February 9th, 2010

David Birkholz, Project Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Birkholz,

Please consider this letter as formal public input on the EIS scoping for the CapX2020 Fargo to St. Cloud section of the 345 kV Transmission Line Project. My family owns property alone the Preferred Route submitted by the CapX2020 Project. This property is located in Otter Tail County, T131, R42, Sections 23 and 26. Included in our property is a remnant piece of native prairie and native oak forest and a 125 acre-lake undeveloped lake named after our family, Hansel Lake. The farm has been in the family for over 100 years.

We are obviously concerned over the various impacts this project may have to our property and request that they be thoroughly addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. These concerns are: impacts to native vegetation, impacts to the lake and wildlife and waterfowl use of the lake (would the lines interfere with flights of ducks, geese, loons and pelicans, all of which use the lake?), impacts to current and future property values, and finally, impacts to our use and enjoyment of the property. We hunt and recreate on this land and generate income from this land. Property value impacts are something I would particularly like to see explored. Easement purchases or condemnation values are based on comparable sales in the area and do nothing to compensate the landowner for long-term devaluation of property that a project like this would cause.

This property is protected by a scenic easement taken by MnDOT when the interstate was constructed. We hope that MnDOT will uphold this easement and not allow construction of the line on our property as my family has abided by the easement for the last 40 plus years.

Additionally, the alternative route submitted by CapX hardly seems like a good faith effort to identify a viable alternative. There are certainly many other existing road corridors that run straighter and more direct and that would not additionally dissect properties than the route they identified. The Highway 10 corridor would be one example. I suggest this route be explored as an alternative route. There are far fewer lakes and wetland resources along this highway than along I-94. The section of I-94 between Alexandria and Fergus Falls in particular has many lakes and wetlands and is very scenic. There are numerous public hunting lands in this corridor as well.

Another segment alternative that should be explored for the preferred route is indicated in the attached map. Running the line along Co. Rd. 26 to Hwy 59 or further to Co. Rd 1 back to where either intersect with I-94 would avoid many lakes and wetlands (including the large complex of Waterfowl Production Areas-Nickolson and Ten Mile Units- just west of exit 67) along I-94 between Ashby and Fergus Falls. The landscape just to the west is also much more open and flatter and has fewer lakes.

Please consider exploring these suggested alternative routes in the EIS document. On behalf of my

family and our family farm, I will continue to provide input for the remainder of the process.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hansel-Welch
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218-330-6950

cc: Charles and Karen Hansel, Blaine and Stacy Hansel, Suzanne Hansel, Aric Welch

CoRd 26 to Hwy 59
or
CoRd 26 to Co Rd 1

Snowmobile & Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail
Multi-Use Motorized & Snowmobile Trail
Multi-Use Non-Motorized Trail
Portage
Lake featured in a Sportsman's Connection® Fishing Map Guide Book
Lake
Designated Trout Lake
River, Stream
Canal, Ditch
Trout River, Stream
Intermittent Stream
Canoe Route
Mine Tailings
Rapids
Interstate Highway
U.S. Highway
County State Aid Highway
Rural Road
City Street
Unimproved Road
Interstate Highway
U.S. Highway
State Highway
Co. State Aid Highway
Co. Highways and Township Roads
Railroad
Power Line
Marsh
National Forest Boundary
State Forest Boundary
National Park Boundary
Indian Reservation
Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge Boundary
Counties
Municipal Boundaries
Wildlife Management Area
Waterfowl Production Area
State Game Refuge
Scientific Natural Area
State Park
Regional Park
County Park
Point of Interest
Hospital
Campsite
Mult. Primitive Campsites
Public Campground
Private Campground
Public RV Campsites
Private RV Campsites
Public Equestrian Campsites
Private Equestrian Campsites
Shelter & Campsites
Shelter
Boat Access
Carry-In Access
Fishing Pier
Houseboat
Marina
Golf Course
Downhill Skiing
X-Country Skiing
Dam
Lock and Dam
Lighthouse
Observ. Tower
Scenic Overlook
USFS or DNR Office
Airport
Seaplane Airport
Picnic Area
Wayside Rest Area
Rest Area
Parking
WMA Parking
Information Center
0
2.5
5
10 Miles
65