for
25 them.

1 The EIS needs to address the
2 community-wide negative impact that their lines will
3 have on the aesthetic character of the area and the
4 fact that the impacts are felt to a greater degree
5 in this spot than they would be in other areas of
6 the city. A look at the towers and proposed
7 12-foot-high walls and fences are completely out of
8 character with the other -- with the rest of the
9 Greenway corridor.

10 Likewise, the industrial character of the
11 noise, the construction and operation of the lines
12 and substations will have an outsized impact on the
13 Greenway users that would not be felt this strongly
14 in other parts of the city. The EIS does not
15 acknowledge this, but it should.

16 The impact on wildlife has not been
17 adequately considered either. While it's no
18 wildlife sanctuary, the Greenway does provide
19 habitat for several species that are not present in
20 most parts of the city. I've had many bird
21 sightings there, including hawks, that I haven't
22 seen anywhere else in Minneapolis except along the
23 Cedar Lake Trail. The power lines, which the draft
24 EIS admits will have a negative impact on wildlife,
25 should not be placed in this relatively rich, by

1 city standards, wildlife area.

2 In addition to the noise and visual
3 impacts, Xcel desires to use the existing and
4 proposed green space for its substations. The value
5 of the Greenway is not just as a transportation
6 corridor, but lies in the existence of these green
7 spaces. Xcel has not done enough in its EIS to
8 discuss the negative impacts of removing green space
9 from public enjoyment.

10 In summary, the EIS has done virtually
11 nothing to address the fact that Xcel is proposing
12 to degrade a unique public resource. The impacts of
13 their proposal are grave here because there's only
14 one Midtown Greenway. The EIS should recognize that
15 Xcel's plan represents the destruction of the vision
16 of the city, county, and thousands of trail users
17 for this area.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. STORM: Mehmet Komar-Stenberg.

20 MR. KOMAR-STENBERG: You're going to want
21 me to spell that, I'm guessing. My name is Mehmet
22 Komar-Stenberg. M-E-H-M-E-T. Last name
23 is K-O-M-A-R, hyphen, S-T-E-N-B-E-R-G.

24 All right. Very briefly. First of all,
25 I want to actually say something positive about the

1 draft EIS from my perspective. As I looked through
2 the description of the potential impacts and the
3 description of alternatives, it seems to me that in
4 almost every case there's a recognition that putting
5 a line below ground rather than above ground is the
6 way to go. So I want to recognize that.

7 And then very briefly, just a couple of
8 concerns. In the description of the regulatory
9 framework for the EIS, I don't see any mention of
10 the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act or the
11 provisions in the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act
12 which talks about pollution, impairment, and
13 destruction of the environment and the fact that
14 that kind of thing can't happen in this state so
15 long as there's a feasible prudent alternative. I
16 think this draft EIS identifies a few alternatives,
17 namely putting the line underground.

18 And then, finally, with respect to
19 electromagnetic fields, in the section of the draft
20 EIS it discusses concerns about EMF. It seems like
21 most of the research that that section is based on
22 is ten years old. There are some references to much
23 more current materials as well. But I guess one of
24 the questions I have is most of the stuff that's
25 cited in there talks about the fact that there's no

1 consensus yet about whether EMFs are risks or not,
2 and I'm wondering whether the EIS shouldn't speak
3 from a cautionary principal, that what we know
4 don't --

5 (Clapping.)

6 MR. KOMAR-STENBERG: -- that when we're
7 not sure of the impact, that there's some indication
8 that there may be an impact, that we err on the side
9 of caution.

10 So those are my comments. And I want to
11 thank you, Bill, for having to stand up at the
12 podium all night.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. STORM: Angelina Matias-Vasquez.

15 MS. MATIAS-VASQUEZ: Good afternoon,
16 everyone. Thank you for coming. I have only three
17 points to make.

18 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell your
19 name?

20 MS. MATIAS-VASQUEZ: A-N-G-E-L-I-N-A.
21 M-A-T-I-A-S, hyphen, V, as in Victor, A-Z, as in
22 zebra, Q-U-E-Z, as in zebra.

23 I work for the Women's Environmental
24 Institute and also sit on the board of the Greenway,
25 and I also happen to be on the Commission for Health

1 for the Culture Women's Center Backyard Initiative.

2 And I said three points. The first point
3 is that the community has a very important role to
4 play, and I invite everyone to be a part of this
5 process.

6 And my second point, which I think is
7 also just as important as the community
8 participation, is the fact that I would like to have
9 the City of Minneapolis, and that is our city
10 officials, play -- facilitate a role between Xcel
11 and Midtown Community Works, which is an
12 organization that's already in existence in our
13 community and that I think that the community,
14 together with the city and Xcel and Midtown
15 Community Works, could come up with a very important
16 alternative plan to this Xcel Hiawatha project.
17 That would call for more renewable energy, energy
18 efficiency, what is called distributed --
19 distributed generation and demand management, saver
20 switches, and demand response. And I will explain
21 what that means.

22 It simply means that we could take solar
23 energy and other renewables put together as a
24 package, and we would all have the opportunity to
25 become energy producers. And that would provide

1 green jobs for our community. And that is a
2 sustainable alternative to what we have now, coal.
3 And also it's something that can be a long-lasting,
4 sustainable alternative to this proposal that we
5 have in front of us.

6 So then we will need the community to
7 work together with our city officials and these
8 other groups that I mentioned to come up with these
9 alternative energy plans for our community. And I
10 think that we can do it.

11 So my last point is that I would like
12 to -- I would like to know how many people from my
13 community here, my neighbors -- I live and work in
14 this community, so I want to know how many of you
15 are willing to start to work on this alternative
16 project today, tomorrow?

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Here, here.

18 MR. STORM: Thank you.

19 Scott Cramer. State and spell your name.

20 MR. CRAMER: Scott, S-C-O-T-T. Cramer,
21 C-R-A-M-E-R. I come to you as a long-term resident.
22 I am cochair of the Longfellow Business Association.
23 I'm on the Longfellow Community Council. And I will
24 be affected by what is done here in this next year.

25 I can tell you as from the business

1 perspective, we need more electrical power. We
2 suffer from brownouts and blackouts every summer.
3 This costs us thousands of dollars. There are
4 businesses that I represent in the Business
5 Association that lose money every year because of
6 this.

7 Having said that, I can also tell you
8 that personally I am not going to use kilowatts
9 of -- on the road to my building.

10 So I have more questions than I have
11 anything else here. Some of them are for Xcel.
12 When Lake Street was torn up, which was known for
13 years in planning they were going to tear it up and
14 reconstruct it, why wasn't the infrastructure put in
15 place and this line to be put in Lake Street?

16 As we know from our history on energy
17 issues, if something is done badly, people will rise
18 in resistance against it. My first arrest in total
19 disobedience was a farm in West Central Minnesota on
20 power line back in 1978. We have had millions of
21 dollars spent in resistance and the surveillance,
22 struggles of resistance to the destruction of
23 Minnehaha Park and the oak trees and the surrounding
24 area, things that could have been avoided if done
25 differently. But it would seem that the costs were

1 too high to do them differently, and so through
2 corporate and governmental agreement down the
3 torpedos full speed ahead and development projects
4 occurred and met mass resistance.

5 Now, I have no knowledge that that's
6 what's going to happen with this. I don't. I'm not
7 involved with that. But I can tell you if you're
8 going to put a high voltage line and a substation in
9 an area that we've been fighting for years to
10 develop into something usable after the
11 industrialization of America continues and is
12 continuing, this will be met with resistance.

13 But I can tell you as well we need more
14 energy in this area. And it reminds me of when I
15 get the bill from Xcel -- used to be Northern States
16 Power -- they were forced into renewables. They
17 wanted to add more storage at Prairie Island for the
18 high reactor waste that has no home and never will
19 apparently. And it was only through the agreement
20 to increase the storage there that they put \$400,000
21 initially into renewables. And now they've become
22 very adept and good at developing renewables. So
23 the planet is facing -- apparently facing global
24 warming and will continue to. And through the
25 burning of fossil fuels like coal and through

1 nuclear power, which has no home for its long-term
2 waste, why are we not considering our local
3 development renewables and a massive program of
4 renewables? I know this is outside the scope of
5 this decision, because the decisions are
6 compartmentalized. This is just one small decision.
7 Put the line underground. Put the substation on the
8 G-4 site south of Lake Street, not out on the
9 Greenway.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. STORM: Eric Hart.

12 MR. HART: Eric Hart. E-R-I-C. H-A-R-T.
13 I'm in the Longfellow neighborhood. I'm with the
14 Environmental Transportation Committee, and I'm the
15 representative of the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

16 I want to speak to the Hiawatha
17 substation. In the scoping document they had five
18 alternatives that were supposed to be for the EIS.
19 They were not explored. They just took those and
20 said they wouldn't work. Now since this EIS has
21 been released, there has been information submitted,
22 and Xcel has responded with detailed information on
23 all five of these alternatives. So those should be
24 included in the final EIS. That is new information
25 and has -- there are some viable alternatives there

1 that the EIS didn't address at all.

2 Then I also want to second what Dave
3 Peterson said about the green space that the --
4 where the substation's proposed to be. We've been
5 working on that for over ten years now, and
6 that's -- it's a huge thing that needs to be
7 included. And also the Midtown Greenway in -- along
8 east of Hiawatha is quite well-known as green space
9 on all the maps.

