From: Emily Moore
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Comments on PUC Docket No. CN-10-694
Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:34:41 PM

Hello, Mr. Storm,

I am a Minneapolis citizen who values and uses the Midtown Greenway and spends enough time in the Phillips Neighborhood to understand the environmental justice issues plaguing the people who live there. I spend time with the Native American residents of Little Earth of United Tribes and have become acutely aware of the pollution generated from all the traffic surrounding the community, which add to other sources, such as arsenic, that were already there before the traffic became so heavy. It is unethical to ignore the cumulative impact of a power line through the community on top of the other sources of pollution affecting the community. Although not firmly proven, studies of the adverse effects from high-voltage power transmission are clear enough to call for precautionary action.

The other concern I have is that with so many opportunities to conserve energy by helping businesses in the neighborhood benchmark and recommission their buildings, I find Xcel's approach to be far less than adequate to address the huge problems we face - energy independence and dealing with climate change. Xcel has a recommissioning assistance program and has done a good job with some companies, but when you consider the vast number of businesses that need assistance, you realize that the company's efforts are in no way adequate. With these concerns in mind, I offer the following comments:

1. When evaluating alternatives, consider the long term payback and economic impact rather than just upfront costs of each alternative. Consider also environmental costs and benefits.

2. 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.

3. Please include the externalized costs of the project in your consideration, rather than only monetary costs. The externalized costs include health and environmental implications of the lines and of the less-than-adequate energy conservation efforts.

4. Consider the disproportionate impact of environmental toxins borne by Phillips residents who are majority low-income, indigenous and people of color, as noted above.

5. Evaluate each alternative strategy as part of a comprehensive package rather than singly, in order to assess the alternatives effectively.

6. Search for national examples of highly effective programs rather than relying only on Xcel's programs which have relatively low adoption rates, as stated earlier. Xcel needs to adopt a can-do attitude toward alternatives instead of resisting the community's efforts to find alternatives and trying to prove that what the company wanted in the first place is the only feasible alternative. Many other electric utilities are seeking a much more progressive approach.

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