

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

6:00 p.m.

In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit and
Certificate of Need for the 115 kV Glencoe-Waconia
Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: E002/TL-10-249
E002/CN-09-1390

Clay Community Building
327 Elm Street West
Norwood Young America, Minnesota

I N D E X

	SPEAKER	PAGE
1		
2	Marilyn Maiser	3
	Rita Maiser	8
3	Matt Nicklaus	12
	Ron Middendorf	18
4	Bob Krautbauer	20
	Mark Buesgens	29
5	Mark Jacques	30
	Rob Miller	33
6	Melvin Raduenz	38
	Angela Jacques	41
7	Rita Maiser	45
	Marilyn Maiser	46
8	Bob Krautbauer	53
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 MR. BILL STORM: What I'll do is just go
2 by a show of hands. Is there anybody who wants to
3 make a statement or ask a question tonight? Just
4 raise your hand and I'll call on you.

5 Okay. We'll start with you. First, if
6 you can step to the mic. And just relax, state your
7 name.

8 MS. MARILYN MAISER: I haven't done this
9 before.

10 MR. BILL STORM: And spell your name.

11 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Okay. And we can
12 come back if we think of something else?

13 MR. BILL STORM: You can certainly come
14 back.

15 MS. MARILYN MAISER: All right. My name
16 is Marilyn Maiser, M-A-I-S-E-R. And I own a lot of
17 five acres between Norwood Young America -- about
18 half way between Norwood Young America and Waconia,
19 and it's on Rice Lake.

20 And they have the power lines right now
21 going through there and I brought a diagram
22 showing -- that the Carver County assessor's office
23 had done or the planning department had done for me
24 to show given all the easements for, of course,
25 railroad area, you know, that hard pack, but also

1 the utility line, and then from the highway, but
2 also a high water mark. It really encroaches on the
3 amount of area that -- this is a buildable lot and
4 so anything that could be done to move the power
5 lines further toward the road, the highway, would be
6 so appreciated.

7 Because the high water -- ordinary high
8 water mark right now is really reaching up into the
9 lot and is a very, very tiny footprint out of five
10 acres, it's only like one acre that's buildable, and
11 so that would really help. And I do have some
12 neighbors that own property on both sides that are
13 also interested in talking about that rerouting.

14 So either moving it close to the road or
15 moving it across the highway all together would be
16 positive in my view.

17 MR. BILL STORM: Xcel, do you want to
18 comment on that at all?

19 MR. TIM ROGERS: No. That's a great
20 comment. Thank you. We appreciate that type of
21 input. And I would like to make sure that, Bill, if
22 that's outside of our route width, then I guess
23 we'll take her comment and get it in your scoping
24 document. And we'll evaluate that and look at all
25 the potential impacts.

1 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Great. Because the
2 land also has a real small area that I would call
3 highland and then it drops down, there's a very
4 steep slope dropping to the -- you know, I can't
5 remember what that's called.

6 MR. BILL STORM: The floodplain?

7 MS. MARILYN MAISER: The floodplain. And
8 so that's another thing to think about, any
9 disruption up there, you know, it's possibly going
10 to irritate or disrupt the water possibly. I don't
11 know.

12 MR. BILL STORM: If I may, is this an
13 area where there's a current 69 line now?

14 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Yes.

15 MR. TIM ROGERS: Can you show me?

16 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Just north of Rice
17 Lake.

18 MR. TIM ROGERS: Marilyn, can you come up
19 and help me?

20 MS. MARILYN MAISER: (Indicating
21 throughout.) Here's Rice Lake. Oh, here. Yeah.
22 This is my lot. Here's our driveway, it's right
23 here. Where is the highway? Oh, there's the
24 highway. So my lot is where this -- it's right on
25 the edge. It's the buildable lot that's grey

1 colored between the trees, which is a residential
2 right now. So mine is a buildable lot and then
3 there's agricultural right now. But the high water
4 mark goes way up, really close, and there's a
5 picture of it.

6 So even though the lot is five acres,
7 only one acre in this little section right here is
8 buildable. And it's real skinny and narrow. And if
9 those are bigger and stronger power lines, I'm
10 concerned about the house having these so close to
11 it.

12 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. I think the
13 existing 69 line was originally routed along a
14 railroad line and so we're willing to evaluate a
15 change if it's the best land use. We're willing to
16 look at that.

17 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Okay. Thank you
18 very much.

19 MR. BILL STORM: What I'll encourage you
20 to do is, like Tim said, I will take this, we'll
21 incorporate it into the record as we move forward.
22 As I said, we'll be back out here for a public
23 hearing. I would encourage you to come to the
24 public hearing and let the judge know of your
25 concerns also. And that way we'll be further down

1 the process so you'll be able to see what I
2 developed in the record relative to this issue. And
3 you can then either comment more on my response to
4 you today or Xcel's response to you by the time we
5 get to that stage. But it is important that the
6 judge be aware of that also.

7 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Then I also have a
8 question, and that is: The power line increasing
9 the voltage now, what is the effect on -- you we're
10 talking about stray voltage and -- I mean, how far
11 away from a power line, like, would a house -- would
12 a homeowner want to have a home?

13 MR. BILL STORM: What the homeowner wants
14 is something that I can't really represent. If you
15 look at my draft scoping document, one of the things
16 I will be covering is EMF, stray voltage, and I will
17 talk about it generically. What is it, what is it
18 generically, what has been done nationally, and I
19 will also talk about specifically: This line will
20 have -- this is the potential that this line will
21 have relative to those issues of EMFs, relative to
22 the issue of stray voltage, relative to the issue of
23 human health.

24 So I can't answer your question tonight,
25 but I can tell you that that concept will be in my

1 scope and it will be fleshed out in the
2 environmental document.

3 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. RITA MAISER: I'm Rita Maiser,
7 M-A-I-S-E-R. And my property is in Waconia
8 Township, it is on the south side of Highway 5. My
9 property borders the Waconia West substation and
10 then goes west and joins Marilyn Maiser's property.

11 And my situation is similar where you
12 have the Highway 5 going roughly east to west and
13 then there's an abandoned railroad bed and then the
14 present electric line. And I also would request to
15 have the rebuilt line put possibly where that
16 railroad bed is because right now the electric route
17 line easement cuts through the property. And it
18 would just be more appealing for the property I
19 think to have an electric easement line going up to
20 the highway easement rather than dividing my
21 property.

22 And so I would request that if possible
23 the line be moved from the West Waconia substation
24 which would go through my property and then go
25 through the adjoining property. We have a similar

1 situation.

2 I'd like to say, too, is there any way
3 that you can -- need to make a formal request for
4 this or a letter or is this just something that --
5 by speaking tonight, does this put this in the
6 record for consideration?

