Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project Comments:

I have tried to approach the subject of the transmission lines from the vantage point of what's best for the people of Minnesota and the country, not what's best for my family. I've asked questions and tried to comprehend from a logical standpoint. I attended your St. Joseph meeting. But, I'm still struggling with why the lines need to veer more than 10 miles off the I-94 corridor.

As much as I try to be objective, this is a very personal matter and I do get emotional about it. My husband's ancestors settled here and created this family farm over 100 years ago. They struggled and suffered through tough times to make ends meet, just like many farmers are doing today just to hang on. Both my husband and I took jobs off the farm to pay for this "little piece of heaven". We live at the end of a dead end road – very peaceful and tranquil. Now this proposed route not only runs east/west through our land but also takes a 90-degree turn on our land and runs north/south. It appears that you try to avoid homes but to me this land is our home. And that state of tranquility will be gone forever with the transmission lines being built. The proposed route goes through our woods/swamp where it has become a tradition for our family and friends to enjoy the outdoors and deer hunting. It will disturb the ecosystem, nature and wildlife that I enjoy so much.

Many of the reasons why it was decided to veer off the I-94 corridor are the same reasons, many of us do not want it running through our land: disturbing the woods/trees, homes, bodies of water, access roads, etc. It's my understanding that you can't go across state land and rest areas, so why should you be able to go across land that so many have struggled to make payments and purchased? St. Johns, with the backing of many influential and affluent alumni, seems to have been able to succeed in getting the transmission lines routed away from their land. Now the rest of us have to suffer.

The proposed line runs through the path of the irrigation system that we've spent thousands of dollars on.

Also, in its path is the location we had picked to build our retirement home. Who would ever want to build near the lines? It concerns me with all the reports of increased health risks for people living close to the transmission lines.

Our land/property value will decrease. Ironically, we thought land was a solid investment, especially with the state of the economy right now. But, that won't be the case if the lines are built here.

I'm asking you to please reconsider following the previously established I-94 corridor and going underground when it's necessary. I understand that it will be more expensive in some respects but I'm sure that the customers will end up absorbing the cost. I feel this is reasonable that we all share in the cost, because in the long run all the customers will be share the benefits: I don't feel that so many rural land owners should have to sacrifice so much to enable everyone else to benefit.

Sincerely,

Lois Legatt