10 That's all my comments.

11 MR. STORM: Josh Tolkan. Please state
12 and spell.

13 MR. TOLKAN: Josh Tolkan. J-O-S-H. Last
14 name T-O-L-K-A-N. I'm glad to be going after Eric.
15 I want to first echo what he said, that the Greenway
16 is a well-established green space. And I know
17 it's -- I was going to say, until I was reminded of
18 the Camp Cobark tragedy, that if the Greenway was
19 formally considered a park, I think it's commonly
20 considered a motel in South Minneapolis, that this
21 might never be an issue. But, you know, I guess the
22 power company is more powerful than I could imagine.

23 I also want to say with regard to the
24 distributed generation that power companies like
25 Xcel are going to be forced to revolutionize their

1 role in the power industry, because I think
2 distributed power is really the way of the future.
3 And there is an important role for managing the
4 grid. That's something that a power company needs
5 to learn how to do. That's their role, to manage
6 the power grid and not be the ones who are
7 monopolizing the actual production.

8 My most important point I think is
9 that -- it's not necessarily addressed -- is the
10 Greenway is a park and it's a historic park that has
11 been created as the area has been deindustrialized.
12 The historic buildings and bridges constitute a
13 historic area that will be substantially altered by
14 the installation of those lines. And the experience
15 with that space is the -- the experience that has
16 created in the space, we will probably -- on those
17 bridges and through that historic building, there's
18 something that you really can't put into words,
19 can't emphasize enough, in my opinion, in a
20 document, EIS, the effect that's going to have on
21 people's perception of the space.

22 And I think that that will not only just
23 have -- affect people's enjoyment of the historic
24 park, the Greenway, but it will also affect people's
25 potential -- sort of criminal's perception of the

1 space and may increase the level of crime. And one
2 thing I'd really like to see is a study of how crime
3 levels across the country have been affected when
4 power lines have been installed in a neighborhood
5 and how that affects people's perception of an area.
6 And I believe that it may -- may need to increase
7 levels of petty theft, robbery, and other things.

8 I also want to say -- no one has
9 mentioned tonight the effects on the environmental
10 justice effects. The development along Lake Street
11 that will be affected by putting these power lines
12 is something that the Midtown Greenway Coalition --
13 developers have stated that they will be less
14 inclined to build more housing and more commercial
15 areas along Lake Street if there are high voltage
16 power lines just to the north of that commercial
17 corridor. And I think it's real environmental
18 traf -- environmental equality to put the high
19 voltage power lines through an area of town that has
20 a lot of minority business owners when just down the
21 street at Lake Street -- west of Lake Street in
22 Uptown there's a tremendous amount of economic
23 development. And the people, both the immigrant
24 community business owners who are in the Midtown
25 part of Lake Street, should be trying to benefit and

1 they should, you know, be developing synergy with
2 the businesses in the Uptown area. And building
3 this power line, I think, is not very -- not
4 allowing them to capture the synergetic relationship
5 they have to Uptown.

6 And, finally, I just wanted to mention
7 burying line, which I know has been addressed well
8 in the EIS, but I think that there's more -- I'm
9 echoing what people said before, there's more
10 information coming out by various groups, including
11 the Uptown Greenway Coalition that I'm involved with
12 is researching, and I don't think that burying lines
13 directly below an area where pedestrians and
14 bicyclists are going to be walking or biking on a
15 daily basis is an acceptable risk for the State of
16 Minnesota to be taking on, whether that's on a
17 sidewalk next to 28th Street or underneath the
18 walking path that is the Greenway.

19 So thank you so much for your time.

20 MR. STORM: Hillary Oppmann. Please
21 state and spell.

22 MS. OPPMANN: Hillary Oppmann.
23 H-I-L-L-A-R-Y. O-P-P-M-A-N-N. I live in the
24 Longfellow neighborhood just two blocks south of the
25 Greenway where I've lived for almost ten years now.

1 And I use the Greenway almost daily year round
2 biking and walking and often taking my kids with me.
3 And I've been active both as a volunteer but also as
4 staff with the Longfellow Community Council. I'm
5 currently a volunteer working on the Greenway and
6 native landscaping issues. But I can speak to
7 comments made by some of the previous speakers that
8 the site of the substation, the substation west,
9 would impact the green space that has been
10 recognized for over ten years as an important part
11 of future green space in the neighborhood, in a
12 neighborhood that doesn't have many options for
13 large tracts of green space.

14 And I fully agree that there needs to be
15 more analysis about the impacts of a substation on
16 that site, especially I think for the impacts on the
17 users, the biker and pedestrian users, and the folks
18 who are riding the light rail. It seems like the
19 views that were shown mostly were from the
20 perspective of those in cars. And I think that the
21 Midtown Greenway being what it is, greater emphasis
22 needs to be made on looking at the impacts of all
23 these nonmotorized users of the space.

24 It's also significant that the site, the
25 green space and the substation site, are adjacent or

1 right where there's a significant intersection of
2 trails, the Midtown Greenway and the light rail,
3 biking-pedestrian trails meet. And in the planning
4 and talks that have happened around the site over
5 many, many years, one of the things we recognize is
6 that there's potential and synergy there for
7 wayfaring signs, signage that educates people about
8 some of the historic properties of the site. That
9 site is where there was a massive train round house
10 there and all of the trains, you know, used to come
11 through there; putting up a historic marker of some
12 kind about that or having some sort of a gathering
13 spot for people as they come into that space. And
14 the initial planning has always focused and the
15 implementation on the green space and getting the
16 trees and the shrubs in the ground. And obviously
17 plopping a substation down in the middle of that has
18 a huge impact on the future of the site for green
19 space but also for these other uses of the site down
20 the road.

21 As others have mentioned, I was glad to
22 see that the EIS does look seriously at putting
23 lines underground. And I'd like to see, I guess,
24 more analysis of the underground option for the
25 substation. I guess first I would like to see the

1 additional analysis of alternative sites that are
2 away from the green space and more serious pursuit
3 by Xcel of alternatives. And if those alternatives
4 are still deemed that they don't meet their needs,
5 that they seriously consider burying the substation,
6 although it would still not -- there would be
7 problems with limitations on what could be done with
8 the green space on top of a buried substation, and
9 that should be explored more as well.

10 The site -- the future expansion impacts
11 again were not fully considered, and that needs to
12 be addressed in the final EIS.

13 That's all of my comments. Thank you.

14 MR. STORM: Michael Knack.

15 MR. KNACK: I'll send my comments online.

16 MR. STORM: Joshua Houdek.

17 MR. HOUDEK: Close. Okay. Joshua,
18 J-O-S-H-U-A, Houdek, H-O-U-D-E-K. I live in
19 Longfellow. I'm heavily involved in my Longfellow
20 neighborhood block, many members of which are here
21 tonight. I'll open up with two comments. I know
22 they're not within the scope of tonight's meeting,
23 but I need you to just hear me out.

24 I'm a strong supporter of renewable
25 energy development if we're going to be investing --

1 Xcel is going to be investing upwards of \$12 million
2 plus to bury lines. I think if we looked at putting
3 that into renewable energy solutions as well as
4 conservation solutions, we might not need this
5 project.

6 Secondly, if after a more thorough
7 analysis is done with that and we still need this
8 project, I'm a strong supporter of burying the lines
9 and these substations.

10 But back to the scope of this project.
11 First off, I think the draft environmental impact
12 statement does need to address much more intensively
13 the economic impact of the power lines in current
14 and future backyards. This will force property
15 values down; and, consequently, property tax revenue
16 that is so critically needed to fund our public
17 services will go down. I don't think that the DEIS
18 has adequately looked into all that.

19 Secondly, I am active in a group called
20 Remove. And that is removing graffiti in the
21 Longfellow area. If these lines are put in
22 overhead, the poles will be graffiti magnets. And I
23 don't think that was -- I didn't see that in the
24 DEIS. Graffiti is not just an aesthetic problem.
25 If you talk to the Minneapolis Police Department,

1 there are other implications surrounding graffiti
2 besides livability issues. Of course, as we know,
3 some graffiti is attached to gang activity. So I
4 feel that that should be more fully evaluated.
5 Perhaps the Minneapolis Police Department can be
6 consulted.

7 Lastly, the city's transportation plan
8 includes a very serious look at a streetcar corridor
9 in the Greenway area. I'm curious as to the impacts
10 of the line on that plan that has been passed.

11 And those are my comments. Thank you.

12 MR. STORM: Amy Blumenshine.

13 MS. BLUMENSHINE: I am Amy Blumenshine.
14 That's A-M-Y. B-L-U-M-E-N-S-H-I-N-E. And I want to
15 underscore what a number of other people have said
16 tonight.

17 I want to begin by expressing my
18 appreciation also for the public officials who are
19 here tonight as well as so many of the people who
20 turned out giving their time and affirmation to the
21 importance of the Greenway in our lives. I think
22 that's really significant testimony. And, indeed,
23 the Greenway represents a 21st Century asset, a new
24 way of being in the city, of promoting
25 transportation by your own capacity and also

1 recreation and health promotion as public policy.
2 These are trends that the EIS did not deal with.
3 I'm being critical of it, what I'll call a 20th
4 Century perspective on what matters and what's
5 important here.

6 The Greenway is a pilot in a way
7 nationally being watched to look to see what happens
8 when we have this really unique urban and
9 highly-used bicycle corridor. And, unfortunately,
10 putting overhead lines there will -- will have a
11 negative impact. And I don't believe that the EIS
12 fully appreciates, again, some of the weak language
13 about perceptions, et cetera. Well, people buy
14 according to their perception. People develop
15 according to their perceptions. Instead of showing
16 how bicycle trails of the Greenway sort can actually
17 promote economic development in challenged
18 neighborhoods, we suspect that making it
19 aesthetically unpleasing and whether we get
20 demonstrated for sure the health impact or not, it
21 is indeed definitely in people's minds that they
22 have health impacts from this. And so people will
23 choose not to be around these high power lines.