7 MR. BILL STORM: By speaking tonight, it
8 definitely puts it into the record for
9 consideration.

10 MS. RITA MAISER: So we don't need to go
11 through a separate process to send a letter or fill
12 out a form or --

13 MR. BILL STORM: If what you're asking is
14 that the route that Xcel is requesting crosses your
15 property and you would like them to move the
16 alignment, where that's going to go within that
17 route, I think you've covered it.

18 But if you're asking that that route
19 actually be widen above and beyond what Xcel's
20 asking for, then I would ask that you provide that
21 in writing as an adjustment or an alternative
22 segment to the route.

23 MS. RITA MAISER: I guess I'm asking that
24 that it be moved to the north to the highway
25 easement, which is exactly what she's requesting.

1 MR. TIM ROGERS: Thank you. So what
2 we'll do is evaluate -- I think a map is really
3 helpful, Bill. And then we can evaluate is your
4 suggested realignment within the route width that
5 we've requested from the PUC. And if it is, then
6 you'll work with our land agent and us to kind of
7 microsite this alignment.

8 But if it's outside of the route width
9 that we've proposed in our application, then I think
10 Bill in his scoping document will ask us to evaluate
11 that.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yeah. If the change
13 that you're asking for pushes the alignment outside
14 of the route -- because there's concepts here.
15 There's a route. Because utilities always ask for a
16 route that's wider than what they need so they have
17 flexibility to move around. If somebody has an
18 apple tree and they don't want to bother it, that
19 sort of thing, to give them flexibility.

20 If what you're asking is, could you move
21 that alignment, if you're asking move it so it's
22 outside the route, what I would like then is -- I'll
23 break that out specifically on my scope as an
24 alternative route segment. For this bit of route,
25 I'm widening the route so we can push the alignment.

1 I'm not saying it's possible, I'm saying I will
2 evaluate it.

3 MS. RITA MAISER: So what's roughly then
4 the right-of-way there right now for this?

5 MS. MARILYN MAISER: What is the route
6 width?

7 MR. TIM ROGERS: We have two different
8 route widths that we're requesting in this
9 application. Where we have the new segment where we
10 don't have an existing line we've asked for
11 400 feet, and for an existing line we've asked for
12 200 feet to site the route. But --

13 MR. BILL STORM: To site the alignment.

14 MR. TIM ROGERS: To site the alignment.
15 But we're saying along the existing alignment we're
16 really trying to go right where it is right now.
17 But we need the flexibility if a gas line or an
18 archeological site or something pops up. As we
19 really get into the detailed engineering, we need a
20 little flexibility.

21 So I think our land agent and we can work
22 with you after this meeting to really see our route
23 width in your situation to help figure out if you
24 need to submit a letter to Bill.

25 MR. BILL STORM: And the right-of-way is

1 50 feet that's existing right now, right?

2 MR. TIM ROGERS: We have a variety of
3 easements. Some are prescriptive rights; some are
4 50-foot. We need to evaluate each of those
5 individually.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Yeah. I said
7 that just because I want people to understand the
8 concept of the applicant comes in with a route and
9 within that route when it's all done and said they
10 will have an easement and that easement is always a
11 fraction of the route.

12 They ask for the route so that they have
13 flexibility. Because if they came to me and said,
14 Bill, my route and easement are going to be the same
15 thing and they went through the process and they
16 permit it, they would have no flexibility down the
17 line if they run into somebody who said put it
18 behind my house, not in front of my house and they'd
19 be locked. They won't be able to do that.

20 Okay. Anyone else?

21 Sir, please step to the mic.

22 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Hi. Matt Nicklaus.
23 The last name is spelled N-I-C-K-L-A-U-S. I'm at
24 11795 Market Avenue up in Cologne.

25 A couple questions for you on the origin

1 of the power and then a couple of questions on the
2 poles. The Augusta substation has signs up that say
3 it's Minnesota Valley. I'm trying to understand the
4 connection between -- is Xcel tapping out of that
5 station or providing to that station, who owns that?

6 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: You'll find in this
7 area there will be a combination of service to
8 customers that are supplied by different utilities:
9 Xcel Energy, Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op. So
10 the Augusta substation is in fact owned by Minnesota
11 Valley Electric Co-op. It's on a line owned by Xcel
12 Energy and so they are receiving their power off our
13 transmission line.

14 So we operate the system as a combined
15 system of different utilities that work together to
16 make sure that their distribution substations, of
17 which Augusta is one of those, has the ability to
18 get power from the network of transmission lines and
19 can be delivered to customers.

20 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Okay. Thank you.
21 What is the origin of power that's feeding this
22 circuit, where does it feed into it?

23 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: Well, the power comes
24 from power plants, obviously. Since that's a co-op
25 distribution substation they get it from what they

1 call their G&T, their generation and transmission
2 company, I believe that's Great River Energy.

3 And then in that specific situation,
4 Great River Energy has a portfolio, a pool of
5 generating power plants that includes all different
6 types of power. So that network of generators feeds
7 into the transmission system and the power flows to
8 the customers of Great River Energy which are the
9 local co-ops, and then the local co-ops provide that
10 to their customers.

11 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Where does it come
12 into this span from Glencoe to Augusta?

13 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: Okay. The 69 kV line
14 is fed by a higher voltage system, which is a
15 115,000 volt. So on the west, that's a 115,000 volt
16 that comes into the city of Glencoe on the west
17 side. At Carver County, it's a 115 substation at
18 Carver County, at Scott County, at St. Bonifacius.
19 So those are the 115 kV service points into the 69
20 kV network.

21 Srinivas, did I miss any?

22 MR. SRINIVAS VERMURI: Nope.

23 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: Got it. All right.

24 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Thank you. Regarding
25 the poles, you said they're going to be taller in

1 height. I was wondering will the spans be further
2 apart between the poles?

3 MR. TIM ROGERS: We're trying to match
4 pole-per-pole so we expect the spans to be the same.
5 But, again, there's distribution under some so there
6 may be some micro-adjustments of spans. If a
7 landowner says there's a structure right in front of
8 my picture window, it's always bothered me, can you
9 move it a little bit? Well, moving that changes the
10 span, but in general, the answer is span lengths are
11 going to be about the same.

12 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: I also had a question
13 about what is the distance that EMF radiates from
14 this 115 kilovolt circuit. I think you said earlier
15 you're not answering that question tonight, but I do
16 have a question and I'd like to know what that
17 distance is.

18 MR. BILL STORM: The information I
19 believe is in the application and I can certainly
20 give you a copy of the application tonight. And we
21 will be tying that information over and the
22 application over to the environmental document.

23 But there is in the environmental --
24 there is in the route application a table that shows
25 you the EMF, the predicted EMF, under the line, 20,

1 30, 40, 50 feet, as you move away. I think it might
2 even be a graph, too, but I know there's a table in
3 there that provides that information.

