Fargo to St. Cloud 345kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. E002, ET2/TL-09-1056

Mr. David Birkholz
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commererce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101

The Purpose of my comments is to identify potential alternatives to and impacts of the proposed project that should be fully addressed in the Environmental Report being prepared by the Department of Commerce. So please consider all that is mentioned below.

It makes no sense that the CapX2020 utilities didn't consider an I-94 route from Freeport to St. Cloud. The DEIS has to include this as an alternative and provide detailed information on this potential route. In order not to create a straw man out of the I-94 route, the DEIS should consider slight deviations from the I-94 corridor and short stretches of underground power line in order to address particularly sensitive areas while keeping on the Interstate corridor as much as possible.

I support the recommendation of Stearns County in their letter of November 4, 2009 that the preferred route be located as close to the current I-94 freeway corridor as possible in order to affect as few homes and businesses as possible. The DEIS must consider this alternative in the area from Freeport to St. Cloud. What the utilities proposed is incomplete and doesn't fit state law.

Potential environmental impacts must be carefully analyzed in the Environmental Report. In order to reach a reasoned decision on weather to allow large industrial energy faculties to dominate the landscape across our land, we must first analyze what the environmental consequences might be and weather the trade off is justified.

- Aesthetic impacts
- Destruction of large blocks of forested areas
- Threats to endangered species, flora, fauna
- Impacts on cultural, historic and archeological resources
- Wildlife refuges and production areas
- Recreation areas
- Electromagnetic fields
- Farming interruptions
- Industrialization of rural landscapes
- Interference with radio, GPS, cell phone and TV signals

- Forest fragmentation
- Habitat protection areas
- Migratory bird flyaways and food resources
- Large wet land complexes, fens
- Challenge to get heavy equipment into vast wetland complexes
- Access roads are inadequate to support major equipment without significant upgrades
- Spontaneous abortion
- Children and the health effects of electromagnetic fields

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff Blum
12708 COUNTY ROAD 160
ST. JOSEPH MN 56374