This public comment has been sent via the form at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

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: Tom & JoAmm Vouk

County: Stearns County

City: Cold Spring

Email: tjvouk@gmail.com

Phone: 320-686-4124

Impact: This whole project makes little sense, and is rife with misrepresentation and little regard for the public and individual rights; but that is a whole other topic.

Minnesota represents itself as a land of pristine lakes, wilderness, and unspoiled countryside. How can further cutting up the landscape with monstrous power lines be keeping with that image?

Since the public is paying for the line, either through increased rates and government subsidies, or a combination of both; the utilities aught to be required to heavily consider the most efficient alternative.

It is hard to believe that lawsuits, easements, "buying the farm", cutting tree lots, building roads, endless meetings, etc could be cheaper than just running the power lines down or under the I-94 median, or along side of the freeway.

Finally, we feel it would make more sense to apply the projected two Billion dollars to energy conservation, and local generation projects than to this project. That however, would not put the many billions of profits into the hands of the consortium, would it?

Chicago is the "windy city". Let them generate their own power, locally, w/o the transmission losses. Several reports say that they don't even want our power!

Mitigation: The locations of most of the proposed power lines make absolutely no sense. You are creating many new corridors throughout the state whenever you deviate from the I-94 route. That corridor already has disrupted the environment to the extent that it would seem to make little difference and be much simpler to continue to utilize that route, than to deviate across country.

The zig zag path throughout the countryside eats up tremendous amounts or real estate in comparison to a (nearly)straight line and disrupts hundreds of more land owners.

As an example, the Alternate Southern Route is part of, and skirts the Avon Hills environmentally sensitive areas. The line will have to cut through numerous woodlands, wetlands, and housing units as currently projected.

It is hard to believe that the St. John's and I-94/Hwy75 areas could prove an impediment to line continuing along I-94, since that corridor already exists. Surely the technology also exists to allow lines to bridge the above mentioned interchange.

In short, utilize I-94!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Submission date: Thu Jan 7 11:29:39 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
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us