4 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Can you say what the
5 distance is for that 115 circuit, how far it is?

6 MR. BILL STORM: Before you get to zero,
7 you mean?

8 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Yeah.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Not without looking at
10 the table.

11 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. We have some
12 copies of the application available tonight, and
13 it's table seven and I believe table five shows the
14 electric fields, table seven -- six shows the
15 magnetic fields, and its various segments of line
16 will give off a different field level. And then it
17 shows at zero feet, just below the center line, 25
18 feet out, 50 feet out, and 100 feet out, so it will
19 show you the value that far out and how it
20 dissipates.

21 We also have some brochures or literature
22 that help people understand EMF and the decisions
23 and concerns about that that I can put out on the
24 table.

25 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Okay. My last

1 question: Of the two colors of poles in those
2 pictures, I see a brown and somewhat of a blue or
3 light color. Has there been any study on which of
4 those is least visible?

5 MR. TIM ROGERS: A study, well, just my
6 opinion.

7 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Well, I don't want to
8 see those poles and right now the wooden ones suit
9 me perfectly. I'm just wondering which one of those
10 is least visible.

11 MR. TIM ROGERS: In general, Xcel, when
12 we design these projects, when we go through wooded
13 areas we try to use the darker weathering steel, it
14 tends to blend in better. But in a more urban
15 setting, the infrastructure, the galvanized steel
16 fits the other utilities and light posts and it
17 blends in better.

18 So we can mix and match. You're welcome
19 to tell us your preference for this area and we'll
20 take that into consideration. But we try not to do
21 mix and match, we try to have large segments.

22 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: The picture there of
23 the 115 volt circuit, can it be the brown, either
24 one, either color?

25 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yes.

1 MR. MATT NICKLAUS: Thank you.

2 MR. BILL STORM: Anybody else want to
3 speak?

4 Sir, step up to the mic. State and spell
5 your name, please.

6 MR. RON MIDDENDORF: I'm Ron Middendorf,
7 M-I-D-D-E-N-D-O-R-F. I'm on the County Road 51. I
8 was just wondering when the decision would be made
9 on where the line will be west or east of County
10 Road 51.

11 And I see there's a 400-foot construction
12 corridor on the west side and then a 200-foot
13 corridor shown on the east side, so I don't know if
14 that's a hint on which side of County Road 51 you'll
15 run that.

16 MR. BILL STORM: Go ahead.

17 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. We should have a
18 400-foot corridor along Highway 51 and that's from
19 the center line of the road. But we have some
20 distribution line on the west side, double phase.
21 And so we'll have a double circuit structure, it's
22 difficult to put a double phase distribution
23 under-built on that for a couple considerations:
24 Safety for the workers when they have to work on the
25 lines above, the distribution line is energized,

1 which is kind of a hazard. So at this point we're
2 thinking to put it on the east side of County 51.

3 MR. RON MIDDENDORF: Okay.

4 MR. BILL STORM: And your question of
5 when the decision will be made, we have two
6 processes: One takes about 180 days and one takes
7 six months, so I figure we're probably closest to
8 whatever the longer one of that is, so we're looking
9 at the fall before the hearing.

10 After we have the hearing and the judge
11 puts out her or his report, the record will come
12 back to me and then I will assemble the record and
13 present it to the PUC for them to make a
14 determination on: Did they prove the need, are they
15 going to get a CON, if they get a CON, and then the
16 route permit. And that decision on the route permit
17 determines where the line will go.

18 MR. RON MIDDENDORF: I would just say
19 that on the map, if I'm reading it correctly, it
20 shows more of the corridor shown on the west side
21 than on the east side, so I think it's a little
22 deceiving. The white shaded area, right?

23 MR. TIM ROGERS: That's correct. I think
24 the posters were put together during our first open
25 house and we hadn't really looked at distribution

1 and where we're going to locate it kind of early in
2 the process. But at this point right now in talking
3 with our transmission line engineers they're
4 thinking the best side of 51 is to the east.

5 MR. RON MIDDENDORF: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

7 Anyone else want to speak?

8 Go ahead, sir. Please state and spell
9 your name.

10 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Bob Krautbauer,
11 that's K-R-A-U-T-B-A-U-E-R. And I live along
12 Highway 5. And my concern is on that poster right
13 there, the brown one, you show three or two really
14 large evergreens right brushing up next to that
15 post. Shouldn't that be two stumps? I mean,
16 wouldn't you cut them up?

17 I find that poster very deceiving. How
18 far will you clearcut for that power line, how many
19 trees are you going to -- I mean, to what distance
20 will you cut the trees back?

21 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. That's evaluated
22 for the voltage of the line and the type of tree
23 that's growing and how often we need to come back
24 and trim. But in general, it's about 25 feet from
25 the conductor we need to keep clear.

1 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: So you're saying
2 those trees would really stay there on that picture?

3 MR. TIM ROGERS: This picture here, if
4 you look closely, the trees are in the background.

5 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: They're right up by
6 the highway. I mean, that's the most deceiving
7 picture I could possibly imagine and you're using it
8 to sell people on the beauty of your power lines.

9 The other question that I have is that
10 along Highway 5 we have the old railroad
11 right-of-way which is 100 feet and the power line
12 runs to the south of that right-of-way. And when
13 they ran the power line in Waconia along Highway 5
14 to move the power line out to the highway they
15 charged the individual landowner for every pole that
16 was moved out, as I understand, and it was a fairly
17 significant sum.

18 Now when you look to do this, if that
19 power line can be moved along the Highway 5
20 right-of-way, which is what most of the landowners
21 would prefer I would assume, would there be a charge
22 to move that power line post out like you did in
23 Waconia or would that be done at a no-charge basis?

24 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. I'm not sure what
25 happened at Waconia.

1 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: I don't know the
2 specifics of that either. But generally speaking if
3 a landowner asks for a change and to move something
4 then we charge them for it. But in this case, we're
5 already going to be coming in and making a change.
6 If through the process, the approval that Bill was
7 talking about, the final Commission approval says
8 place the pole here closer to Highway 5, that isn't
9 a charge to the landowner, that becomes the permit
10 that we've gotten from the regulatory commission.

11 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Okay. So that would
12 be done on a no-charge basis?

13 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: There would not be a
14 specific charge for the landowner because that was
15 approval we got from the regulatory commission.

16 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: To get back to the
17 cutting of the trees, the existing power line, what
18 is the cut-back that you use for your trimming, how
19 far back from the power line do you trim them?

20 MR. TIM ROGERS: That's handled by our
21 vegetation management and it depends on the type of
22 tree, how fast it's growing, and how often they want
23 to come back, if they want to trim a three-year
24 cycle or on a four-year cycle. If they want to come
25 back on a four-year cycle then they'll trim more.

