Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: tdrake (Clearwire) [tdrake@clearwire.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:19 AM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM); northrca@yahoo.com
Subject: TL-09-1056

Dear Mr. Birkholz,

I've written previously regarding my opposition to the proposed CAPX2020 route, which includes a wide path along County Road 2 north of St. Joseph that would threaten my own home and farm. I would like to write to offer some additional reasons why I am opposed to this route, and to again ask that the existing I-94 or Lake Wobegone Trail corridor be utilized rather than establishing new corridors that cut through and cross over private land.

We are located on a hobby farm, five miles north of St. Joseph. When we sit on our porch or in our front yard, we already have the view of an existing transmission line across County Road 2, to our West. I would hate to think of yet another transmission line either passing over our home and farm, or marring our views to the east.

To our west, is a large wetland area, which sandhill cranes and other fowl utilize throughout the year. If a transmission line were to cut across that area, it would threaten the wildlife and habitat of that area.

If the transmission line were moved further east on the route, it would pass directly over our home or farmland, threatening the health not only of my wife and five children, but also of our livestock. I am also concerned about the transmission line's impact on the aesthetic beauty of our farmland and impact on our home and land values.

If we have no choice in this matter, then I would suggest that the transmission line be placed as far east along the proposed route as possible. On our land, for example, which is certified organic, we have a barrier strip of land which runs along the field, running north to south, which is not actively farmed. That strip lies just to the east of the fenceline and provides a barrier between our organic field and the neighboring field to the east. Land such as that, or even further to the east, would be the least disruptive for a transmission line. Understand that I am completely opposed to the proposed north routes.

As you cross the state, by and large, transmission lines such as these follow existing routes, especially highways and freeways. I strongly believe that I-94 or the Lake Wobegone Trail needs to be considered more seriously for this transmission line. In driving the I-94 route, I cannot believe that it would impact as much farmland, wetlands, and trees as the proposed route, which is nearly twice as long and would impact nearly twice as many homes, farms, and families.

The I-94 route or Lake Wobegone Trail would be the shortest and most cost effective route, and would make the most sense in terms of impacting the fewest number of people. It is ridiculous that the Department of Transportation doesn't want the transmission line to cross its Rest Area on I-94. Wouldn't it be better for the line to impact a government agency rather than hundreds of family farms?

To cut across our property and create new corridors goes against the state's non-proliferation policy. Please see that the I-94 route or Lake Wobegone Trail route, with slight deviations, are added to the mix and given equal consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tim Drake
35474 County Road 2
Saint Joseph, MN 56374

320-230-1881
tdrake@clearwire.net