Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Farry, Joe [JPFarry@csbsju.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 9:13 PM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: TL-09-1056

Attachments: Tile 1 8.pdf; Tile 1 9a.pdf

Tile 1 8.pdf Tile 1 9a.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the routing of 345 KV line fromn St. Cloud to Fargo.

We live within a 1/4 mile of I 94, near the convergence of Hwy 75. The area is known locally as "Collegeville" even though we are located in St. Wendel Twn. We live on Old Collegeville Rd which runs dead end at the walking bridge over I 94. We are the last house on the western side of the road before the walking bridge. .

It is difficult to utilize your on-line maps to illustrate my concerns. Our area is divided between Tile 1 8 and Tile 1 9. I have included both as attachments.

Tile 1 9 shows the proposed transmission line from the QUARRY substation westward. We know that there will be growing pressure to reconsider placing the line exclusively in I 94 corridor. Your map shows two potential alternative routes, both of which adversely affect the "Collegeville neighborhood"--13 to17 families depending how you count.

We raised the following issues at the public hearings conducted by XCEL.

Route 1: the proposed route goes north from the I 94/St Joe exit. It follows St Joe Twn section lines 8/9 and 4/5. (There are at least three homesteads located close to these section lines, as well as a cell phone tower. The line would cross Hwy 75 east of 115th Ave, intersect with the Woebegon Bike trail and follow the old railroad ROW. Following this route, the power line would endanger four homes that are adjacent to the intersection of Collegeville Rd (frontage road) and Old Collegeville Rd.(Section 32, St Wendel Twn) Three of these homes are over a 100 years old and the 4th is built on the site of an old hotel.There is an historical marker along the Woebegon Trail at this point identifying the site of the Collegeville station and its historical importance. There is no way the transmission line can go through this "squeeze point" without sacrificing existing homes. The squeeze results from the ROW of Collegeville Road and Old Collegeville Rd, the railroad ROW, and the ROW of a electrical distribution line.

Route 2: This proposed route stays within the ROW of I 94. The challenge is to thread the line past the complexintersection of Hwy 75 and I 94. West bound I 94 is on a curved "fly-over>" (A rather dangerous section of highway, by the way.) If the transmission running along I 94 from the Quarry substation were to stay along the westbound lanes, it probably would have to be directed to the each so that it could cross Hwy 75 when it is a unified 4-lane highway, rather than two separated roads. That would put the line near 115 Ave as it crosses Hwy 75). If the the transmission line followed this track it would run on the north side of I94 as the interstate makes a sharp turn to the west. There are woods along the northern edge of I 94 at this point. Where the walking bridge is located(the dead end of Old Collegeville Rd--Section 31, St Wendel Twn) there would be a house in the transmission line's ROW. The next big challenge on the north side of I 94 is to get past the St John's exit with its off ramps and converging frontage road (Collegeville Rd.) John Huls runs a good sized trucking operation just off the frontage road and any proposed 345 kv line would probably have to run through his property. (There isn't enough room, in my judgment, to run the line between I 94, the off ramp and the frontage road. This would require the transmission line to go northeast of frontage road.

I could be decided that the line would stay on the west side of I 94 as it following the instate north from the Quarry substation. That would make it easier to get past the Hwy 75

interchange. But when I 94 makes its turn to the west, the power line would be south of I 94, right in the midst of the St. John's woods. I am sure that representatives of St. John's can explain better than I can how such a route would effect their woods, wet lands and entrance.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments.