1 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: If they want to come
2 back once every ten years, they'll just cut it off
3 or what? I mean, what do you mean "want to"?

4 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. We don't have a
5 ten-year --

6 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Who determines the
7 want?

8 MR. TIM ROGERS: Who determines the what?

9 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: The want. I mean,
10 you're saying if they want to come back every two
11 years or three years or four years, I mean, who
12 determines whose "want" is taken into consideration?

13 MR. TIM ROGERS: I have two Xcel people,
14 Brian Mielke is a land right agent who would like to
15 address this.

16 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: M-I-E-L-K-E.

17 Basically the bulk of that line -- and
18 I'm speaking to the bulk, I'm not going to speak to
19 a specific because I'd have to have the easement in
20 front of me, the bulk of that existing line is going
21 to be a 50-foot right-of-way, 25 on both sides.
22 That's what's typically cleared. And our vegetation
23 management is on a four-year cutting cycle. So
24 that's what you typically see.

25 I should point out that picture there

1 with the trees in the background, that picture's
2 from an existing transmission line. That's standing
3 today.

4 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Right. And you
5 allow trees brushing up that close to the pole?

6 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: It may be a poor
7 depiction in that because those are in the
8 background, they show -- seem closer than they
9 probably are.

10 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: There's very little
11 snow between that blacktop highway and the trees and
12 that post. I mean, it looks to be the same, that's
13 very deceptive.

14 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: My point being, the
15 right-of-way that we have today which we would be
16 trying to maintain for this rebuild, in most
17 locations is a 50-foot total, 25 from center. Now
18 those locations where we're closer to the road, we
19 don't need both sides because the road's on one
20 side.

21 What you'll see in bulk if we're
22 following the existing easement and the existing
23 right-of-way, in bulk, in general, you'll see
24 clearing about 25 feet both sides from the center.

25 There are allowances for danger trees as

1 well, meaning if you've got a pine tree that's --
2 I'm using crazy numbers, if you've got a 1,000 foot
3 tall pine tree that's 50 feet away from the line
4 that may fall, that may need to be cleared, too.
5 But in general, you'll see it 25 feet from center on
6 those locations where you have an existing line.

7 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Right. So my
8 concern is how much wider of a swath of trees you're
9 going to take with the new power line than what is
10 there today?

11 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: Tim, please correct me
12 if I'm stating anything incorrect.

13 I believe what we're trying to do is
14 reuse that existing corridor and that same width in
15 those locations that already exist.

16 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Okay. So you're
17 saying you wouldn't cut any more trees after that
18 new power line goes down than you would have with
19 the old power line?

20 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: Not beyond what the
21 current easement width or standards would be.

22 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: No, it's not saying
23 what your easement width is, I'm saying how far
24 would you cut the trees back. You're saying that
25 what you cut for the existing power line is the

1 exact depth you would cut back for the new power
2 line?

3 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: If the existing lines
4 have been properly maintained, yes.

5 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Okay.

6 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: We have instances
7 where in the past lines were not fully and perfectly
8 maintained to the edges of the easements. That has
9 occurred in the past.

10 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: So now you're going
11 to change that and now you're going to take it back
12 to the edge of the easement where you didn't in the
13 past?

14 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: It is possible that
15 that may happen, it already is in some locations in
16 the state. What's happened is there has been cases
17 where vegetation has not been properly maintained.
18 Those policies have been updated in the last seven,
19 eight years, and it's an issue that's been ongoing.

20 So I believe this corridor has been
21 properly maintained but without looking at a
22 specific location, I can't tell you that. And if I
23 was looking at a specific location, I'd probably
24 want vegetation management to go look at that rather
25 than me. But as a bulk policy of the clearing of

1 the easements will not change at all.

2 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: That doesn't really
3 give me a whole lot of comfort. When you bring
4 these pictures that show trees growing underneath
5 power lines and you talk about easements not
6 changing, 50 feet -- or you're not cutting back
7 50 feet, you're really -- to my way of thinking,
8 you're skirting the issue.

9 I have a specific question on my property
10 where we have a treeline or tree stand around our
11 property as a windbreak. And if you go off and cut
12 another 25 feet into there, well, then I'll have
13 Highway 5 showing into the property and the north
14 wind blowing right across my yard.

15 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: And that would be one
16 specific location I'd have to look at. If you're
17 talking about -- if we've got a pole standing here
18 (indicating) and we're clearing 25 feet over
19 already, we most likely don't need to do anything
20 different.

21 But if we don't, if your tree stand is
22 five feet from that pole, quite frankly without
23 being specifically standing there and looking at it,
24 that treeline should have never been five feet from
25 that pole depending upon the species that you have.

1 There are certain cases where that works.

2 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: I know every time
3 you come out to trim the trees we have a discussion
4 about what you're going to cut and how far you're
5 going to cut it back. So when you look to increase
6 the power line, I don't want to have that discussion
7 constantly.

8 And, you know, I've had you come in and
9 say and, well, you can do whatever you want and you
10 cut back whatever you want. And I've had to
11 correspondingly tell you no, I don't think that's
12 right. And I've had to actually have you show me
13 the standards because your drivers didn't have them
14 and they were just talking off the top of their
15 heads.

16 And so it concerns me as to the way you
17 operate and what liberties you'll take in cutting
18 back the trees. And that just speaks to the
19 environmental impact of, if we're clearing the
20 vegetation across -- around this power line, there
21 would be less environmental impact if we moved the
22 power line along Highway 5 where it should be and it
23 would be far less intrusive for the vast majority of
24 the landowners.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Thanks.

2 MR. BILL STORM: Anyone else want to make
3 a comment?

4 You do, sir. Again, please state and
5 spell your name.

6 MR. MARK BUESGENS: I'm Mark Buesgens,
7 B-U-E-S-G-E-N-S. I live at 13025 106th Street.

8 At the time the substation was built, it
9 was built at the time I owned a farm just east of
10 the substation and roughly 500 feet away from our
11 barn you might say. And my concern then was stray
12 voltage, and that's what I want to get on record
13 today is that we're still concerned about stray
14 voltage.

15 Because I said in ten years they were
16 going to double the size of that place, so I see
17 more trouble coming in another couple of years
18 because I see more of it every day, building and
19 doing stuff. And so I don't think this is the end
20 of the thing, there's more coming that we don't know
21 about.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

24 MR. TIM ROGERS: Could I ask a question
25 on what substation, sir?

1 MR. MARK BUESGENS: Right by Waconia on
2 Highway 5.

3 MR. TIM ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. MARK JACQUES: My name is
5 Mark Jacques, J-A-C-Q-U-E-S. I live just east of
6 284, off of 118th Street. We too are concerned
7 about the electromagnetic field and the easement
8 that I think was covered by Brian, it's a 400-foot
9 path intended. I would assume this line is going in
10 the same place that the existing line is?

