RE: TL-09-1056

February 10, 2010

Judge Richard C. Luis
Office of Administrative Hearings

Dear Judge Richard C. Luis,

The decision to run 175 foot power lines along our property is an abominable one at that. To even begin explaining why would require a much lengthier elucidation than such, so to start let me paint you a picture.

We have been looking for property like this since 1984 and finally found it on the edge of the Red River, only 5 miles south of the cities of Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN. For the past seventeen years our family has been the proud tenants, grooming this beautiful plot of land we enjoy calling home. We are protected from all sides by a growing variety of trees, wild berries and natural grasses's and appreciate the scenes surrounding wilderness has to offer. It is no rare occasion to have deer, wild turkeys or pheasants meandering across the lawn or on the inviting trails that have been carefully placed through the trees. We do not own lake property so an extraordinary amount of time, effort, and expense has gone into planning every detail of our yard from the curve of our driveway right down to the very last pine to make it as enjoyable and welcoming as possible with a picturesque view at any angle. We run a family business here as well and have a design studio in the center of this inspiring property.

Finding property like this in the prairies is a rarity. The areas away from the river are open prairie, so our trees and underbrush combined with our neighbor's woods south of County road 8 and west of us across the Red River sustain most of the deer and wildlife in our area including a family of bald eagles that nest in the center of all this, right on the proposed route. It provides us with secluded hunting and fishing opportunities for my family on our own property. Wooded hunting property has become very scarce and increasingly expensive to rent. To remove any amount of trees that took so long to develop would greatly affect the habitat, the natural view, and consequently our lifestyle. The proposed route could not have been picked more reckless.

As a Minnesota resident I should not have to worry about the more than obvious concerns that others have already written to you about. I feel anyone could understand quite well how the distracting site of power lines decimates a gorgeous view, reducing property value, or the constant hum ruins a quiet afternoon outdoors. Not to mention the fact that power lines are the latest targets for terrorism and vandalism. Also, we are well aware of the interrupting maintenance, safety issues, and damage to the environment. The business ethics are also in question. By not notifying anyone involved in North Dakota of this route till recently has already

created animosity towards their Minnesota neighbors. Most are convinced that attempts were made to quickly close the deal with the Minnesota commission so it will be easier to shove an established route onto them later.

Judge Luis, if any individual were to make public all the names and addresses of all those responsible for this, including their sons and daughters and organize a committee to create negative aspects to their homes and community so the group could profit, they would all be arrested instantly. And yet we all have to jump through all these worrisome hoops, in hopes of convincing a state commission not to authorize someone else from doing that very same thing to our homes and communities. My kids are watching me pleading with one man to stop another from tromping on our home and unlike high school; the only punch I get to throw is this humiliating letter. That is not how our time or what emanate domain should be used for. I read a lot of other people's comments and I understand the need for progress and systems, but with the way the economy is, why would anyone want to disrupt and hurt so many people across Minnesota and North Dakota right now?

Sincerely,

Clifford Enns
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