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
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I understand the need for the new transmission line. I **do not** understand why there would be any other route considered other than the I-94 corridor. I-94 was chosen as the best route for vehicle traffic and again should be chosen for our transmission lines. New easements must be acquired and if these new easements were adjoining to the already existing road right of way if would provide favorable future opportunities for the state. I believe with the state of the art technology that is in place, those problematic overhead areas would use the alternative underground method. I do realize following I-94 will still have an impact on some homeowners but I strongly believe that we need to keep **ONE** transmission highway/interstate for our vehicle traffic and utilities.

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 :

- Aesthetic impacts
- Destruction of large blocks of forested areas (causing wind and water erosion)
- 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 flyways 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
- Dangers to all rural families due to increased traffic from the installation and maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

MK

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