11 MR. BILL STORM: The intention from Xcel
12 is that they want the new alignment to be right
13 where the existing alignment is.

14 MR. MARK JACQUES: The easement wouldn't
15 change, whatever that is, 50 feet?

16 MR. BILL STORM: That's my understanding,
17 correct.

18 MR. MARK JACQUES: How about that
19 electric/magnetic field, does that go beyond the
20 easement? I haven't looked at the charts.

21 MR. BILL STORM: I would have to look at
22 the charts to see what the EMF field is at the edge
23 of the right-of-way. But it's in the document, we
24 will be covering that issue both generically and
25 specifically in the environmental report. But there

1 are copies of the application on the table and in
2 the application there is a table that will give you
3 that information.

4 MR. MARK JACQUES: And has there been any
5 studies done on how this affects property values?

6 MR. BILL STORM: Well, if you look at my
7 draft scoping document, property values is one of
8 the items that I will discuss in the environmental
9 report. And what I'll do is speak of it of what we
10 know currently and there are many studies out there
11 that waffle on both sides.

12 And what the environmental document
13 does -- the environmental document is not a decision
14 document, it doesn't reach conclusions, it just lays
15 out the facts. And in those cases where there are
16 two sides to the fact, where if I look at five
17 studies and three of them say this and two of them
18 say that, I lay out here's what the studies are
19 saying. We will have the discussion of the effect
20 of the transmission lines on property values.

21 MR. MARK JACQUES: Okay. We talked 25
22 feet, is that from the center of the road or from
23 where those existing poles are? I thought I read
24 somewhere it was from the center of the road up to
25 200 or 150 feet either way?

1 MR. BILL STORM: There's the two concepts
2 again: There's the route which they're asking for
3 which usually is centering off a center line of a
4 road.

5 MR. MARK JACQUES: The road is what I
6 read.

7 MR. TIM ROGERS: When we look at -- yeah,
8 it's off the center line of the road is how we look
9 at our impacts and assessments, yes.

10 MR. BILL STORM: Of the route.

11 MR. TIM ROGERS: There may be along
12 Highway 5 since we're so far offset to the south
13 then we use the existing line. So it's kind of both
14 ways there, but the existing right-of-way along
15 Highway 5 and 25 we use the route width centered on
16 the existing line.

17 MR. MARK JACQUES: And your diagrams will
18 show where that pertains?

19 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yes.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Yes.

21 MR. MARK JACQUES: All right. Thank you.

22 MS. RITA MAISER: Can I come back, again?

23 MR. BILL STORM: Let's see if there's
24 anybody else.

25 Anybody back there want to speak?

1 Okay. Sir, state and spell your name,
2 please.

3 MR. ROB MILLER: My name is Rob Miller.
4 I'm at 13925 Highway 5. And Diane and I own
5 property next to these two ladies here (indicating).
6 We were also wondering about where the lines could
7 be moved in and out from where they exist now. We
8 have a power pole right now that sits right in the
9 front yard. I know it was covered a little bit
10 earlier about, you know, you could move them a
11 little bit further apart if you wanted to get that
12 pole moved out of our front yard if the lines cannot
13 be moved out further toward the highway.

14 Is there a certain distance, a half mile,
15 a quarter mile, from property to property if you
16 move a certain segment of this line further than the
17 alignment it presently is in, is there a certain
18 number of poles, a certain distance that you have
19 to -- need to be required to do this, or can you do
20 it from just one property, two properties, and then
21 come back into the existing alignment? Where are
22 your rules or regulations for that?

23 MR. BILL STORM: I'll try to explain how
24 it works in practice. On the alternative process,
25 the applicant only needs to put one route forward.

1 Okay. So they come with their route and you can see
2 their route.

3 What I ask people to do is if you have an
4 alternative route, a route that you think is better,
5 and so that may be going from the south side of a
6 road all the way to the north side of the road
7 outside of that 400-foot that they're asking for,
8 then I'd ask you -- so there's one thing. You can
9 say, Bill, here's a whole new route and you can put
10 that forth. Look at this whole new route, go along
11 212.

12 I know you guys love me to say that.

13 Why don't you just go along 212. Okay.
14 I'll look at that. But you can also say route
15 segment alternatives. So you can say from, I don't
16 know, I'm using a mile marker just as a linear
17 measure, but you can say from mile marker five to
18 mile marker 12 along Highway 5, I'd like to see you
19 cross the road and be on the north side, that's my
20 alternative segment.

21 Or you may say at the intersection of X
22 and Y here, I want you to follow -- and I'm making
23 words up -- follow Maclean up, Dallas over, and
24 Roger down instead of coming straight across. That
25 would be an alternative route segment. Okay. So if

1 you have that in mind, I'd like to see you bring
2 that forward.

3 Now the other thing you can do is as we
4 move through this process and I release the
5 environmental document and we go into the hearing,
6 you may say, you know, Roger, you've got a 400-foot
7 route going in front of my house and I have
8 something that's so sensitive to my property, you
9 have a pole in front of my window or I have an apple
10 orchard there, that I want you to put your alignment
11 on the northern extreme end of your route. I want
12 that to be a condition in your permit. So I don't
13 want you to change your whole route, I just want you
14 when you cross my property to cross my property
15 behind my house instead of in front of my house.

16 If you're still within the route, the
17 400-foot that they're asking for, that's just an
18 alignment decision. And you can request in the
19 hearing that that be a condition of the permit. I'm
20 not saying you're going to get it, because if your
21 rationale is, you know, I just don't want to deal
22 with it. But if your rationale is, you know, I'm
23 going to -- I have my approved plan to put my garage
24 here already, so could I have the permit have a
25 condition in it that requires you to be on the front

1 side of the house as opposed to the back side the
2 house.

3 Those things can be done and they don't
4 come out of scoping because we're inside of the
5 route already so we're talking about alignment
6 inside the route, but these are things you'd want to
7 impress upon the judge.

8 You know, at the hearing say, look, Your
9 Honor, for this reason I think the alignment -- I'm
10 okay with their route, they've got 400 feet, I'm
11 okay with that, but where their alignment is, I'm
12 not so crazy about where it crosses my property. I
13 want a condition that it's moved to the very edge of
14 my property.

15 And we usually see things like that in
16 property lines. I want it moved down the property
17 line where it crosses the property line or there's
18 some feature that I need you to avoid. You know,
19 but it can't just be because I don't like it. I
20 mean, it can't be a not-in-my-backyard reason, it
21 has to be -- there has to be some legitimate reason
22 there.

