From: Kelly Ekart
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Xcel"s Hiawatha Project- Citizen Commentary (PUC Docket No. CN-10-694)
Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 3:22:19 PM

Greetings,

I am grateful for this opportunity to provide my commentary regarding Xcel's Hiawatha project, planned for my neighborhood. First, I would like to say that I consider this space for citizen commentary and court representation vital to a healthy democracy. I only wish that Xcel had been required to provide funds to pay for the translations, projector rentals, photocopies, time and other considerations which are necessary to properly letting the citizens of MN learn about this process and how they can participate. Especially with NRP funds effectively stolen from neighborhood coffers, it has been left to concerned citizens to take these expenses and time onto themselves. I myself helped flyer and provided childcare so that our neighborhood could hold meetings to share this information with all our citizens, including those that speak primarily Somali and Spanish. NO ONE I spoke with- hundreds- had heard of the project. Many were concerned- and many couldn't come because this meeting was a last minute effort by busy citizens who had to pull everything needed out of the seat of their pants. More cooperation and funding from the corporation in question- Xcel in this case- would significantly improve the opportunity for citizens to truly learn and represent themselves.

That said, I think that the most important message for me to share with you is that we MUST include the testimony of all those citizens who have given their time and energy on researching and sharing their views over the course of this ENTIRE routing/citing process. Many folks have supplied testimony and are unaware that they need to do so again, to you, in this format, for those comments to be included in court records. This is unjust. **The folks at hearings and other stages of this process have already given their time and commentary and deserve to have their commentary counted in court.**

That said, what concerns me most about the proposed Hiawatha project isthat MN is willing to spend so much time and money on old, unclean technology- landing it an area full of children and one that is already shouldering more than its share of unclean technology- rather than

focusing on the future, and the sustainable energy practices that we will all need in order to survive. If MN wants to be a leader, we need to put our energy funds into sustainable, clean, healthy energy.

Below are a list of additional community concerns which I fully support:

-When evaluating alternatives, the long term payback and economic impact should be considered rather than just upfront costs.

-Externalized costs of the project should be included rather than only monetary costs, including health and environmental implications of the lines.

-Include Environmental Justice implications of the project in ER, considering the disproportionate impact of environmental toxics borne by Phillips residents who are majority low-income, indigenous and people of color.

-Realistic magnetic field modeling should be included based on the *capacity* of the line.

-In order to effectively assess alternatives, each alternative strategy needs to be evaluated as

part of a comprehensive package rather than singly.

and again-

-Since many area residents submitted comments during the routing/siting process, including many comments about need and comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, all of these comments should be included in the CON process.

-When evaluating what's possible, national best practices, e.g. highly effective case studies, should be used rather than only Xcel's programs which have relatively low adoption rates.

Please! Help MN and East Phillips healthy! Keep Xcel accountable! Choose sustainable practices over unhealthy ones! And keep high voltage power lines OFF the Greenway and away from my neighborhood's children!

Thank you,

Kelly Trius
1870 26th St. E
Minneapolis, MN 55404