24 There's an issue of whether insurance is
25 going to be available for people who develop or even

1 health insurance for pregnant women and their
2 offspring. And, again, we have to have a long-term
3 perspective on this. What you're talking about
4 doing is likely to be there for a long time, so we
5 have to look into the future in terms of what our
6 needs will be.

7 So I also echo what others have said in
8 terms of their -- we have a gem of a park here that
9 has made 21st Century transportation and recreation
10 accessible to people who -- many of whom live with
11 challenged circumstances. And the EIS does not
12 sufficiently address the negative impact of putting
13 overhead lines in such a tranquil special park
14 space.

15 And I also wish to go beyond the scope of
16 the EIS to talk about our need to develop
17 transportation and energy use models that do not
18 contribute greenhouse gases because, again, that is
19 important. We think our Public Utility Commission
20 should be concerned about that as well.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. STORM: Aaron Keith.

23 MR. KEITH: Thank you for the opportunity
24 to speak at this wonderful public meeting.

25 MR. STORM: State and spell.

1 MR. KEITH: Aaron, A-A-R-O-N. Last name
2 Keith, K-E-I-T-H. Take a moment to just -- what a
3 privilege it is to live in a country where we get to
4 do this.

5 I'm union. I'm a sound engineer. I've
6 been pulling wire for over 30 years. Electricity is
7 a wonderful thing. We use it everyday. We'll
8 probably use it again. If you're going to pull
9 wire, put it underground. It's the only way to do
10 it.

11 For 25 years on my weekends, my evenings,
12 my slow month I take every nickel I have and I fix
13 up buildings. I turned around affordable housing
14 that was condemned. I'm closing on a house at the
15 end of this month in the Central neighborhood, and
16 most all that property would be in eyesight of an
17 overhead high voltage power line. And I think as a
18 stakeholder in a real estate value of the area, an
19 overhead power line is absolutely a downer. I mean,
20 it's not going to help anything.

21 And to our public official, Commissioner
22 McLaughlin, we appreciate you being here this
23 evening. I've watched you on cable as you
24 delicately balance the budget. And I think this is
25 a balancing act between the individual property

1 owners in this area and Xcel. Do we have a right to
2 have property that goes up in value and the state
3 have a right to have its tax, you know, levies go up
4 so that it can run the programs that it wants to,
5 everything from health care to education to the kind
6 of things we want to do with our money, or are we
7 going to trade it with Xcel so they can -- you know,
8 multinational stock corporation, take the money to
9 wherever they want and do whatever they want with no
10 compass whatsoever? It's a simple balance of our
11 equity versus their equity. If they're going to
12 come here and run the line, put it underground.

13 Going back to the Greenway, you know,
14 Central Park in New York City, Golden Gate Park in
15 San Francisco, the lakes, the wonderful parks that
16 we have in this city, and you'll notice that every
17 property along all of that parkway just the values
18 go through the roof. The tax levy goes through the
19 roof. The quality of life that is there really goes
20 through the roof. And this little strip of Greenway
21 that we have is just the beginning. We've had every
22 opportunity, we should widen it, we should enhance
23 it, wading pools, basketball courts, flower gardens,
24 everything. If you put a high voltage power line
25 over the top of it, you know, nobody wants to be

1 under it. It's really that simple.

2 But I really appreciate the time. Again,
3 this is a fast one. I've been here 25 years. I
4 heard about this two days ago. You know, but here I
5 am. The last time I was at a Public Utility
6 Commission hearing three years ago concerning Xcel,
7 a friend of mine who I work with her furnace off for
8 two years and she was burning wood, and her gas bill
9 stayed the same, \$2,500, 5- or \$6,000. I had some
10 contract experience. I started writing letters,
11 making phone calls. We got nowhere with Xcel. We
12 ended up having to go to the Public Utility
13 Commission and give testimony to get the bill fixed.
14 And what I learned is that Xcel is discouraging
15 conservation. If you put a solar panel on your roof
16 like every single one of us should, they're going to
17 charge you for the electricity that you give back to
18 them. They want to tax you. The less you use the
19 more they want to charge you for what you do use.
20 If you become your own producer, they want to tax
21 you for being an energy producer. This is shocking.
22 And I only heard it this year, and I'm positive it's
23 not in the 3,000 pages over here. But every single
24 one of us on fossil fuel is generating many times
25 our body weight every year in carbon dioxide going

1 into the air. And this is not a sustainable plan.
2 We can no longer -- you know, for the first 50
3 layers, the coal is being compressed into the
4 ground. The people that came along thought the
5 planet was flat. Up until a couple hundred years
6 ago, everybody thought the planet was flat. Now
7 we're burning coal at alarming rates, and we keep on
8 saying that we can do this forever. And I could be
9 wrong -- please stop me if I'm wrong -- but science
10 probably said we have to stop this in our lifetime.
11 We cannot continue to do this. And a company that
12 comes in here to say we just want to keep on doing
13 the same old same old the same way, I say no. I say
14 no.

15 So, number one, if they are going to come
16 in, they should be coming in with a sustainable
17 plan, cover every roof in Central, Phillips,
18 Longfellow with solar panels. We'll use the money
19 down there and share it amongst ourselves. But we
20 do not need a company coming in here with the idea
21 that we're going to be breathing CO2 for the rest of
22 our lives. It cannot be done.

23 Let's see. So my final comment to the
24 PUC is that they should -- I'm going to say this for
25 every project Xcel has. It's immoral that any

1 business would come to anybody on the planet and say
2 let me burn fossil fuel instead of putting in a
3 solar panel; I'm going to tax you for trying to
4 clean the air; I'm going to tax you for trying to
5 make your own life richer; I'm going to tax you for
6 thinking of something we haven't thought of. You
7 know, they do not have a place for their nuclear
8 waste. They do not have a way to take the CO2 out
9 of the air and put it back in the ground, but they
10 want to tax this gentleman over here who's got 8.6
11 kilowatts on his roof and he makes enough to put it
12 back into the meter into the grid, they want to tax
13 him for it. That's ridiculous. I would say to the
14 PUC or anybody in here, none of these permits should
15 even be considered until Xcel gets rid of its
16 anticonservation approaches, its tariffs and risks
17 and taxes and tariff on renewable energy.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. STORM: Okay. How about we give the
20 court reporter a break for five minutes? So let's
21 break for five, ten minutes. I'll call you back.

22 (Break.)

23 MR. STORM: Okay. I'd like to resume. I
24 appreciate you allowing the court reporter to take a
25 break. This is as tough on her as it is on me.

1 I want to remind you before I start with
2 the cards again, state and spell your name, face the
3 court reporter when you speak. But if you insist on
4 turning to the audience, I understand -- it's hard
5 not to do that -- step back next to the court
6 reporter so she can hear you. And please, to the
7 extent possible, try to focus on how to make the
8 draft EIS better. Again, I know people want to
9 express their feelings, and that's okay. But --
10 okay. Let's get this going.

11 Ralph Jacobson.

12 MR. JACOBSON: My name is Ralph Jacobson.
13 I'm the president of the Minnesota Solar Energy
14 Industry Association.

15 MR. STORM: State and spell.

16 MR. JACOBSON: Okay. Ralph, R-A-L-P-H.
17 Jacobson, J-A-C-O-B-S-O-N. Now I'm caught. Should
18 I face you or -- I've seen people do it both ways.
19 I like being able to see somebody's face when
20 they're talking.

21 What I want to do is I want to contrast
22 two planning processes that I had, I guess, the --
23 was honored to be present in or at least aware of
24 last year. And I will come around to the
25 recommendation or a comment that relates to the

1 draft EIS.

2 Okay. The -- I live in St. Paul. I was
3 involved in a planning group that was targeted
4 towards state energy policy last year, and we were
5 talking about the light rail corridor along
6 University Avenue. And, you know, here we are, you
7 know, in a room with like 20, 30 people, and Xcel
8 Energy is, you know, expressing, you know, some of
9 their hopes and aspirations about what's going to
10 happen to that corridor. Other people are
11 expressing their hopes and aspirations. So we're
12 all sharing, you know. And there were people
13 sitting around that table who had been fighting Xcel
14 Energy at every legislative hearing at every
15 opportunity for the last two or three decades. And
16 yet when, you know, there was mention of
17 infrastructure improvement along the light rail
18 line, you know, nary a peep, all these people, you
19 know, nary a peep. And then a couple months later,
20 you know, an announcement that I heard over in
21 St. Paul -- takes things a little out of filter over
22 there -- that there was, you know, plan for some
23 infrastructure upgrade that was, you know, targeted
24 towards the central part of Minneapolis. And the
25 contrast is so great that, you know, there's an

1 uproar and a lot of push back that springs up right
2 away. And I'm thinking, well, so, you know, I'm
3 aware of talking of infrastructure upgrade. Let's,
4 you know, get used to that euphemism, because it
5 involves power lines, it involves substations, and
6 yet there was such a different response. And I was
7 wondering what was it that caused, you know, the
8 outcry here. And what comes to me is that there was
9 an, I guess, understanding in the light rail line in
10 St. Paul that there was an environmental benefit
11 that goes along with that infrastructure upgrade,
12 because there was talk of smart grid, there was talk
13 of some programs that we may use the federal
14 stimulus money and get some renewable energy along
15 the corridor and some of that response.

