

## APPENDIX J

### Summary of Public Comments

### Appendix J. Summary of Public Comments

Applicants engaged interested stakeholders and members of the public in a comprehensive public outreach process integrated with route development and selection. Applicants encouraged public participation and comment through the entire routing process. Stakeholders and landowners used a number of communication tools to provide comments to Applicants including email, telephone, meetings, routing work groups, open houses, direct mail, the CapX2020 website, and comment forms.

A public comment database was developed to organize Project comments received throughout the route development and selection process. The figure below identifies the number of public comments received by various categories. The majority of the comments received were from comment forms provided at the routing work group meetings and open houses. Comments were also received by mail and/or via the CapX2020 website. Applicants worked diligently to respond to all public comments in a timely manner. The summation of comments below is based only on comment forms collected at public meetings associated with the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Project.

#### Number of Public Comments by Category

Comment Issue	Number of Comments	Percent of Comments Received
Aesthetics	14	3
Agriculture	88	18
EMF	35	7
Environmental Impacts	66	14
I94	108	22
Impacts on Humans	150	31
Wetlands	22	5
Total	483	100

The consensus of those that participated in meetings conducted as part of the public participation process identified a preference for routing the proposed 345 kV transmission line along the interstate, a preference for minimizing the potential for impacts to existing residences, and a preference for minimizing the potential for impacts to agricultural uses. Although a number of consistent concepts were derived from the public participation process, these three concepts were the key common messages or themes.