Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Gary Vouk [vouk_gk@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 11:57 AM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: TL-09-1056

Dear Mr. Birkholz

I am writing you in regards to the cap x2020 routing on the so called north route in stearns county. My family has been milking cows on this farm for more than 80 years. its a century farm that my great grandfather home steaded in 1888. we live on the county road 2 corridor if the easement they are proposing goes through it will cover over half of the farm including all the buildings and most of the fields. In my understanding that means anything they want to do in this right of way they will be able. The fact wouldn't be so bothering if there was no other alternative but there are alternatives. the proposed original route along interstate 94 there first choice and the one that makes the most sense is the only route that should be considered. The only reason they backed out was because of St. Johns University and Avon hills initiative. the north route skirts both of these as far as it can, i may not be an engineer but I have enough common sense to know the problems they would encounter along the highway are far less than they will going threw the swamps and bogs and jogging this way and that way 20 miles out of the way. there is a feasible fix bury the line underground in the few areas in needs to be. again i am no degree carrying engineer but living around this are my whole life and surveying the avon area there is very little that would need to be underground maybe 2-3 miles. As far as St. Johns they own 3300 acres they don't pay taxes on what would a few acres along the highway hurt them thats at almost a half mile away from the actual campus and avon hills wouldn't even notice the lines. does eminant domain only work against the poor who cant afford attorneys and dont have the power of this college. if this line goes through this area it will stick out like a sore thumb and the emf could cause problems to force out of business causing problems to the cows such as mastitis breeding problems abortions and even animal deaths. the complaint against under ground is expense and cutting down trees and moving houses this is b.s. to my knowledge it sounds like they need nothing more than a sewer pipe with man holes every 1000 feet and a cooling gel. I talked to an excavator who puts in sewer lines the most room u need is enough for the track hoe and dirt piles and he said that isn't that expensive maybe the gel is i dont know but excel and these other electeric companys could absorb the cost for a few miles underground if thats what it takes have the wind farms kick in some money if they want the return on there investments of these wind mills and it may be cheaper than zig zagging all over the county. please set up a task force to look into this. we already have 115k power line running on our property what are the effects of 2 emf fields going to be does anybody know and if you do decide to go on this route you better come up with a definite route not taking a mile easement along here we won't stand for that once they have they can push u around any time they feel like it its not fair that half our farm and our neighbors land be in this easement if they cant come up with a definate rout with 150 easement then there engineers have no idea what they are doing and the entire route should be scrapped we dont farm to be rich its a way of life my great grand father started my grand father did my father at67 and crippled still does and me and my brother would like to continue but it may be in jepordy we are not ur big rich farmers our newest tractor is 20 years old my dads newest vehicle is a 95 pickup but we enjoy it most days. italked to you at the meeting and you seemed to be genuinely concerned and i thank you for that the other guy could have cared less was my feeling as long as the line goes through and he didn't have to take on St.Johns. to my knowledge the county even sent u a letter signed by all the commissioners to stay along 94 and out of the rural areas does this mean nothing or is just find a route with the least power to fight. please consider the best for all involved and not the dollar value.

thank you
Gary Vouk

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