16 Well, so it just seems to me that even
17 though, you know, we should be thrilled -- you think
18 of 95 percent of people in the world and we told
19 them we're bringing in a power line that's going to
20 increase reliability to 100 percent or 99.9 percent
21 and they're going to get the power at 8 cents a
22 kilowatt hour, good Lord, you know, 95 percent of
23 the people in the world would be absolutely
24 thrilled. But we have -- and it's plainly obvious
25 here today that we have another criterion. There

1 needs to be an environmental benefit. There needs
2 to be a perception that there's an environmental
3 benefit to the upgrades because it's not good enough
4 just to bring in that -- an increased reliability at
5 8 cents a kilowatt hour because we perceive that
6 there is a consequence now. Maybe we weren't aware
7 of the consequences 25 years ago. Now we are.

8 Right now I'm reading Thomas Freedman's
9 Hot, Flat and Crowded. You all should read Chapter
10 10, even if you don't read the rest of the book.
11 But there's vision of the smart grid that he lays
12 out there that really does kind of lay out what his
13 idea of where the utilities could be going if we
14 were encouraging, could come up with the right
15 policy demands. And the utility then becomes the
16 partner in the plane, in all the things that
17 Angelina was talking about and the things that Scott
18 was articulating.

19 So I really think that the environmental
20 impact statement is lacking something if it does not
21 have something called environmental benefits in any
22 program that's being proposed.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. STORM: Mark Ambroe. State and
25 spell, please.

1 MR. AMBROE: My name is Mark Ambroe.
2 M-A-R-K. Ambroe, A-M-B-R-O-E. I want to, first of
3 all, make a case for supporting the city's plan for
4 this, which is bury the lines under East 28th
5 Street. I, like one other person who spoke here
6 tonight I thought very eloquently, express
7 frustration that this wasn't done as part of the
8 East Lake Street facelift; and we wouldn't even need
9 to be here having this conversation if there had
10 been some coordination and planning between Xcel and
11 perhaps city works, city of Minneapolis, city
12 council, whomever.

13 So going forward I want to learn from the
14 past and say let's integrate the resurfacing --
15 eventual resurfacing of East 28th Street with
16 putting the line there, if at all possible.

17 I very much respect the needs of
18 businesses for power. I work for a business right
19 along the Greenway, actually, that is subsidized by
20 Allina, which has been a huge boom to South
21 Minneapolis, Minneapolis in general. Recruiting
22 them into the city has been a very good thing.
23 They're likely one of the people complaining about
24 not having enough power.

25 Same with the Midtown Greenway -- or the

1 Midtown global market, that complex needs power. I
2 fully respect that. The way to get that power to
3 them is under East 28th Street. I don't believe
4 it's under the Greenway, the Midtown Greenway,
5 either above or below. I think above it's going to
6 have a washing effect; yes, we'll get power to the
7 entities that need it, but at the same time we're
8 going to depress property tax revenue, we're going
9 to depress property values and livability. It's
10 going to be a wash. And this neighborhood
11 desperately needs investment, and those -- what we
12 have needs to be retained. So we can't run the
13 power overhead. It's going to wash out the benefits
14 of getting more power there.

15 And I have concerns about burying power
16 underneath the bike path. As somebody said
17 earlier -- I haven't read the DEIS in detail -- but
18 the perspective of the effect of the high voltage
19 lines is how it affects most of the people in the
20 cars. And the path is used by pedestrians who are
21 much lower to the ground or traveling much slower,
22 and the effects may well be different. And so,
23 therefore, again, I think the power needs to be
24 delivered where -- needs to be delivered along East
25 28th Street.

1 I use the Greenway for transportation
2 several times a day probably every day of the year,
3 and I feel safe riding along the Greenway. I use it
4 a lot. I'm going to feel the effects of whatever
5 happens. And I have a strong interest in
6 maintaining that.

7 And then also in preserving the
8 alternative transportation option that the city has
9 so strongly invested in and we have seen results in,
10 we need to preserve that. And putting in lines will
11 disrupt that because of construction. It will
12 likely disrupt that because of people's perceptions
13 about going into an industrial area. And we can't
14 afford to do that.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. STORM: Sarah Graham. Please state
17 and spell your name.

18 MS. GRAHAM: Sarah Graham. S-A-R-A-H.
19 G-R-A-H-A-M. I'm representing Little Earth United
20 Tribes, and I'm a student at the University of
21 Minnesota. We just came from a Little Earth
22 residents board meeting, which is why some of the
23 members can't be here, because it's still in
24 progress. But this is what we discussed about the
25 EIS.

1 And, first of all, regarding the
2 mitigation measures, environmental justice section
3 of the EIS, we believe the mitigation measures
4 should include the offer of employment of any
5 positions created by the Xcel project to members of
6 the affected communities. As of now the EIS has not
7 offered any concrete compensation to members of the
8 community whose surroundings would be
9 environmentally and aesthetically and economically
10 impacted by the project.

11 Secondly, analysis of distributed lines
12 and transformers powering Phillips was not performed
13 when Xcel performed its need analysis in the
14 community, or at least there's no evidence it was.
15 This leaves one to conclude the statement of need
16 and the need stated in the EIS performed assuming
17 the lack of raw power was a source of power
18 efficiency in homes and businesses in this
19 community.

20 Little Earth proposes that if research
21 currently underway by the University of Minnesota
22 demonstrates that the current power system is not
23 efficient enough to utilize extra incoming power,
24 that Xcel upgrade the distributor system utilizing
25 incoming power as a part of the project. This

1 kind that they're talking about putting up outside,
2 underground near an elementary school that fed it
3 into my junior high school. They had many cluster
4 cases of cancer. The school was Slater Elementary
5 School in Fresno, California. Erin Brockovich
6 worked on the case. And then she mentions the
7 reasons that we need more power, especially because
8 of Wells Fargo end lines. But, as I said, it's also
9 affecting my ability.

10 So I think that the health concern is a
11 huge one. The electromagnetic field is going to
12 affect everybody. I live a half a block from the
13 Greenway, half a block from 29th Street. Obviously
14 if we're going to have -- if we aren't able to have
15 the environmental study that we want with solar,
16 then at least let them be underground.

17 Mr. Peterson pointed out how often the
18 Greenway is used. It's the most used bike trail in
19 the Twin Cities. So not only -- as you know, it's
20 not only used for biking. I walk along it, and I
21 see young families walking along it. And I am very
22 concerned about the children.

23 Right where I live is a very high
24 population area with our building, the old Sears
25 building, which is a Midtown building. And then

1 there are all the people who use the global market,
2 which is a very popular spot for people from all
3 over the Twin Cities. I have a friend who lives in
4 Highland, and he bikes over to the global market.
5 You know, he's done that several times.

6 So I think in this DEIS it's not clear
7 that the health research that needs to be done,
8 looking into this court case and other situations
9 like it, has certainly not been conducted. Of
10 course, it should be underground. My notes.

11 I think that Xcel will actually open
12 themselves up for lawsuits in the future regarding
13 these cancer clusters if they do not put it, at
14 minimum, underground.

15 I do also feel that there is an
16 environmental racism involved here. I really wonder
17 if they put it in Edina or Wayzata in high
18 residential areas it wouldn't happen.

19 And I live in a neighborhood where there
20 are a lot of people of color and, therefore, there
21 are a lot of young children of color, and they will
22 be affected by this.

23 So, in conclusion, clearly the over
24 health -- overall health of the whole neighborhood
25 will be impacted, the environmental health, the

1 site -- we've all talked about -- or a lot of people
2 have about that, and I certainly agree with that.
3 And then just the effect on the people who live
4 there health wise.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. STORM: Gerry Tyrrell. State and
7 spell, please.

8 MR. TYRRELL: Hi, my name is Gerry
9 Tyrrell. And it's G-E-R-R-Y. T-Y-R-R-E-L-L. I'm a
10 member of the Land Use and Transportation Committee
11 of the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, and I
12 have a statement from our committee as well as the
13 executive committee of the Corcoran Neighborhood
14 Organization.

15 We are glad that the Corcoran Midtown
16 Revival Plan was noted and considered on page 121 of
17 the draft EIS. The Corcoran plan was adopted by the
18 city council in 2002 as a part of the Minneapolis
19 plan and imagines transit-oriented development with
20 office retail and up to 600 units of housing for a
21 range of income and age groups on three separate
22 sites totaling ten acres on either side of 31st
23 Street in Hiawatha. These ten acres are immediately
24 adjacent to the Lake Street light rail station, and
25 the proposed Route C alignment would run between

1 them.

2 In light of the Corcoran plan, we must
3 respectfully disagree with the statement
4 transmission line route would not limit or prevent
5 additional residential development or high-density
6 development on page 126, paragraph 5. There is a
7 substantial reason to believe that the routing of
8 the transmission line on 31st Street would
9 negatively impact potential transit-oriented
10 development at 31st and Hiawatha. Development is
11 already underway on these three crucial sites and
12 represents an important opportunity for economic
13 development to a diverse working class neighborhood
14 like Corcoran. Due to its proximity to the Lake
15 Street station, the site represents a great
16 opportunity for transit-oriented development in the
17 city of Minneapolis. HUD financing is key to the
18 success of mixed-use development like this one, and
19 the presence of high voltage transmission line
20 towers on 31st Street would jeopardize the work that
21 our community and developers have done to implement
22 this shared neighborhood city vision for these
23 sites.

24 The experience of the Longfellow station,
25 a similar transit-oriented development at 38th

1 Street in Hiawatha located near the 38th Street
2 light rail station, shows that high voltage
3 transmission lines can have a serious impact on the
4 ability of such projects to secure financing. The
5 presence of nearby high voltage transmission line
6 towers to the proposed Longfellow Station site have
7 severely hampered the project's ability to obtain
8 HUD financing and placed the project on hold
9 indefinitely as they appeal the decision to the
10 HUD's Washington, DC office.

