From: Tom Vouk [tjvouk@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 2:06 PM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: TL-09-1056

Following Wednesday's meeting in Melrose I drove I-94 to St Cloud and noted the following:

- I -94 has several high capacity (not 345Kw but larger than normal) paralleling the route, both north and south for a major portion of the road.
- At Albany, lines could easily drop below the town through a largely industrial area, with little disruption of that area.
- At either the north or south **rest-stop** the lines can deviate to the back, or run in front of the area, with almost no effect to their function. (CapX keeps telling us that the height and long spacing of the polls have little impact either visually or health-wise)
- There is a slight/short bottle neck at Spunk Lake. If you could snake a freeway in through that area, folks as smart as the MN-DOT and CapX ought to be able to figure it out. After all it's only a few poles. Options could include one or two H pole bridge structure for the short distance necessary to bypass the houses near the freeway. In that scenario, the cables would be 100'+ over the top of the freeway, supported by the metal bridge framing and insulators..
- Lines can easily be placed in the parking lot front of Blatners and Columbia Gear. A pole or two in that area would be hardly noticable.
- From there it should be easy to run along the freeway through the St. Johns area immediately adjacent to the freeway. St. Johns already has a large interchange with lights and power lines running in the vicinity. There is also a road to the north with existing higher capacity power lines.
- The I-94 and Stearns 75 interchange should be no problem either crossing, or following the freeway eastward.
- From the interchange it should be simple to get to the quarry site termination, along the freeway and Hwy -23.

After sitting through two meetings, Melrose and St. Joe, how come it feels like we are just going through these motions to satisfy regulations, ----- with the outcomes already predetermined????????? Kind of like weiting a term paper, where you select an result, then find the facts to back up that result.

Tom