From: kelly@zrsfossils.com
To: Storm, Bill (COMM);
Subject: Savanna Rebuild Project EA Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 2:34:23 AM

Bill Storm
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Comments regarding PUC Docket No. TL-10-1307

Dear Mr. Storm,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental assessment for the proposed 115 kV Savanna transmission line rebuild project. As I mentioned at the May 18th, 2011 scoping meeting held in Wright, my seven siblings and I hold joint ownership of four forty-acre parcels of land along the west side of the Stremel Road that would be negatively impacted by the proposed placement of the new transmission lines if rebuilt even further west beyond the present lines situated on our family's property. I have summarized my concerns below.

First and foremost, my family has established a sacred memorial site placed in the tamarack forest on our property which would most likely be cleared to make way for this transmission line rebuild project. Our family established this memorial to honor and remember our deceased brother, Gerald Lund, who died in 2004 by suicide at this woodland site as a result of his mental illness. Throughout the last two years of my brother's life, he struggled not only with this hideous biological brain disease, but also with the ramifications of the failures on the part of county and state officials who failed to follow Minnesota law directing services for mentally ill citizens with proper agency response and appropriate care. The Minneapolis Star Tribune declared my brother the poster boy for what could (and did) go wrong in the scope of treatment and handling of those inflicted with schizophrenia and persistent mental illnesses in the state of Minnesota. (See article *http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/New!/JoinUs/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=435&Itemid=218*) Our family relentlessly strived to help our brother throughout the nearly two years of his incarceration in county and state facilities, when finally a concerned judge in St. Louis County took an in-depth look into my brother's case and ordered my brother to be released from detention and receive proper hospitalization and treatment. Gerald was suddenly discharged to our family's care without any medication, nor with any treatment plan, money or anything to his name. This

information may seem off-task to the issue of the proposed Savanna transmission line rebuild, however, for those of us who knew my brother understand that this tamarack forest where Gerald ended his living trauma was his special place of respite -- in fact this forest was his favorite place of retreat on the Lund farm's entire 260 acres. Which is precisely why he chose to find peace in this very personal and private place in his world. After all that our family has gone through via our struggles to help our brother receive the appropriate hospitalization and treatment he deserved for his illness - along with county and state services failures, and Gerald's subsequent death, it comes across as a final insult that this special, private memorial space in the tamarack woods on our family farm should be cleared or disturbed in any way for the expansion of yet another power transmission line through our family property. My understanding is that, as written, the proposed route request for the rebuilt transmission line is for an area 300 feet wide entailing 150 feet either side of the existing transmission line centerline. This would involve the clearing of this forested tamarack area on our property -- running in very close proximity to or including our family memorial site for our brother Gerald. In either case, the disturbance to this memorial site would be devastating to our family. On this special Memorial Day, I am respectfully requesting that this will not be allowed to happen.

Our family has owned this property for nearly seventy years -- many of which I recall my parents lamenting the number of trees that were destroyed with the establishment of the transmission line presently situated throughout the back eastern and northern sections of our property. Clearing and re-clearing of the subsequent tree growth has aesthetically marred these portions of our land throughout all of these years. Now the proposed right-of-way easements indicate that even more extensive claiming and clearing of our woodlands and other properties lay ahead for our farmland. I would like to propose that this new transmission line rebuild project provides an opportunity to consider other potential alternative routes to be explored to carry this increased power supply. If indeed the line needs to be rebuilt at this time along the Stremel Road, perhaps the eastern side of the Stremel Road would prove to be a more viable and equitable route to consider, rather than encroaching even further yet onto the Lund farm. I am aware that the state of Minnesota owns certain sections of properties along this side of the Stremel Road -- perhaps making it less intrusive and challenging to access right-of-way for the proposed transmission line.

It is also my understanding that our property situated on the furthest north side and bordering both the Stremel and Parantala Road corner, would essentially be cleared from the north as well as from the east to accommodate the new route. So essentially it sounds as if the clearing of our woodlands will be double the amount on this section of our property. I would also like to propose that the opposite (north) side of the Parantala Road be considered for this line. I have

been told that the location of the Van Buren cemetery presents some concerns, however, it seems likely that viable solutions may exist to solve problems presented by the cemetery location.

Additionally, my family has been in the process of trying to regenerate white pine growth throughout this portion of the Lund farm -- having already planted hundreds of white pine in the same area affected by the new transmission line rebuild proposal. There has also been discussion by some family members of building a retirement home near the waterway (stream) on the eastern border of our property near the Stremel Road in the older-growth wooded area. This proposed transmission line would definitely negatively impact any such construction plans.

Upcoming plans also underway for our family farm involve the grazing of cattle throughout the eastern property sections of our land -- which includes the area proposed for the Savanna transmission line rebuild project. Concerns for the potential EMF health hazards and obvious safety factors for animals and humans alike are issues of concern and underscore additional reasons for us to object to the present proposed route rebuild as well.

It also still remains a mystery to me as to how an area that is essentially experiencing zero population growth can require such a substantial increase in demand for electric power. Is it possible to examine this actual claimed need in greater detail?

I realize that Great River Energy and Minnesota Power are coal-generated power suppliers. I am curious about how the Savanna 115kV Project proposal falls in line with compliance related to Minnesota laws created through the Next Generation Energy Act and other federal laws related to reducing carbon emmissions. Can more details be provided on this subject?

For the reasons stated above I am declaring my obvious objections to the 115 kV Savanna Rebuild Project as proposed. I am further requesting that reconsideration be given to the alignment of this proposed route to a different location other than the western side along the Stremel Road and through the Lund farm property. Perhaps considering the eastern side of the Stremel Road would be a more viable option to explore if this proposed Savanna transmission line rebuild project is indeed deemed essential to meet electrical demand in the northern Minnesota communities affected by this proposed project.

I enjoyed meeting you at the recent public meetings in my northern Minnesota home area. Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on this proposal and for your attention to my issues of concern. I look forward to additional conversations and information related to this proposed Savanna HVTL project.

Sincerely,

Colleen (Kelly) Lund
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Burnsville, MN 55337