11 So I just want to -- I'm a member of the
12 Midtown Greenway Coalition also, and I love the
13 Midtown Greenway. But also I live at 32nd in
14 Longfellow, and I just want to say that Corcoran is
15 very concerned about Route C, and we would oppose
16 any Route C coming through our neighborhood.

17 MR. STORM: Liza O'Reilly. State and
18 spell, please.

19 MS. O'REILLY: My name is Liza Guerra
20 O'Reilly. L-I-Z-A. Guerra, G-U-E-R-R-A. O'Reilly,
21 O, apostrophe, R-E-I-L-L-Y. I live in the
22 Longfellow neighborhood. I have a son that attends
23 South High School, and I use the Midtown Greenway
24 for biking when I can. I am a member of the Midtown
25 YWCA, and I engage my livelihood for cultural and

1 traditional reasons as an indigenous woman. And on
2 behalf of my son, he's here on his original
3 homeland, and he's an enrolled member of the Spirit
4 Lake Nation, the first people here, the land.

5 I want to make clear that the DEIS
6 include and clarify that the public advisory task
7 force failed to include in the nongovernmental
8 organization section anyone from the highest racial
9 demographic -- excuse me, racial demographic. There
10 was no African American or African descent people
11 that were included, no Latinos, no indigenous
12 Latinos, nor was there any North Native American
13 people that sat on that public advisory committee.
14 This is discriminatory. We were excluded. And I'm
15 requesting that the public advisory committee
16 reconvene to reflect the racial demographic of
17 Nanjio (phonetic) in the neighborhood and the
18 community affected.

19 I will identify in the DEIS the school.
20 And to start out, with 2,000 students at South High,
21 80 percent are students of color, including African
22 American, African descent, Latinos, and indigenous
23 populations.

24 I also would like to include the day care
25 centers with children under the age of five, infants

1 all the way to five, and start with the Midtown YWCA
2 day care center right there on 31st. You shall
3 consider church and mosques with after-school and
4 day care programs for children in tutoring in the
5 affected area.

6 Under Section 2.1.2, page 63, the PUC is
7 required to consider cultural values and effects.
8 There is a right to garden wherever we exercise our
9 self-determination indigenous people to live upon
10 the land and have a relationship with our mother
11 earth, and this is supported by the United
12 Declarations of the rights of indigenous people.

13 We have a right to engage in our
14 traditional practices in our original homelands, and
15 specifically the people that are here, the First
16 Nations people that are here, have that right. And
17 I stand on behalf of my son. He's 16 years old here
18 and attends South High.

19 The children will be disparaged, young --
20 the other woman mentioned electromagnetic fields and
21 the cancer clusters if you put it right on top of
22 the school and the day care centers. I'm requesting
23 evaluation of that in the health and the public
24 health and welfare of our children in that section.

25 Because there's going to be an increase

1 of greenhouse gas emissions with their increase of
2 55 megawatts to be included and delivered into the
3 area that Xcel has proposed, it's going to have a
4 disparaging effect, and I want the greenhouse gas
5 emissions included as a disparaging effect to our
6 health because we're going to have a heat island
7 effect when we're growing our food and we're
8 collecting. And we don't always tell you these
9 things because a lot of times when we tell you our
10 plants and other things are our nemeses, the people
11 who don't understand indigenous values and
12 indigenous ways appropriate that information or they
13 pervert it.

14 I also want to say the socioeconomic
15 effects section included in the environmental
16 justice section they indicate a short-term benefit
17 with benefit to minor businesses. And I say that is
18 not true. I say you need to do an analysis of -- if
19 you took the hundred approximately 28 million, two
20 hundred million, depending if the lines are built
21 underground or -- over ground or below with the
22 substations aboveground or below so this project
23 could explode to \$100 million if everything is put
24 below, that if you did an analysis of if you took
25 that money -- do not let Xcel take that, because

1 we're paying for it, right, the ratepayers are
2 paying for it -- and you do analysis between the
3 created jobs -- the community created their own jobs
4 as opposed to the jobs, the \$100 million that will
5 be created if Xcel does this. So if you do the
6 sustainable energy model that we're talking about
7 here, distributed energy, versus if Xcel gets \$100
8 million.

9 We don't want to pay ourselves. We want
10 our money to stay in our community. And so we're
11 asking that there's jobs created with this money so
12 that our children can be hired who can train the
13 next generation with our great economy.

14 Finally, I'd also ask you with health
15 impact, this is a high demographic of young women
16 childbearing age, there's a cumulative effect on
17 women and children and babies with electromagnetic
18 fields and as well as increased greenhouse gas
19 emissions and the heat island effect and other
20 climatic changes that are occurring here in
21 Minneapolis.

22 I thank you for your time.

23 MR. STORM: Commissioner McLaughlin.
24 State and spell your name, please.

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I am Peter McLaughlin.

1 P-E-T-E-R. M-C-L-A-U-G-H-L-I-N. I'm a Hennepin
2 County commissioner and use the Greenway on a
3 regular basis.

4 I just want to make a couple of comments
5 tonight. One, on balance, if you look closely, the
6 EIS makes a pretty good case for undergrounding this
7 thing. A lot of things have been said, and you've
8 heard it in the earlier testimony and you've heard
9 it all -- you heard it tonight, and you're going to
10 hear it more. And if -- I think Scott's right,
11 there would be the possibility of a very -- a group
12 -- a large group of very unhappy people here if this
13 construction were going to go forward. But, I mean,
14 if you look closely, the case is made for
15 undergrounding these. That's what needs to be made.
16 It gets kind of key though in the bureaucratic
17 language and some of the categories, and I want to
18 talk about some of those specifically. But I just
19 want to say the we can't emphasize too strongly, the
20 impairment of the historic resource seems to me that
21 absolutely requires that it go underground.

22 The degradation of the green space, the
23 compromising of the streetcar possibility is here,
24 if the owner -- the Hennepin County Regional
25 Railroad owner of the Greenway, we are going to be

1 highly resistant to anything that would impair our
2 ability to ultimately build that streetcar to
3 connect the southwest corridor.

4 And the statement about investment,
5 slowing investment and development, the impacts on
6 jobs, housing, and environmental justice, it just --
7 the environmental impact statement doesn't really
8 seem to capture that. And I want to talk a little
9 bit more about what's been going on in this
10 neighborhood. It just doesn't really capture why
11 all these people care so darn much. These are the
12 people that have built here. These are the people
13 who stuck it out when it was tough, and they're
14 actually building this place back up, and we're
15 making progress.

16 But this -- I'm going to end with this
17 later, but we're going backwards with this. High
18 tension wires on the Greenway or in this
19 neighborhood, whether it's down in Corcoran or down
20 on 26th or 28th, that's a step backwards for this
21 neighborhood. No question about it.

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Amen.

23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So I think one of the
24 areas that's not covered adequately is the
25 substation discussion and what the effects are

1 there. This whole question of how much space is
2 needed here and now, how much space is needed in the
3 future, because a lot of the arguments about the
4 substations are about future expansion of the
5 substation and needing enough space to be able to do
6 that, I think you have to figure out; and I don't
7 think the EIS does a good enough job talking about
8 just what geographical area we're actually serving
9 with this discussion of this substation,
10 particularly the one on the east side. Just how big
11 of a geographical area are we going to have; why is
12 that going to be, you know, on top of this
13 neighborhood, on top of this green space, on top of
14 this area. I think that is a place where there's a
15 question of the adequacy of the environmental impact
16 statement. The spreading this thing, extra
17 investment across the whole rate base is absolutely
18 imperative. It's about the whole grid, the whole
19 system, so that is an absolute necessity, from my
20 perspective.

21 I just want to emphasize a couple more
22 things. This Longfellow station example, I've seen
23 the documents from HUD. They don't want to finance
24 units at 38th and Hiawatha. They're in the fall
25 zone anyway. So what we're talking about here is

1 putting up high density wires, whether it's Corcoran
2 or down on 26th, down on 28th, or the Greenway, and
3 we're trying to encourage development, and we're
4 going to create these no-investment zones or at
5 least a place where the federal government is not
6 going to want to provide any. And, frankly, that's
7 going to cost money in the long run.

8 There are statements about the tax base
9 in this. Somebody says the tax base is going to go
10 up if the high tension wire is going up. Well, the
11 fact is it's going to be more if it's undergrounded,
12 more taxes paid if it's undergrounded.

13 And, finally, if you net out the impact
14 of the real impairment of development here, it's not
15 just visual impact; we're talking about whether
16 people are going to want to live there by those
17 units and whether they're going to want to pay X or
18 whether they're going to want to pay X plus 10,000
19 or 20,000 more. I just don't think it captured that
20 very well.

21 And then, finally, this thing we suffer,
22 you know, this isn't a park so it doesn't have that
23 official park status. But it's a green space, and
24 it's used as a park. And I think the impacts are
25 going to downgrade because it's not officially a

1 park. I think the same thing is true when you talk
2 about development; there's not an understanding of
3 this category of whether the county or the city and
4 others created community works project. This green
5 space -- and I used to go out there, and I've used
6 this line before -- if you're going to go out, make
7 sure you have your tetanus shot up to date before
8 you went out on the Greenway for fear of what you'd
9 step on. I mean, this was a scar running through
10 this community. We've reclaimed it and invested
11 \$30 million, and we've got -- there's finally
12 investment going on along here. It slowed down a
13 little because of the recession, but this is going
14 to impair that future development and going to
15 compromise the community works idea that we've
16 embraced, which is invest in the infrastructure,
17 create a new space so that there's a chance for this
18 economy in this neighborhood, which has had troubles
19 for years as the industrial economy went away. This
20 is the way to try to recreate an economy to work and
21 create economic justice. I just don't think the EIS
22 quite captures some of those factors. I think it's
23 important that it do so if you're going to get the
24 understanding of what's going on here, why there's
25 so darn many people showing up tonight and every

1 night from now on when it's discussed, because it is
2 important. It's about the rebirth of this
3 community, reinvestment, and the spirit that these
4 people have had, and now they're getting some
5 reinforcement. This is a setback if we put these
6 things aboveground, and we need to make sure we are
7 taking action.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. STORM: Carrie Ann Johnson.

