Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Jeremy Erickson [jacksurveyor@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 2:35 PM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: TL-09-1056
Attachments: MAP.pdf

To: Mr. David Birkholz

Re: Fargo to St Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project

I would like to propose an alternate route for the proposed line in the southern part of Otter Tail County. The alternate that I am proposing is to run westerly along the south Otter Tail County line, from the intersection of I 94 and said county line, to US Highway 59; thence to run northerly on US 59 until I 94 is intersected; thence return to the proposed route along I 94. I have attached a map of this proposed alternate route to this email as a PDF file.

There are several reasons that I feel that this alternate route should be preferable to what has been proposed. They are as follows:

1) The Minnesota Department of Transportation holds a Scenic Easement in Section 26 of Tumuli Township that limits what structures can be constructed on property adjoining the Hansel Lake Rest Area facility and this easement has potential to limited where the line can be located in this area.

2) There is residence between Mud Lake and I-94 in Section 9 of Tumuli Township that would either have to be bought out or the proposed line would have to leave the I 94 corridor and follow Co. Rd. 82. Following Co. Rd. 82 would create other issues as there is a residence directly across from Sarpsborg cemetery in Section 4 and both would need to be avoided. Another potential problem would be crossing the Pomme De Terre River if a route along Co Rd 82 was required. The river outlets from Rose Lake at Co Rd 82 and enters a steep valley that would have a several environment concerns should the line cross at this point.

3) In Section 5 of Tumuli Township the south bay of Swan Lake meets the Nicholson Federal Waterfowl Production Area at Co Rd 82 and I 94. This is another environmentally sensitive area that it would be good to avoid if possible.

4) My final reason I would like to see this stretch of the I 94 corridor avoided, by rerouting the line on the alternative that I have proposed, involves preserving the scenic beauty of this area. This stretch of I 94 is built on a high grade on the side of a Glacial Moraine bounded on the southwesterly side by the combined Nicholson and Ten Mile Lake Waterfowl Production areas and on the northeast side by a mix of rolling farmland, forest, prairie and wetlands. The Nicholson/ Ten Mile area has always been a wild area with scattered areas that were farmed decades ago. It has been owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife since the 1960's and is now a wild prairie area, containing several wetlands, the Pomme De Terre River valley, forests, and Oak

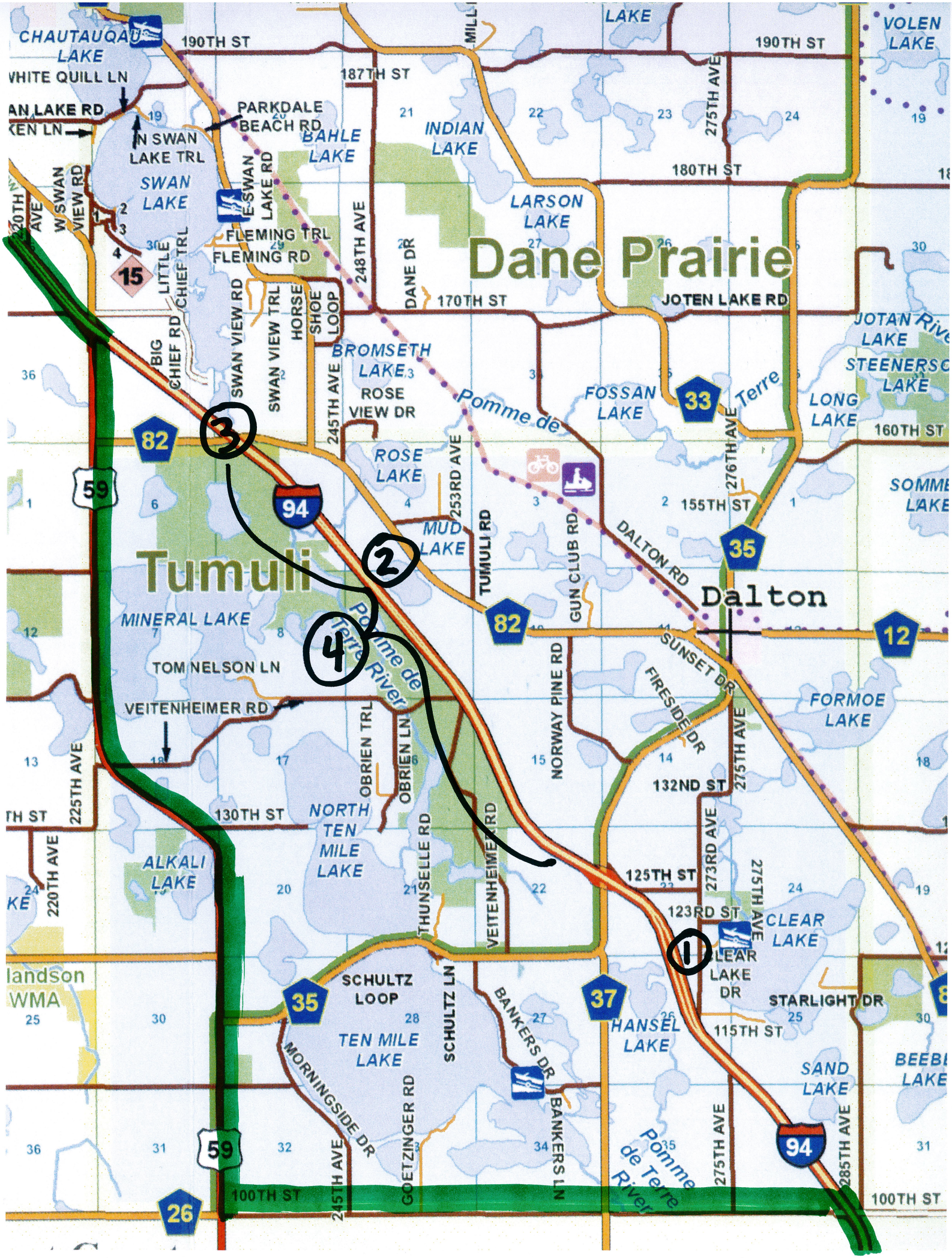
Savannas. Having traveled I 94 extensively between Fargo and the Twin Cities, I feel that this 5 plus mile stretch is arguably the most scenic 5 miles between Fargo and the Twin Cities and placing a string of 150 foot tall power line towers adjacent to it would be tragic.

I realize that there is a solution that can work around all of the points that I have brought up and that there are probably also issues with my proposed route, however when you add my issues in with other issues that I am unaware of, I hope that a serious consideration is given to the south county line/US Highway 59 route that I have proposed.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Erickson

(218) 850-0712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190TH ST
187TH ST
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INDIAN LAKE
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VOLEN LAKE
275TH AVE
180TH ST
LARSON LAKE
Dane Prairie
248TH AVE
DANE DR
170TH ST
JOTEN LAKE RD
JOTAN LAKE
STEENERSON LAKE
BROMSETH LAKE
ROSE VIEW DR
245TH AVE
Pomme de Terre
FOSSAN LAKE
LONG LAKE
160TH ST
ROSE LAKE
253RD AVE
276TH AVE
155TH ST
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MUD LAKE
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FIRESIDE DR
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