



**Essar Steel 115 kilovolt (kV)  
Transmission Line Project  
Advisory Task Force**

**NPUC/MP Essar Steel HVTL Advisory Task Force  
First Meeting – August 12, 2009**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and introductions**

The facilitator for the task force, Charlie Petersen, State of Minnesota, Management Analysis & Development, welcomed task force members and all present. He asked task force members to, in “around the table” fashion, introduce themselves and to relate one expectation that they had for the work of the advisory task force. Expectations included:

- Develop the best outcome we can live with
- Understand our charge, understand the function and our process
- Get our work done by the completion date
- Have the least impact on where people live, keep the line away from houses
- Learn about the hazards and environmental impacts
- Look for ways to identify and support points of compromise
- Reach agreement on a route all can live with
- Safety first then get the project done
- Have a fair evaluative process
- Complete our task and charge

**Why we are here**

Charlie reviewed with the task force, the charge of the task force and a draft plan for accomplishing the charge over the course of three task force meetings. Charlie described his role as a facilitator and documenter of the task force’s work. He described the summary of work which will be the product of the task force’s work and how it will be developed. Charlie also provided ground rules for meeting logistics. Questions by task force members were discussed and addressed.

**State route permitting process**

Bill Storm, Office of Energy Security, discussed the state permitting process. He reviewed the criteria used by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in making a route permitting decision and issues typically covered in an environmental impact statement (EIS). Questions by task force members were discussed and addressed.

## **Project overview**

Bryan Adams, Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and Robert Lindholm, Minnesota Power, provided an overview of the proposed transmission line project and process used by Minnesota Power to develop the proposed routes and sub-station locations. Questions by task force members we discussed and addressed. Contact information for Robert Lindholm:

[RLindholm@Allete.com](mailto:RLindholm@Allete.com)

## **Issues and Impacts Identified**

Charlie led the task force through a small group discussion exercise to identify and categorize impacts and issues that should be considered in the EIS for evaluation of proposed routes and substation locations. The task force members responded to the question: *What land use planning and other impacts and issues need to be considered in the evaluation of proposed transmission line routes and/or substation locations?* The task force identified eight impact and issue areas to be evaluated in the EIS. These impact and issue areas and specific comments are included in the notes and table below.

The issues and impact areas identified include:

### **Future use of land**

#### **A. Issues and impact on future mining**

- Mine overlay
- Routes should not encumber future expansions and future mining
- Stay off minable iron reserves. Watch for underground mines.

#### **B. Impact on real property**

- Impact on future development for individual homeowner building
- Least impact on homeowners
- Homes/personal property
- Proximity to homes
- Manmade elements
  - Residences
  - Municipalities
  - Roads
  - Public utilities (sewer/water)
  - Railroad
  - Dams
  - Bridges
  - Recreation facilities

#### **C. Potential economic impacts**

- Impact to agriculture, forest, and wetlands

#### **D. Route impact**

- Existing corridor versus new
- Being flexible on the 130 ft. route within the 3,000 ft. corridor; balance cost and benefit
- Shortest route

**E. Recreation**

**Other Issues**

**F. Potential health and safety issues**

- Health issues – real or fiction?
- Emissions – electromagnetic, air quality issues, impact on humans and animals
- Safety and health
- Safety – visual pollution

**G. Potential environmental impacts**

- Natural elements
  - Wetlands
  - Lakes
  - Creeks
  - Nesting habitat
  - Forests
  - Hedgerows
  - Animal habitat
  - Flora
  - Fauna
- Lakes and wetlands: consider flood plains, farms
- Impact on water – disturbance of water bodies

**H. Cultural impacts**

- Historical or archaeological sites

Future use of land					Other issues		
A. Issues and impact on future mining	B. Impact on real property	C. Potential economic impacts	D. Route impact	E. Recreation	F. Potential health and safety issues	G. Potential environmental impacts	H. Cultural impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mine overlay</li> <li>▪ Routes should not encumber future expansions and future mining</li> <li>▪ Stay off minable iron reserves. Watch for underground mines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact on future development for individual homeowner building</li> <li>▪ Least impact on homeowners</li> <li>▪ Homes/personal property</li> <li>▪ Proximity to homes</li> <li>▪ Residence                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Residences</li> <li>– Municipalities</li> <li>– Roads</li> <li>– Public utilities (sewer/water)</li> <li>– Railroad</li> <li>– Dams</li> <li>– Bridges</li> <li>– Recreation facilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact to agriculture, forest, and wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing corridor versus new</li> <li>▪ Being flexible on the 130 ft. route within the 3,000 ft. corridor; balance cost and benefit</li> <li>▪ Shortest route</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health issues – real or fiction?</li> <li>▪ Emissions – electromagnetic, air quality issues, impact on humans and animals</li> <li>▪ Safety and health</li> <li>▪ Safety – visual pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural elements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wetlands</li> <li>– Lakes</li> <li>– Creeks</li> <li>– Nesting habitat</li> <li>– Forests</li> <li>– Hedgerows</li> <li>– Animal habitat</li> <li>– Flora</li> <li>– Fauna</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Lakes and wetlands: consider flood plains, farms</li> <li>▪ Impact on water – disturbance of water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historical or archaeological sites</li> </ul>