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: She left.

11 MR. STORM: Carol Pass.

12 MS. PASS: My name is Carol Pass.

13 C-A-R-O-L. P-A-S-S. And I live in the East
14 Phillips neighborhood. You don't need the address,
15 do you?

16 MR. STORM: No.

17 MS. PASS: I think that the EIS just
18 doesn't capture some things. I think it actually
19 fails and creates a false impression. I think of
20 all the things that we talked about here, the
21 beauty, the parks, the possibility of a streetcar,
22 all of these, the reinvestment, et cetera, pales in
23 significance with regard to what happens to kids as
24 a result of the electromagnetic fields and their
25 impact on health. I think that the effect on

1 children is the most important thing in this whole
2 thing. And I find that only about three slim pages
3 are devoted to that in this document, 238, 239, and
4 240. And the information here -- now I have to --
5 now that I finished with it, now I have to become an
6 expert in EMF. And this is getting really tiresome.
7 I'm really waiting for when we're done with the next
8 big mirage. But, anyway, this is the limits of my
9 expertise at this time, but I'm planning on doing
10 much better.

11 So, anyhow, the -- you say -- you say --
12 this is your conclusions here: The scientific
13 evidence suggesting that ELF-EMF exposure, that they
14 pose any health risks is weak. The -- virtually all
15 laboratory evidence in animals and humans and most
16 of the mechanistic work done in cells fail to
17 support a causal relationship between exposure to
18 ELF-EMF at environmental levels and changes in
19 biological function or disease status. The lack of
20 consistent positive findings in animals or -- this
21 doesn't even -- this isn't grammatical. I'm a
22 teacher. I care about these things. Findings in
23 animals or mechanistic studies weakens the belief
24 that there is an association. In our opinion, this
25 finding is insufficient -- these findings are

1 insufficient to warrant aggressive regulatory
2 concern.

3 It goes on, The general scientific
4 consensus is that thus far the evidence available is
5 weak and is not sufficient to establish a definitive
6 cause-and-effect relationship. And according to
7 World Health Organization, exposures -- well,
8 they -- they don't -- what we're talking about here
9 does not produce any known adverse health effect,
10 and this is -- nor has been able to understand
11 biological mechanism of how EMF can cause adverse
12 effects.

13 Now, it's interesting because we don't
14 really know how ALS or how Alzheimer's or how cancer
15 really accomplishes what it does, but we do have
16 effective waste petroleum, and we really think we
17 should do something about it, even though we really
18 don't understand it. And what you're suggesting
19 here is the fact that we don't understand what this
20 means, that we should just proceed.

21 Now, let's look at some other
22 information. The U.S. National Cap & Science stated
23 in 1997 -- I'll put in my -- that the link between
24 power line EMF and childhood leukemia is
25 statistically significant, in other words, unable to

1 have arisen from chance and is robust. The National
2 Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in 1999
3 says, summarized, The strongest evidence for health
4 effects comes from associations observed in human
5 populations with two forms of cancer, childhood
6 leukemia and leucocytic leukemia, and occupationally
7 exposed health. And this World Health Organization
8 quote says that, The epidemiological data show an
9 association between magnetic field exposure and
10 increased risk of childhood leukemia. All three
11 reports have accepted the demonstration of a
12 statistically-significant relation between exposure
13 to elevated magnetic power line fields and childhood
14 leukemia.

15 Now, your three pages really need to be
16 far more extensive. 16 epidemiological studies
17 concluded that the observed results identify a
18 consistent risk that cannot be explained by random
19 variations. Now, with regard to how do we figure
20 this out, we don't really know how this works. We
21 don't really understand it. But -- and we don't
22 have a mechanism now. The suggestion in your pages
23 says that statistical studies looking at who has
24 what and how much of it is called dose dependent
25 study, the significant relationships; but when you

1 look at ethnology, the causal connection's usually
2 determined by seeing a rise in instances of as you
3 get more and more exposure. As you get less and
4 less exposure, there's less of it. If it's
5 longer-term exposure, you get more cancer. If
6 there's less, you get less. We don't understand the
7 mechanism, but we have clear studies to show this,
8 and this is what we use to figure out how to deal
9 with cancer. And many, many diseases we don't
10 understand. It's no fault -- actually this person
11 who's a scientist says that this increase in --
12 increase and decrease with respect to the amount of
13 exposure is usually considered the goal standard in
14 determining a causal relationship. We don't really
15 need to know the mechanism to know that there's a
16 problem here. And what the point -- the point is
17 that that increased risk is based on closest to the
18 power lines and more and more incidents of this or
19 less and less if you're further away.

20 Furthermore, you know, there are studies
21 done on these things. Some commentators, including
22 this report, suggest that only a small number of
23 children are affected so no public health concerns,
24 so public health is not a substantial concern. But
25 we don't really -- at present we don't really know

1 enough to even know how many kids are affected by
2 this. We don't understand this. This is -- this
3 whole scientific endeavor is in its infancy, but we
4 clearly know that there is a higher rate if you have
5 more exposure, a lower rate if you don't. And this
6 is critical.

7 And I -- you know, I have to say, having
8 worked on the burner (phonetic) and worked very hard
9 to learn everything, one of the most astounding
10 things I found that came out of that study in the
11 big study that was done for that and pushed that
12 whole process was somewhere in those pages -- which
13 I don't think they expect you to read, they don't
14 expect you to read all this stuff, and what I found
15 is at one point they said we don't know what dioxins
16 really do and we're not really sure how much will
17 come out of the smokestack, so what we're going to
18 do is test the stack after we build it. This is
19 brilliant. I mean, I read that and I thought whose
20 brain worked on this? I mean, then we have the
21 thing and we couldn't get rid of it, and we covered
22 that we've got dioxins coming out to a degree that
23 it's going to, you know, retard all the children or
24 something. I couldn't believe what I was reading.
25 There are whole -- if you page through that

1 document, there are tons of things like that. And I
2 was shocked. I was shocked at the level of science.
3 I was shocked at the level of disregard. I was
4 shocked at the unwillingness to be expansive in
5 looking at the evidence. And I -- it made me so mad
6 that for two years of wretched process trying to
7 stop that thing.

8 And I have to say there's -- this study
9 also says that there is no good animal model system
10 that reproduces, demonstrates the development of
11 cancer in response to this. There is no mechanism
12 we can say, gee, I figured out how this works. But,
13 you know, we don't need to know that. We just need
14 to know what happens. That's what we need to know,
15 the consequences. That's enough. That's enough to
16 figure out that we either can't have this at all or
17 that we -- or that we -- or that we must bury it.

18 There's a lot of science that hasn't been
19 done. There's a lot of shielding that can happen.
20 It says that this doesn't happen at all, and yet we
21 know that if you find the wonderful version of
22 putting it underground, if you bundle the power
23 lines, it alters the effect of the electromagnetic
24 waves and reduces their effect. So this is another
25 good reason for putting them underground, because

1 less effect and less damaging. So there are things
2 that we're learning. This whole thing is in its
3 infancy. But I think the highest priority has to be
4 the kids. How much science do we need if we know
5 something bad is coming for our children? We don't
6 need very much. We don't really need a response to
7 that. And I think that is has to be a fundamental
8 concern. Aesthetics are wonderful, but they're
9 nothing compared to the life of our children.

10 Thanks.

11 MR. STORM: Vivian Klauber. State and
12 spell it. I butchered that.

13 MS. KLAUBER: Thank you. Vivian,
14 V-I-V-I-A-N. Last name Klauber, K-L-A-U-B, as in
15 Bob, E-R. And I live in Longfellow. I was -- I was
16 really thrilled to hear many speakers before me
17 because I was going the same way. I was looking
18 into this 30 years ago, way back when Rachel Carson
19 was still riding and we were learning about these
20 same issues about power lines going up in urban
21 areas, and then the difference when they were moved
22 to rural areas and how the evidence was proven in
23 both. The limitations, however, were proven, of
24 course, even more in urban areas. So I'd like to
25 speak briefly about my concerns with the health

1 impact, once again, of this substation, tower, and
2 lines on people, animals, and plants using the
3 Greenway and living in proximity.

4 International research has proven -- and
5 I'm going to put my glasses on because I can't read
6 my own handwriting. International research has
7 proven that people experience lack of energy in the
8 vicinity of EMF. There is an increase, as you
9 already heard, of various kinds of cancer,
10 especially leukemia. The clusters are defined by
11 the exposure at a specific radius of these lines and
12 towers. There have been birth defects, including
13 spontaneous abortion, in animals and in people,
14 abnormal growth noted in children and animals,
15 decrease immunity, and more. So I'm going to be
16 brief because you've heard a lot of this information
17 already.

18 I would like to note that our country has
19 had a nasty habit of putting these kinds of projects
20 in economically-challenged, diverse ethnic
21 communities, and I think it's time that we end this
22 practice and focus on placement in industrial parks
23 or in corporate headquartered land.