23 And it's not guaranteed. We try to
24 balance. Everybody has needs and we try to balance
25 the burden that we're asking people to carry with

1 the overall need that we have for power. And we try
2 to work -- again, that's one of the reasons why we
3 look at 400-foot routes when they only need 50 feet.
4 We try to look at the flexibility. How can we put
5 this line across your property that impacts you the
6 least.

7 MR. ROB MILLER: Just a quick question,
8 if the line could get moved down toward the highway
9 further, what's the closest a pole could be to the
10 highway, to the center of the highway?

11 MR. BILL STORM: One of the things we'll
12 have to do when -- now that it's on the record,
13 that's one of things that I will work with Tim on
14 this, in looking at that particular stretch that you
15 guys are talking about.

16 Because you guys will have an interest in
17 what you want to see done. MnDOT may have another
18 interest. MnDOT may say I don't want that pole
19 within our right-of-way, you can't put your poles
20 within our right-of-way, or you can't have your
21 blowout within our right-of-way. So there are
22 competing interests here and what I try to do is put
23 all of those competing interests on the table so
24 that the decisionmakers at the end can balance them
25 and make a decision.

1 MR. ROB MILLER: I think all of us would
2 like to see the line go across the other side of the
3 highway. There's an existing line there now,
4 whether that's a possibility or not, I just wanted
5 to go on record and say that that was what we'd like
6 to see.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: And we can certainly
9 look at that, you know, the possibility of that.
10 But, you know, I don't know the merits of either
11 side of that.

12 Yes, sir. Please state and spell your
13 name.

14 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: Melvin Raduenz,
15 R-A-D-U-E-N-Z.

16 I'd just like you to clarify, that map I
17 got by mail on 110th Street -- from Dairy Avenue to
18 along 110th Street to the east, earlier here I
19 looked at it when I come in, it shows it goes
20 diagonally along the railroad track. And you were
21 saying earlier in the meeting here this will go
22 along 110th Street, follow the old line. Which is
23 it going to be? Please clarify.

24 MR. BILL STORM: I'm going to need Xcel.
25 Do you want to grab a map from the back there, Paul,

1 and see if we can answer that question.

2 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: Section 16, I
3 believe it is. From Dairy Avenue going east on
4 110th Street. The existing line I believe is 110th
5 Street. Will it follow the existing line?

6 MR. TIM ROGERS: The existing line is on
7 the south side of 110th Street, and that's where the
8 rebuild will be.

9 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: Then the map was
10 wrong. The map I got shows it cuts diagonally at
11 about a 45 up the railroad track. That wouldn't
12 make sense. Then when they have to service the line
13 they'd have to go through cropland.

14 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah, I apologize. The
15 maps, there's a lot of different lines, it can be
16 confusing. We've got existing lines, there's roads,
17 railroad corridors, and I apologize if there's some
18 confusion.

19 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: It follows 110th
20 Street?

21 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yes, it will.

22 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: And then it will
23 stay probably in line with the existing poles?

24 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yes. That is our plan
25 to say within the existing alignment.

1 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: And then on township
2 property, not on my land?

3 MR. TIM ROGERS: I'm not sure in this
4 specific situation if it's on your property or if
5 it's on the --

6 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: No, it will be on
7 the township because it's on the grassland, so it's
8 not on farmable land. I'd appreciate that it stay
9 on the grassland where the existing poles are.

10 MR. TIM ROGERS: Our plan is to stay
11 with --

12 MR. MELVIN RADUENZ: Because nowadays
13 with the big equipment the farmers use, they don't
14 want to jog around the poles. They've got
15 20-some-row equipment. So to stay in the grassland
16 would be greatly appreciated.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. TIM ROGERS: Thank you.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Brian, did you have
20 something you wanted to add?

21 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: Really, the only thing
22 I wanted to say is I'd need to know specifically
23 where he's talking about to be able to evaluate
24 where the pole sits in relation to where the edge of
25 the road right-of-way is, that's all.

1 MR. BILL STORM: Anyone else?

2 You, Miss, back there. Again, state and
3 spell your name, please.

4 MS. ANGELA JACQUES: Angela Jacques,
5 J-A-C-Q-U-E-S. I live on 118th Street.

6 And I guess if I'm repeating, I
7 apologize, but as far as the deadline for comments
8 of March 23rd, now, I'll read the information on the
9 health hazards and stuff and probably won't
10 understand a thing about it, can you expand, can
11 anyone speak to what they know about the health
12 hazards before this deadline? Or are you saying
13 that in this when you go through this you're going
14 to have more detail coming in in another form?

15 MR. BILL STORM: When I produce the
16 environmental review document, the environmental
17 review document will look at the impacts of this
18 project. One of the impacts that we look at will be
19 health and safety, and the issues that surround
20 health and safety are EMF, stray voltage. That's
21 usually about it, EMF and stray voltage.

22 There also will be some language in there
23 if the line falls to the ground, we discuss what the
24 safety features are and how the line's shut off. So
25 there will be a safety section in the environmental

1 report that will talk generically about EMF and
2 specifically about EMF of this project.

3 Does that get you where you're going?

4 MS. ANGELA JACQUES: It does. My concern
5 is, and you talked about speaking to a judge or
6 something, but once this March 23rd deadline comes,
7 I'm wanting to know, do I need to go out and try to
8 find another route because I'm really concerned
9 about that but I wouldn't know it until after I read
10 this. Do we get to comment more after March 23rd on
11 this, is my question?

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yes. Excuse me. You
13 do, but let me qualify that so you're clear. If
14 you're concerned enough now with EMF -- I'm assuming
15 EMF is your issue. If I'm wrong, tell me. But I'm
16 assuming that's what most people are worried about
17 when we look at the health effects of the line.

18 The application contains that information
19 on EMF. The environmental report will contain
20 generic information on EMF and site-specific
21 information on EMF. And it will evaluate what we
22 know about EMF now and what the consensus is among
23 the scientific community of EMF and that consensus
24 relative to the values that we're predicting this
25 line will have. Okay. So that will be covered.

1 If you're of the mind that you're
2 hypersensitive to that issue or you believe that
3 issue is a concern for you and you look at how the
4 transmission line is coming in your vicinity, across
5 your property, you may want to say, Bill, I want you
6 to put the line up to the next quarter section or up
7 to the next half section and run that because I
8 don't want it near me.

9 That you need to get to me by March 23rd.
10 Send me a map and highlight, okay, I want you to
11 evaluate doing this to the line. Now, realize it
12 might not -- you might not get that, what you want,
13 because you may be pushing the line -- an example is
14 house counts. A lot of times we balance the burden
15 through house counts. This line will be within
16 70 feet of 100 houses; this route will be within
17 70 feet of five houses. Well, that's going to shift
18 it over here (indicating) because it impacts less
19 people. That's what we try -- that's what the
20 decisionmakers try to do, try to weigh the impacts
21 and try to pick a route that meets the need and
22 impacts as few people as possible.