Joe Farry
12614 Old Collegeville Rd
St Joseph Mn 56374
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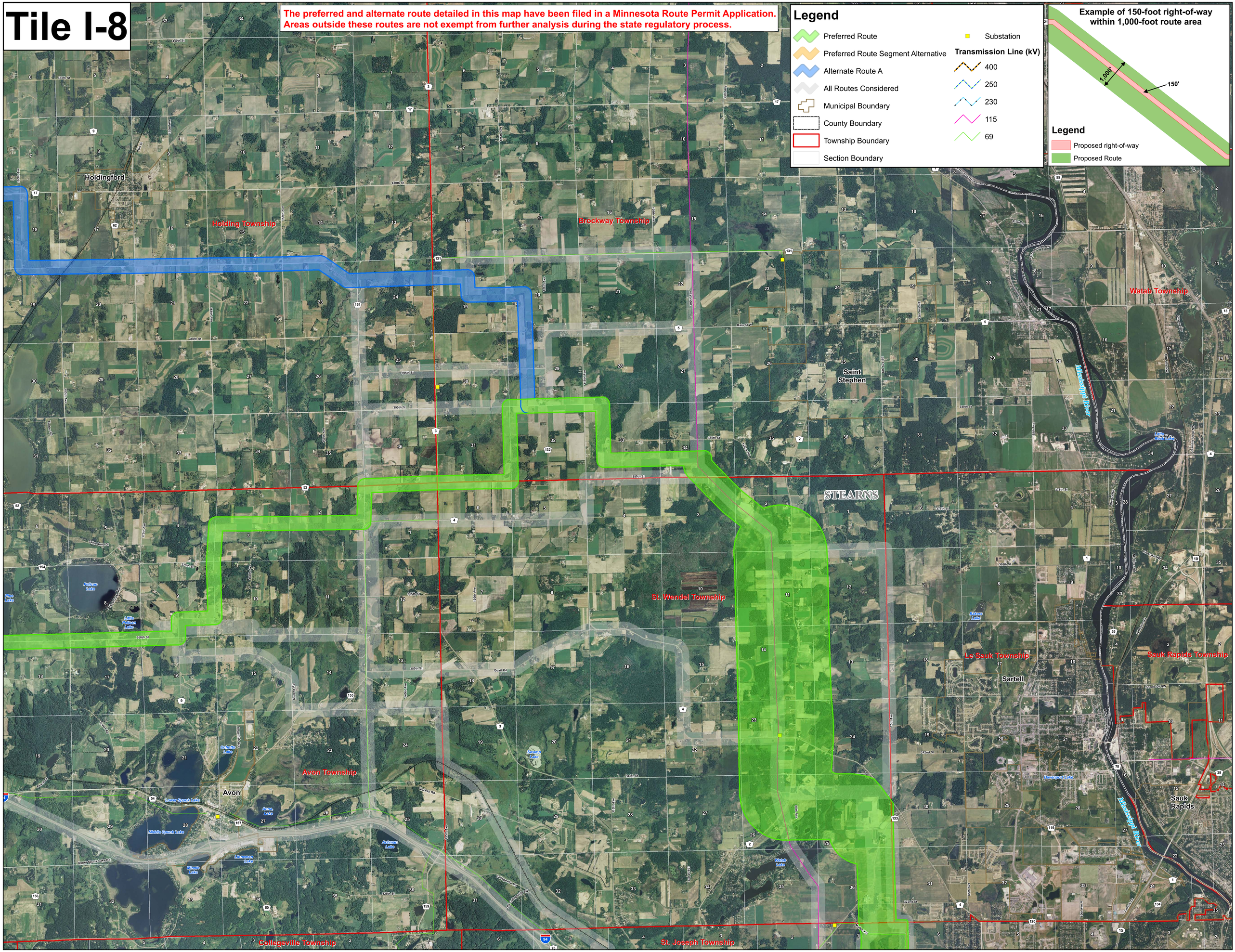
Tile I-8

The preferred and alternate route detailed in this map have been filed in a Minnesota Route Permit Application.
Areas outside these routes are not exempt from further analysis during the state regulatory process.



Tile I-9

Avon Township
St. Joseph Township
Collegeville Township
Saint Joseph
Saint Cloud
Waite Park
STEARNS
Richmond
Cold Spring
Rockville
Saint Augusta
Wakefield Township
Fair Haven Township
Maine Prairie Township

Quarry Substation Siting Area

Quarry Substation Siting Area

Preferred Route Segment Alternative 1

Example of 150-foot right-of-way within 1,000-foot route area

1,000'

150'

Legend

- Proposed right-of-way
- Proposed Route

Legend

- Preferred Route
- Preferred Route Segment Alternative
- Alternate Route A
- All Routes Considered
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Substation

Transmission Line (kV)

- 400
- 250
- 230
- 115
- 69

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