Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Eric Brown [eric@landelements.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:47 AM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: CapX2020 Opposition letter

10 Tallgrass Trail
Horace, ND 58047

February 10, 2010

David Birkholz, Project manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2878
David.birkholz@state.mn.us

RE: MN PUC Docket TL-09-1056, CapX2020 Fargo – St. Cloud Transmission line

Dear David Birkholz,

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opposition to the proposed route for the CaxX2020 345 kV transmission line between Fargo and St. Cloud. I request that a more suitable alternative spur be found connecting the I-94 corridor and the North Dakota – Minnesota border.

Although I am in opposition to this particular route for several reasons, first and foremost is the impact of the transmission lines on my family and property. The proposed route will be in very close proximity and cross my property directly adjacent to where my residence is situated. Aside from the known and unknown health concerns with high voltage transmission lines, they will also have negative visual impacts on the scenic rural landscape within my property.

My property along this proposed route falls near the Red River on the Minnesota side, and both sides of the corridor on the North Dakota side. Currently this corridor has no above ground power or telephone lines within it.

I have undertaken significant natural restoration projects on my property, including wetland re-establishment, extensive native prairie and tree plantings, as well as property improvements associated with a working ranch and farm. This property, as well as other properties adjacent to the Red River, is unique as it is predominantly wooded in an otherwise treeless landscape. I can only imagine the visual destruction with the addition of 175'+ utility towers erected within this unique and beautiful property.

Siting Minnesota Statute 216E.03, I would urge you to require a more thorough review, guided by the State's goals to "conserve resources, minimize environmental impacts, (and) minimize human settlement

and other land use conflicts" when considering transmission line routes.

I am strongly opposed to this crossing, especially knowing better alternatives exist to the south, further from current and future population growth of the Fargo-Moorhead metro area. I, along with my neighbors, will surely become active in opposing this route.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Burgum
Minnesota & North Dakota landowner