23 MS. ANGELA JACQUES: Okay. That answered
24 that.

25 MR. BILL STORM: But if you want me to

1 look at alternative routes, alternative route
2 segments, you need to get that to me by the 23rd.
3 If you're okay saying, well, Bill, I trust you'll
4 cover the issue -- anyway, once the environmental
5 report comes out we will have a hearing. A judge
6 will be here and we will have a hearing. And that
7 will be another opportunity. I'll send everybody a
8 notice who signed up. Come, I'm having a judge come
9 and you can come and you can ask the questions
10 again. Or you can say, Bill, I'm reading your
11 environmental report and I don't agree with this
12 statement. You know, I don't agree with that, and
13 you can tell the judge I don't agree with this and
14 get your feelings on the record.

15 MS. ANGELA JACQUES: Okay. One last
16 question. There was some mention of everyone's --
17 the easements for the existing line can be different
18 depending on the property. What's the best place to
19 find out what the easement for the existing line is
20 across the road from me, the county or how do we --

21 MR. TIM ROGERS: Brian Mielke, can you
22 handle that, where would they -- can they work with
23 you?

24 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: Yeah. There's a few
25 different ways you can do it. The two simplest ways

1 are either to contact me or to look in your property
2 record. Any easement that's recorded is going to
3 show up in your property record.

4 If there's prescriptive rights, they
5 aren't necessarily recorded. In that case, I'd want
6 to work with you directly to see what's there, where
7 is it, and what's been done.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Brian, can you give her
9 your business card?

10 MR. BRIAN MIELKE: Yeah. Absolutely.

11 MS. ANGELA JACQUES: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

13 Anybody else want to comment? Okay.

14 MS. RITA MAISER: I just have a question.
15 I'm thinking on the north side -- I explained I'm
16 next to the Waconia West substation, Waconia
17 Township. What happens to the power lines on the
18 north side?

19 MR. BILL STORM: North side of Highway 5?

20 MS. RITA MAISER: Yeah, what happens?

21 MR. TIM ROGERS: Yeah. That line is not
22 affected by this project and I believe is a Great
23 River Energy line, a 115 kV.

24 MS. RITA MAISER: So it has nothing to do
25 with Xcel Energy?

1 MR. TIM ROGERS: No, it's not part of
2 this project. But it will come into play if we need
3 to evaluate moving our line to the north side of 5,
4 we'll have to evaluate is there even room to put the
5 two side by side.

6 MR. BILL STORM: State and spell your
7 name, again.

8 MS. MARILYN MAISER: That was
9 Rita Maiser. I'm Marilyn Maiser.

10 And I have two questions. Well, one is
11 an observation. I was driving along Highway 5 and
12 looking at the poles and I noticed that as you
13 approach Waconia, you know, on the west edge of
14 Waconia where there's a lot of new development and
15 it was mentioned that the power lines had been moved
16 out to the highway, they look like they're ten feet
17 from the highway. I mean, they're really, really
18 close to the road. They're actually right there in
19 the ditch. So just for the record, there are power
20 lines, really big massive steel power poles and
21 everything right there. And so that would be neat
22 if that was possible.

23 The second question is, you're talking
24 about this report, and maybe I came in too late,
25 when is -- the environmental impact report and

1 assessment, when are those going to be out for us to
2 look at?

3 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. The comment
4 period closes on the 23rd. I think I have scheduled
5 on the 1st to put -- what happens is the comment
6 period closes and I get all the comments I get, and
7 I get them from state agencies, I get them from
8 local units of government, and I get them from the
9 citizens.

10 I look at them and I try to assemble a
11 table of contents for my environmental document. I
12 do that and I attach a memo to my Commissioner
13 explaining what I received and why I'm making the
14 determination I'm making.

15 He looks at that and he either agrees
16 with me or he doesn't. We go back and forth, but he
17 eventually signs it. I'm hoping to have that done
18 by April 1st, or is it the 4th?

19 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: The 15th.

20 MR. BILL STORM: The 15th. I'm sorry.
21 I've got like four projects I'm working on. By
22 April 15th I hope to get the Commissioner to sign
23 that. Of course, I'll be sailing so somebody will
24 have to do it in my office for me. But anyway, then
25 to get the environmental report done: Probably

1 60 days after that. And what I'll do is when I'm
2 done with it, I will send everybody a notice that's
3 signed up for my project list. And I will send you
4 a notice saying, hey, this document is available,
5 here's where you can see it electronically, here's
6 the library I put it in, and if you want your own
7 copy, let me know, I'll get you a copy out.

8 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Okay. Thank you.
9 Every time somebody mentioned EMF, and you made the
10 reference to look at a few copies of the proposal
11 over here, the plan, and that the effects are in
12 tables, I think you said five, six, seven, or
13 something like that. Are there certain tables that
14 we can look at and see --

15 MR. TIM ROGERS: Not the effects -- I'm
16 sorry.

17 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Oh, not the effects,
18 the --

19 MR. TIM ROGERS: The values.

20 MS. MARILYN MAISER: The values and how
21 they -- so can anybody just say something, you know,
22 in general when you go from a 69-kilovolt to a 115,
23 what is the -- does it double the EMF within a ten
24 foot, 20 foot, or 100 foot distance? I mean, is
25 there a general idea, is it relative? You have

1 almost doubled, you put in 50 more kilovolts --

2 MR. BILL STORM: I don't think --

3 I'm sorry, I'm doing it to you now.

4 A lot of it depends on what they expect
5 the peak capacity of that line to be. Just because
6 it's a 115, various 115s can operate at various
7 capacities. Your EMF is related to the amperage
8 that's going down the line.

9 What they've done in their application
10 and what we will carry over into the environmental
11 document and enhance, if they say this is what we
12 predict this line to operate at, and given that,
13 this is what the models show the EMF will be at 10,
14 20, 30, 40, 50 feet.

15 I don't know the numbers off the top of
16 my head. I certainly don't feel comfortable --
17 maybe somebody in Xcel will, I don't feel
18 comfortable saying generically if you go from a 69
19 to a 115 you're double. I don't think it works that
20 way. I'm not an electrical engineer, I'm an
21 environmental engineer.

22 So if Xcel wants to --

23 MR. TIM ROGERS: There's a lot of
24 variables that are inputs into these models. So,
25 you know, it depends on if there's distribution, if

1 it's a double circuit. There's a lot of variables
2 to say such a general statement.

3 MR. BILL STORM: As an example, the way
4 the lines are situated on the poles will have an
5 effect, so there are a lot of variables.