24 I would also like to end by saying that
25 if there weren't as many trees in my area, I would

1 be putting solar plates on my roof. I support
2 alternative renewable energy solutions, and I would
3 like to encourage this project to be put on hold
4 until the U.S. Department of Energy establishes
5 institutional innovations in energy, in the energy
6 field. And this kind of project will probably no
7 longer be needed.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. STORM: Tim Springer. State and
10 spell, please.

11 MR. SPRINGER: Hi, my name is Tim
12 Springer. T-I-M. S-P-R-I-N-G-E-R. And I'm going
13 to move this so I can talk to you guys in front of
14 you. Is that okay?

15 Okay. Thank you for undertaking this
16 massive EIS project. The good thing about it -- oh,
17 I should mention, I'm affiliated with the Midtown
18 Greenway Coalition as a staff person. I also live
19 in the Midtown area and use the Greenway at least
20 six times a day. And just as a really personal
21 note, these lines going over make my heart very
22 heavy every time I use the trail. I think it will
23 happen for a lot of people.

24 The good things about the draft
25 environmental impact statement are that there are

1 references in, I believe, 7 of the 13 impacted
2 resources that putting the lines underground will --
3 is a potential mitigation strategy for the negative
4 impacts on these resources.

5 And the detail that's offered regarding
6 putting overhead lines in a residential community
7 and running them on the sidewalk near the roadway is
8 really helpful to understand. Three- to
9 four-and-a-half-foot wide tower bases right up on
10 the sidewalk are out of scale, they cause safety
11 problems at intersections, they may make it hard to
12 get a wheelchair to the sidewalk. It's totally out
13 of scale for pedestrians development, which is bike
14 and pedestrian. Development along this area is what
15 this Greenway is all about. So thank you for
16 recognizing those things. And there are many other
17 reasons why putting them underground is a good
18 thing. So that's great.

19 And the fact that there is an underground
20 route on East 28th Street the Midtown Coalition
21 favors is great and that that is still on the table
22 as strongly as any other underground route along the
23 Greenway. The reference to spreading the extra
24 costs for undergrounding over the entire rate base
25 much larger than the city of Minneapolis is great.

1 And by identifying those various known extra costs
2 statewide over a five-year period for Route A
3 underground on 28th would only be 19 or 20 cents
4 more per ratepayer per month for a period of five
5 years. That's a pretty small thing to save this
6 part of town. So that's great.

7 And linking that environmental justice
8 and not making this area have to pay to protect our
9 community is an appropriate finding as well.

10 Problems with the draft environmental
11 impact statement. Not enough attention is paid to
12 electromagnetic field. All overhead routes show an
13 average exposure within 25 feet of the center line
14 of 7 to 26 milligauss, not a peak exposure average,
15 7 to 26 milligauss, whereas we believe with -- we
16 can agree with the experts that suggest 4 milligauss
17 or higher is unacceptable and increases the risk of
18 childhood leukemia. And all these overhead routes
19 have hundreds of dwellings within 25 feet. And the
20 younger the child, the greater likelihood that child
21 will be impacted.

22 An inadequate response to neighborhood
23 concerns about the Hiawatha West substation site.
24 It would have been nice to see more attention paid
25 to the alternative substation locations rather than

1 just aiming pretty much at Hiawatha West, which
2 would lose this very critical green space, which is
3 the only location in the five-and-a-half miles
4 across the city where the Midway Greenway actually
5 passes through the middle of a green space as
6 opposed to along its edge and having a different
7 elevation, and this particular location at the nexus
8 of our two -- our state's two most important
9 transportation features, our only light rail line
10 and the busiest bikeway in the state.

11 Also, the EIS does not properly address
12 conservation and distributed generation such as
13 solar cells on roofs as a way to -- we would, of
14 course, like to have seen the power that's needed in
15 this area be provided through these means. For that
16 to happen, at least implement these measures as
17 mitigation as a part of this project and avoid
18 expanding the project in the future because we're
19 doing same wall. We know that a combination of
20 distributed generation and smart grid and
21 utility-fueled batteries charged off peak and peak
22 back in power during peak and conservation all can
23 add up to avoiding these lines. We know that. So
24 it's frustrating that the lines need to go in. But
25 if they have to go in, by Xcel's own admission,

1 there may be an additional line and probably will
2 be -- it's in the plans to be an additional line
3 heading east from the Hiawatha substation and west
4 from the Midtown substation in the future. No, it's
5 2010. We shouldn't be doing this anymore. So let's
6 make sure that if there's approval for these lines
7 that we keep it from expanding by doing what we
8 should have done this time around by conservation.

9 So thanks so much. Don't mess with the
10 Greenway.

11 MR. STORM: Michael Troutman.

12 MR. TROUTMAN: Michael Troutman. Trout
13 like the fish with a man on the end. So this will
14 be brief because we're getting dangerously close to
15 my bedtime. I have been a resident of this
16 neighborhood since 1981. Our family, we own and
17 live in a house that's several blocks off the
18 Greenway. So, indeed, I do have self-interest in
19 the impact that line along the Greenway would have
20 on our family and on our home and on our property
21 value.

22 That said, I'm also concerned about the
23 impact on existing businesses and on future business
24 development that has been outlined by many people.
25 It doesn't take a business degree, although I have

1 one of those, to see the potentially negative
2 consequences for good business development along our
3 Greenway corridor.

4 But what I wanted to spend just a couple
5 minutes talking about was why are we facing this
6 decision in the first place? How did we get to
7 this, someone said, 20th Century decision in the
8 21st Century? And it got me thinking about the
9 decision-making process that is unfolding here. I
10 wonder if you might step back and think about that
11 for a minute.

12 And I want to start by saying I don't
13 question the sincerity or goodwill of the
14 individuals working at Xcel Energy. The individuals
15 that I have known over a period of decades are
16 people of goodwill, they're good, caring people.
17 But based on my experience working in large
18 organizations, be they corporate -- I've had
19 experience in corporate -- government, and
20 nonprofit, it's easy to get trapped in to certain
21 acceptable ways of thinking. And it could be very
22 difficult to envision a radically different way of
23 doing things. It can easily be that the rewards,
24 both financial and professional, are achieved by
25 supporting the existing corporate objectives and

1 procedures.

2 I submit that our community here is
3 represented tonight. We have a different calculus.
4 We're focused on what's best for our families, for
5 our children and our grandchildren and our great
6 grandchildren, and looking at what will be
7 sustainable in the long term for them.

8 As Angelina and others have mentioned,
9 part of the vision is to evolve from an energy
10 system that is focused on large centralized energy
11 production to one that is centered in truly
12 distributed neighborhood-based energy. Now,
13 obviously this kind of change is going to require
14 existing energy producers and energy regulators to
15 adopt different corporate and regulatory
16 philosophies. I do not believe that a high voltage
17 power line along the Greenway serves our community's
18 needs, even though it may meet some short-term
19 corporate needs at our local energy producer.

20 I challenge each of you at Xcel Energy,
21 at the PUC, and all of us here in this room to
22 sincerely work together to build an alternative
23 energy future that will be sustainable in the long
24 term for our community.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. STORM: Amanda Dlouhy. Please state
2 and spell.

3 MS. DLOUHY: My name is Amanda Dlouhy.
4 A-M-A-N-D-A. D-L-O-U-H-Y. And I live on the 2900
5 block of Portland Avenue across from the proposed
6 substation. And I'm with the Phillips West
7 Neighborhood Organization, and I'm also on the board
8 of the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

9 I'd like to talk today just about the
10 Midtown substation. I don't feel that too much
11 attention has been paid to that. And one of the
12 reasons is because, from the very beginning of this
13 process, the Phillips West neighborhood has just
14 been kind of completely at a loss about where you
15 might put the substation in our neighborhood. And
16 it seems like options are either, one, in the middle
17 of a residential block or, two, on a commercial or
18 industrial property that we value because it brings
19 jobs to our neighborhood.

20 And I'd just like to stress that the
21 options that are in the middle of residential block
22 are really in the residential area. And generally
23 it has been talked about as being a vacant lot, a
24 vacant house, and property already owned by Xcel.
25 But, actually, if you go to look at it, it's really

1 just, you know, a few feet from the next lot where
2 there are people living. And that applies to both
3 the Midtown North and Midtown South substation.

4 And because I help to manage the property
5 right across the street, I know that those houses
6 are really being looked on and are -- people made an
7 effort to get good tenants in the area. So I'd like
8 to stress that.

9 And, of course, I just stress that the
10 people living in the area are young families with
11 young children, people of color that don't speak
12 English necessarily, and that these people are
13 desperate for housing. So in some parts of the
14 project area it might be an issue of people moving
15 away and not building new development in the area
16 that the power lines go in. But in this area it's
17 actually an issue that people will live there no
18 matter what because they're desperate for housing.

19 And that brings up what I'd like to hear
20 more about in the environmental impact statement,
21 which is the health impacts of the substation. And
22 I'd like to hear more details about noise from the
23 substation and also how the line would actually
24 connect with the substation and if that connection
25 would make any more danger from EMF or anything

1 else. And it would be useful to see a rendering of
2 the PUC decisions in the EIS.

3 And I'd like to mention that we're happy
4 that the EIS is considering our land use plan, but
5 I'd like to stress that these parcels, the parcel
6 along the Greenway, have been marked as high density
7 development and future green space. Because there
8 are very few other places in our neighborhood that's
9 even possible, because our neighborhood is very full
10 with other things. And so these are not just areas
11 where we'd like to see high-density development, but
12 they are literally the only places where it's even
13 possible.

14 And, finally, I'd like to see some
15 assurances in the EIS that this new infrastructure
16 will provide us residents, businesses, everyone with
17 technology to someday sell locally-generated power
18 back to the grid. And I think without that, the
19 whole project loses much of its potential to help
20 residents in the neighborhood.

