Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: JAMES & BARB WARNERT [jabaraha@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 12:15 AM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM); Eknes, Bret (PUC)
Subject: TL-09-1056 (Fargo to St. Cloud 345kv Transmission Line Project)

11 February 2010

Gentlemen,

As a landowner directly affected by the purposed preferred route, please consider the following comments.

Any new transmission routes should first utilize existing corridors and highway rights of way. The preferred route should remain as close as possible to the I-94 corridor. State- owned property should be used whenever possible since they are to be used for the benefit of the general public.

As purposed, the preferred route creates a new segment running West to East in Section 23 and 24 of St. Wendel Township in Stearns County.

This segment would locate a ROW within 100' of our home. The close proximity of the transmission line to our home is of great concern. The potential health risks as well as the stress of not knowing the long term effects of living so near to a transmission line of this type is unsettling. The potential for interference with our radios, phones, wireless internet service and television reception is also a concern. Route selection should avoid as many homes as possible and utilize open land areas to minimize health and nuisance issues.

The creation of this segment will also lead to the destruction and elimination of a much appreciated natural habitat and wooded buffer with neighboring homes. As a refuge to many forms of wild life, its loss would be contrary to the reason we chose this location to call our home of 20 years.

Compensation for these risks and losses is arguable. The establishment of the ROW through our property would eliminate any future use of a large portion of our useable land area. Because we are located along a waterway we are restricted as to what we can and cannot do with portions of our property. The loss of use of the area encompassed by the ROW would greatly impact our enjoyment of the property and greatly reduce the overall property value. The ROW would also establish an unwanted corridor for future utilities. A one-time present value compensation payment does not seem fair.

We are opposed to the preferred route crossing our property. We encourage the use of the existing route west and parallel to Stearns County Road 2 which continues SE and passes over Watab Lake. This is an established route of many years. If this is not possible, we then ask that open land parcels be considered so as to limit the destruction of wooded habitat, to minimize the impact on dwellings and to reduce the potential health risks that may affect those along the decided route.

Please include us on any mailings or electronic distributions regarding these concerns.

Thank You.

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