6 MS. MARILYN MAISER: And is there a
7 certain distance where, say, 90 percent of the EMF
8 is gone? I mean, is there something like you're
9 going to have very little change in EMF or very
10 little amount additional at a certain distance? So
11 I'm saying, can you give us any idea of like
12 typically at 50 feet away you're going to have
13 almost nothing or at --

14 MR. TIM ROGERS: We have some very good
15 brochures that have nice charts and tables that Xcel
16 put together and then by the National Institute of
17 Occupational Safety, I believe, that show the
18 distance out where the magnetic field decreases and
19 it's similar to a value you would find in your home.
20 So that type of information is in this brochure and
21 this (indicating). So it gives you a good reference
22 on EMF and you're welcome to these.

23 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Thank you.

24 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: If I might, just to
25 give people perspective because there's enough

1 questions about that, I'll just read you one line
2 from the table so you've got a sense. Again, as we
3 said, it varies based on how the line is designed
4 and how the line is operating, how much power is
5 being carried on the line.

6 But I'll just read one line and give you
7 a comparison. This one says: If you were standing
8 right underneath the line and it's operating at
9 115,000 volts -- so that's the project we're talking
10 about, it's measured in a unit that's called
11 milligauss. It's the measurement of the field
12 strength. So right underneath the line it says 8.17
13 milligauss.

14 Okay. If you go to the edge of the
15 right-of-way since we've got 25 feet on either side,
16 that drops from that 8.17 down to 4.39. If you move
17 another 25 feet away, it goes down to 2.02. So as
18 you can see it's dropping off significantly.

19 Now, I don't know if any of you are very
20 knowledgeable of what a milligauss is and what it
21 means, so as Tim said we've got this document here
22 that has a table in here that gives you some
23 comparison. For example, it says a clock, if you
24 were standing one foot away from a clock -- is there
25 one in this room? Oh, there it is. So if you were

1 standing one foot away from there you'd be exposed
2 to about -- it looks like about 15 milligauss, so a
3 lot more than what I just read to you what the
4 numbers were.

5 If you were standing in front of your
6 microwave at one foot away waiting for that potato
7 to finish cooking, you'd be about 70 milligauss.
8 So, again, orders of magnitude larger than that's
9 designed here as shown in these.

10 Now, again, if you go down this table
11 you'll see some instances where that number is going
12 to be eight right underneath. If you're operating
13 with higher loading on it it might be 26 right under
14 the lines. So, again, the power lines that are out
15 there have various field strengths based on design
16 and how much power is on them. But all of them,
17 they drop away significantly as you get away from
18 them.

19 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Yeah. That's what I
20 wanted to hear. Thank you.

21 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: Again, don't just
22 believe me, there's stuff here for you to look at,
23 there's our little brochure and this document there
24 that's more generically produced.

25 MS. MARILYN MAISER: Thank you.

1 MR. BILL STORM: Any other questions or
2 comments?

3 Yes, sir. Please state and spell your
4 name again, please.

5 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Bob Krautbauer,
6 K-R-A-U-T-B-A-U-E-R.

7 So you said that the rating would be
8 based on how much power was going to go through the
9 line, the anticipated rate that power line will be
10 used there. So if it was going to be running at 50
11 percent of capacity, that's what all your figures
12 would be?

13 MR. BILL STORM: In the data what we
14 usually show, we usually show the planned operating
15 capacity of the line, and then I usually also then
16 show taking it up to the line to the ordinary
17 determinant of failure. Because you can only push a
18 line so far, so tell me, give me the data of what
19 you plan on running the line, then give the data up
20 to the point where you can't operate the line safely
21 anymore because it would be a lot more, just to give
22 people an idea of if they push this line -- which
23 they wouldn't do -- if they push this line to
24 120 percent, here's what the level would be.

25 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Right. Because your

1 plan is to draw more -- to be prepared to supply
2 more and more power to the other end of the line,
3 right?

4 MR. BILL STORM: I don't have a plan.

5 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: So today their plan
6 or whatever their request would be is they would put
7 a certain amount through, but they have an
8 anticipated rate that that would increase over
9 umpteen years. And they look and they say, well,
10 development would dictate that we expect it would be
11 at this rate in five years and at this rate in ten
12 years. Is any of that being communicated or are we
13 just looking at what we're anticipating the line to
14 be today?

15 MR. BILL STORM: The way I look at it is
16 I provide the information for how they plan on
17 operating the line and what they could maximally
18 operate the line at. Because once they're beyond
19 what they could maximally operate the line at, then
20 they're talking about bringing a whole new line, you
21 know, a 230 or 345 or something.

22 I mean, I can't speak for them, but I
23 can't speak for Xcel on how -- if they even look at
24 it that way.

25 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: The table that we

1 produced and put in this document it shows what to
2 expect on average in 2015, the year 2015, what to
3 expect at peak times during 2015. And then it looks
4 at the year 2025, so another ten years down the
5 road, what's the peak to expect at that time. So it
6 does give a sense of how it's expected to change
7 over time.

8 MR. BOB KRAUTBAUER: Right. And I would
9 just state too that the table seems to be a little
10 deceptive in that you're saying you'd stand in front
11 of a microwave and you'd get like 28, or whatever it
12 was, units of electrical, but you're only in front
13 of the microwave for three minutes.

14 If you're living within a range if you're
15 getting hit with four, you're getting hit
16 constantly. All the while you're there it doesn't
17 let up. So it's the not like you're in front of the
18 clock and get eight and then you walk away and then
19 you're not getting anything anymore. You know, here
20 you're talking living with a certain level of
21 constant bombardment of that type, you know, that's
22 above what would be there if the line didn't exist.
23 So it's the difference between constant exposure and
24 intermittent exposure by having walked passed
25 something.

1 MR. PAUL LEHMAN: You have a valid point
2 there.

3 MR. BILL STORM: When I write my
4 environmental document I usually include chronic and
5 acute exposures. So the chronic exposure is usually
6 coming from occupational work, people who are
7 working around it all the time, so you get some
8 climbing exposure as opposed to a short-term acute
9 exposure. That will be covered in the environmental
10 document.

11 Any other comments or questions?

12 Okay. Remember for scoping to get your
13 comments to me relative to the scope of the
14 environmental document, what you would like to see
15 in the environmental document and alternative route,
16 alternative route segments. I need to have that by
17 Wednesday, March, 23rd, end of business.

18 And you can mail, e-mail, fax, use your
19 own stationery, use what I provided. And there's
20 also an electronic way to comment. If you go to our
21 docket page, you'll see a little comment on the
22 project, it's a drop-down box that will show you
23 projects that have open comment periods, this
24 happens to be one of them of course. You click on
25 that and just fill out the form.

1 Okay. I want to thank everybody. My
2 business card is on the table. If you have any
3 questions, feel free to call me. Suzanne is the
4 public advisor this project for the agency. If you
5 have questions about the procedure, please feel free
6 to call her.

7 (Public comment concluded.)
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25