Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Apache [apache@lmic.state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 5:44 PM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: Blommel Mon Jan 25 17:44:22 2010 ET2, E002/TL-09-1056

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
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You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project

Docket number: ET2, E002/TL-09-1056

User Name: Bruce & Leticia & Family Blommel

County: Stearns County

City: Albany

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Impact: We have reviewed the proposed routes and would like to comment that it seems to us that the most reasonable path from Freeport and SE would be to simply continue on the old railroad right-of-way, rather than running through new field and stream areas to the north or south. The I-94 corridor has already been aesthetically compromised due to the presence of the interstate; the old railway route alongside was good enough for train traffic in the past; why do you insist on exploring other areas? While the transmission lines will run about 3/4mile south of our property and will probably remain unseen to ourselves, for the most part, many in our area who would be affected (esp along 380th St and County 10) have moved out here exactly to get away from this sort of encroachment. Also, besides aesthetics and the invasion of the countryside, environmentally the I-94 corridor is already disrupted and disadvantaged by the highway itself, and everything that comes along with it: supporting businesses, industrial parks, frontage roads, etc. Why do you have to strike new territory? This seems totally unecessary, especially given the area needed is 150 feet wide. The rail corridor wouldn't work? And why is the I-94 corridor good enough, until you get to Freeport, but then it shoots east across the north side of Albany? If you must deviate, it seems like a shorter trek to go by Preferred Route Segment Alternate #1. It is very sad for those of us who have moved out here and are involved in prairie restoration, organic farming and gardening, and other environmentally restorative and conservative practices to be suddenly plagued by this new thing, when it could easily be kept right there with the noise and the commotion of the interstate. Keep it along the freeway corridor, and it will fit right into things there. We moved out here to escape all that fuss, and we would like to keep it that way.

Mitigation: Please see above. In summary, the impact the lines will have to the whole natural environment in our area would be mitigated by keeping the lines right along Interstate 94, where no one travelling it will give it much notice, and where it will have the lesser impact, and really not much of a new impact, on the natural environment of the quite and open countryside.

Submission date: Mon Jan 25 17:44:22 2010

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

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

Andrew Koebrick
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