21 MR. STORM: Aisha Gomez. Sorry about
22 butchering it.

23 MS. GOMEZ: Oh, that's okay. That
24 happens. Aisha Gomez. A-I-S-H-A. G-O-M-E-Z. I
25 work for the Women's Environmental Institute in the

1 Phillips neighborhood. I live at East Central, like
2 two blocks away from the Greenway on Portland
3 Avenue.

4 My nephew is 18 months old, and he lives
5 three-quarters of a block away from the Greenway,
6 and my sister is expecting a second child in
7 October. My God kids go to day care at the YWCA.
8 So I have -- you know, my children who are nearest
9 and dearest to my heart are going to be directly and
10 consistently exposed to EMF as a result if, you
11 know, the proposed aboveground transmission line
12 goes in on the Greenway.

13 I'm a little -- there are a couple of
14 things, I guess, I was a little confused about in
15 the EIS, because we have this section about
16 environmental justice. And so it goes through the
17 demographics of the neighborhood, establishing that,
18 you know, there are these two standards, which are
19 -- one of which is like is half of the neighborhood
20 constituted by people of color and is half the
21 neighborhood low income. And there's this other
22 thing like is the population, the like median
23 income -- like median -- or the number of low-income
24 people 20 percent higher than that of the State of
25 Minnesota and the same for people of color. And so

1 most of the neighborhoods that are going to be
2 impacted by these lines do meet that standard. And
3 as a lot of people have talked about tonight, low
4 income, indigenous, and communities of color have
5 disproportionately been affected. But it then goes
6 on to say that -- on 231, that no alternatives are
7 expected to produce adverse health and safety
8 impacts to local population and, in particular,
9 minorities/low-income populations. And so I guess
10 I'm a little bit confused about how it is that the
11 EIS goes through and establishes what the
12 demographics of the neighborhood are and then says,
13 oh, this isn't going to contribute to the
14 disproportionate health burden that the communities
15 directly around these lines bear.

16 It -- also there's a little bit of kind
17 of like compartmentalizing about the health issues
18 throughout the DEIS. And, you know, we're human
19 beings and we're these organisms, and health isn't
20 compartmentalized for us because we're just this one
21 organism. So like, you know, it talks about lead,
22 it talks about asbestos, it talks about arsenic. As
23 most of us know, we have -- there's arsenic in our
24 soil. A lot of our housing before 1981 could very
25 well have asbestos in it. Houses before '78 could

1 very well have lead paint in it. So a lot of this
2 stuff is still there. So I guess I'm a little bit
3 worried about the way that -- like this section is
4 supposed to be concerned with environmental justice
5 and is disconnected from the discussions about
6 health.

7 I also didn't see any information in the
8 environmental impact statement about health
9 insurance, access to, you know, affordable and
10 competent medicare, because we're also dealing with
11 a situation like where, you know, people who are
12 exposed to sources of ill health and also don't have
13 access to, you know, kind of like the things that we
14 know create good health. So it would be great if
15 that kind of disconnect could be addressed.

16 Again, Carol talked about this, but one
17 of the things that I picked out was, you know, on
18 page 240, epidemiological results do show weak but
19 consistent association between childhood leukemia
20 and EMF. And then it goes on to talk about how
21 we're not quite aware of what the mechanism is. But
22 there was this interesting thing that I hadn't --
23 you know, in doing research about this, I had never
24 heard about this. But on page 240 it talks about
25 the Henshaw hypothesis. It says that transmission

1 lines -- this is a theory -- transmission lines
2 could increase the amount of air pollution that the
3 human body retains because it ionizes particles of
4 air around the line, creating what they call corona
5 ions, which are like described as being sticky. And
6 so it means that when these corona ions come into
7 contact with air pollution that they stick in your
8 lungs more. And that's kind of like the theory for
9 the mechanism of this. So, you know, due to the
10 work of people like Carol and other people in the
11 neighborhood and Karen Clark, our legislator, we
12 have a lot of cumulative health impact law in
13 Phillips, which means that before a new source of
14 pollution contributes into the neighborhood, there
15 has to be an analysis done of the cumulative impact
16 of the new source. And so, in particular, this
17 idea, you know, we're talking about we have a lot of
18 mobile sources of pollution in the neighborhood
19 because there are, you know, big thoroughfares
20 surrounded by freeways. We also have things like,
21 you know, asphalt plants and stuff on the
22 perimeters. And so if this Henshaw is actually
23 true, I think that it needs -- basically what I'm
24 saying is that the whole thing kind of needs to be
25 contextualized. The health issue needs to be

1 contextualized in terms of like what's actually
2 going on in the neighborhood already. And that's
3 like a major thing that isn't covered in this.

4 Also, this falls outside, I think, of the
5 scope of the draft EIS, but personally I find it a
6 little bit cynical that what appears to have
7 happened is that, you know, like if it -- if this
8 project were ten miles or longer, you have to file a
9 certificate of need. And so it looks like you guys
10 are kind of like busting the project up into little
11 parts. So this section is, oh, one-and-a-half
12 miles, so we don't need the certificate of need.
13 And then the next is three-and-a-half miles and,
14 guess what, that's not a hundred miles either so
15 that doesn't need to be in the certificate of need.
16 So I guess it appears that something's happening to
17 make it so that there is this extra level of
18 scrutiny that this plant is exposed to.

19 And I guess I'm going to close by
20 echoing what Carol was talking about and the
21 gentleman earlier, whose name was Mehmet, that we
22 need to -- when we're talking about the health,
23 particularly of vulnerable populations, that we need
24 to err on the side of caution, that we need to
25 invoke the cautionary principle, that whatever our

1 ethical or moral guides are, that we all -- we have
2 an obligation to protect the most vulnerable among
3 us and that what the evidence shows is that where
4 there is a health impact from EMF, it hits kids.
5 And the kids around here are more exposed to this
6 because of the issue about health care and other
7 health impacts that they're suffering under.

8 So thank you.

9 MR. STORM: Donna Nex.

10 MS. NEX: I think I'm going to pass.
11 Everything's been said.

12 MR. STORM: Okay. Well, I'd encourage
13 you to send in written comments.

14 Before we close, Deb mentioned that one
15 of the parking lots --

16 MS. PILE: The one behind the market over
17 there, I guess people that parked there might get
18 towed. We were just warned of that. I think the
19 parking lot for this building is actually behind the
20 church.

21 (Off the record.)

22 MR. STORM: That wraps up the people who
23 signed up, except for Representative Clark, to
24 speak. After she's done, I will just ask for a show
25 of hands of anybody else who would like to speak.

1 MS. CLARK: Thank you. I actually
2 planned some written notes, comments. My name is
3 Karen Clark. K-A-R-E-N. C-L-A-R-K. And I'm going
4 to be submitting some written comments, but I don't
5 want to pass up the chance to at least say a couple
6 of things here. And I just got here because I was
7 at a legislative hearing.

8 So I want to say thank you to the people
9 who have been raising issues that I think are so
10 critical to this neighborhood. And what I heard
11 that is especially important that I'd like to ask be
12 given very strong weight is the environmental
13 justice impact issues.

14 As was mentioned, this neighborhood has
15 special protection under state law that no other
16 neighborhood in the state and I think possibly in
17 the U.S. has, and that has to do with requiring that
18 our public health agency, health department, state
19 health department, and the Minnesota Pollution
20 Control Agency must evaluate potential cumulative
21 health impact whenever there is a new source of
22 pollution or contamination brought into this
23 Phillips neighborhood. And so I'm actually seeking
24 an opinion on how that applies. I haven't received
25 the details of that yet, some preliminary

1 information. But I do want to say that that is the
2 crux for me of why this is a very, very important
3 issue. And many things people said earlier about
4 that, that this is a community that already suffers
5 disproportionate impact on environmental toxin
6 exposures, and the question of health impacts that
7 could be produced by these transmission lines are
8 very, very serious ones and need to be fleshed out.
9 And I hope time will be allowed for that to happen.

10 I believe there was probably testimony --
11 I didn't get to hear too much -- alluded to that
12 there are alternatives to putting these transmission
13 lines through this neighborhood. They could do a
14 lot better job of conservation, of alternative
15 energy. And I just want to reaffirm that.

16 And one thing that's something I might be
17 able to do to help that I'll just remind the PUC of
18 is, as was noted in the newsletter from the Greenway
19 coalition, right now the state law doesn't require
20 that you consider the issue that we've been talking
21 about here tonight because of the distance that is
22 involved, at least issues that require a certificate
23 of need, and that law can be changed. In fact, last
24 year I introduced legislation to do just that. And
25 I'd really like to invite you to join me with that

1 legislation, because it will be here. So I don't
2 suppose that's news to the people that heard that,
3 but I have not really received any feedback at all
4 from the Commission.

5 So I will submit more written comments.
6 But I just want to thank you for having this
7 process. I understand this room was full earlier,
8 and that's wonderful and typical of this community.
9 People care a lot about this community, and I'm
10 really glad that you came today and to be given the
11 opportunity for public response.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. STORM: Thank you.

14 That concludes the cards that I had.

15 Is there anyone else who hasn't spoken
16 who would like to speak? If there are, raise your
17 hands, and I'll call on you, and we can work through
18 that.

19 Okay. Seeing none, I'm going to wrap it
20 up. I do want to remind you that your participation
21 is important. The goal here is to make the EIS a
22 better document. You have till March 10th to submit
23 your comments to me. Either snail mail, e-mail,
24 fax, or you can comment online and send me a comment
25 through there.

