

Appendix D

Public Correspondence

D-1

List of LGUs Sent a 90-Day Project Notice Letter/90 Day Notice Letter

APPENDIX D-1
List of LGUs Sent a 90-day Project Notice Letter

Agency/Group	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
Hennepin County Board – Districts 7 and 2	August 23, 2010
Hennepin County Department of Research, Planning, and Development	August 23, 2010
Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services	August 23, 2010
Hennepin County Department of Public Works	August 23, 2010
Hennepin County Office of the County Administrator	August 23, 2010
Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation Districts 3 and 5	August 23, 2010
City of Plymouth	August 23, 2010
City of Medina	August 23, 2010
Providence Academy	August 23, 2010
Greenwood Elementary School	August 23, 2010
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	August 23, 2010
Elm Creek Watershed District	September 1, 2010
Bassett Creek Watershed District	September 1, 2010
Shingle Creek Watershed District	September 1, 2010
Three Rivers Park District	September 1, 2010



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

Date, 2010

Name
Position
Agency
Street/PO Address
City, MN Zipcode

**Re: Notice of Proposed Hollydale Project
Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, MN
Xcel Energy, Inc./Northern States Power Company**

Dear Ms. / Mr. ____:

Xcel Energy, Inc. (“Xcel Energy”) is planning an electric transmission project located in the cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota, as indicated on the attached **Figure 1**. The project is referred to as the Hollydale Project and involves rebuilding certain existing transmission lines, modifying certain substations, constructing a new transmission substation and connecting to the distribution system. The Project is needed to address electric distribution concerns, to provide increased distribution capacity, and to avoid feeder circuit overloads in the Plymouth area distribution delivery system.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of Xcel Energy’s plan to obtain a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”) for the proposed Hollydale Project and request your comments. This notice is also required under Minnesota Statute § 216E.03, subd. 3a and 3b to allow each local unit of government within the proposed route area the opportunity to meet with Xcel Energy to discuss the Hollydale Project prior to filing a Route Permit Application (“RPA”).

Description of the Project

A Project map is attached for your reference (see **Figure 1**). The Project location is further described in the following table.

Township	Range	Sections	City Name	County
118N	22W	9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19	Plymouth	Hennepin
118N	23W	13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24	Medina	Hennepin

Xcel Energy proposes to modify the existing Great River Energy (“GRE”) Medina Substation and the Xcel Energy Hollydale Substation, rebuild an approximate 8-mile long existing 69 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line to 115kV extending from the Medina Substation to the Hollydale Substation to a new transmission substation yard (to be called Pomerleau Lake Substation), construct the new Pomerleau Lake Substation with a line tap to an existing GRE 115kV line, and modify the Medina Substation by adding a 115kV line and convert the Hollydale Substation to 115kV.

The rebuilt line will include distribution underbuild from the Hollydale Substation to where the transmission line turns north (at a point located east of the Hollydale Substation). New right-of-way (“ROW”) will be needed for the new Pomerleau Lake Substation and the new 115kV transmission line connecting Pomerleau Lake Substation to the existing GRE line, depending upon the location of the new Pomerleau Lake Substation. New ROW may also be necessary for the rebuild segment of this Project.

Permitting Requirements

The proposed new 115kV transmission line meets the definition of a High Voltage Transmission Line (“HVTL”) under Minn. Rules Chapter 7850.1000, subp. 9. A Route Permit is required for the Project, for which Xcel Energy will apply.

A Certificate of Need (“CON”) is not required for the Project because it is not classified as a large energy facility (“LEF”) under Minn. Stat. §§ 216B.243 and 216B.2421, subd. 2(3). While the Project is a HVTL with a capacity of 100kV or more, it is not more than 10 miles long in Minnesota and it does not cross a state line. Therefore, Xcel Energy will not apply for a CON for this Project.

The Route Permit proceeding will determine where the proposed facilities will be located. As part of the permitting process, the MPUC considers input from the applicant utility, interested stakeholders, local government units, state and federal agencies, and landowners who may be affected by the Project. Xcel Energy plans to submit an application for a Route Permit for the Project to the MPUC within the next several months. Additional environmental review will occur during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts, and provide the opportunity for the public to comment.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 3b, you may request a pre-application consultation meeting regarding the proposed Project within 30 days of receiving this notice. Please review this information and provide any comments, questions, or concerns you may have regarding the proposed Project, or if you would like to request a pre-application consultation meeting.

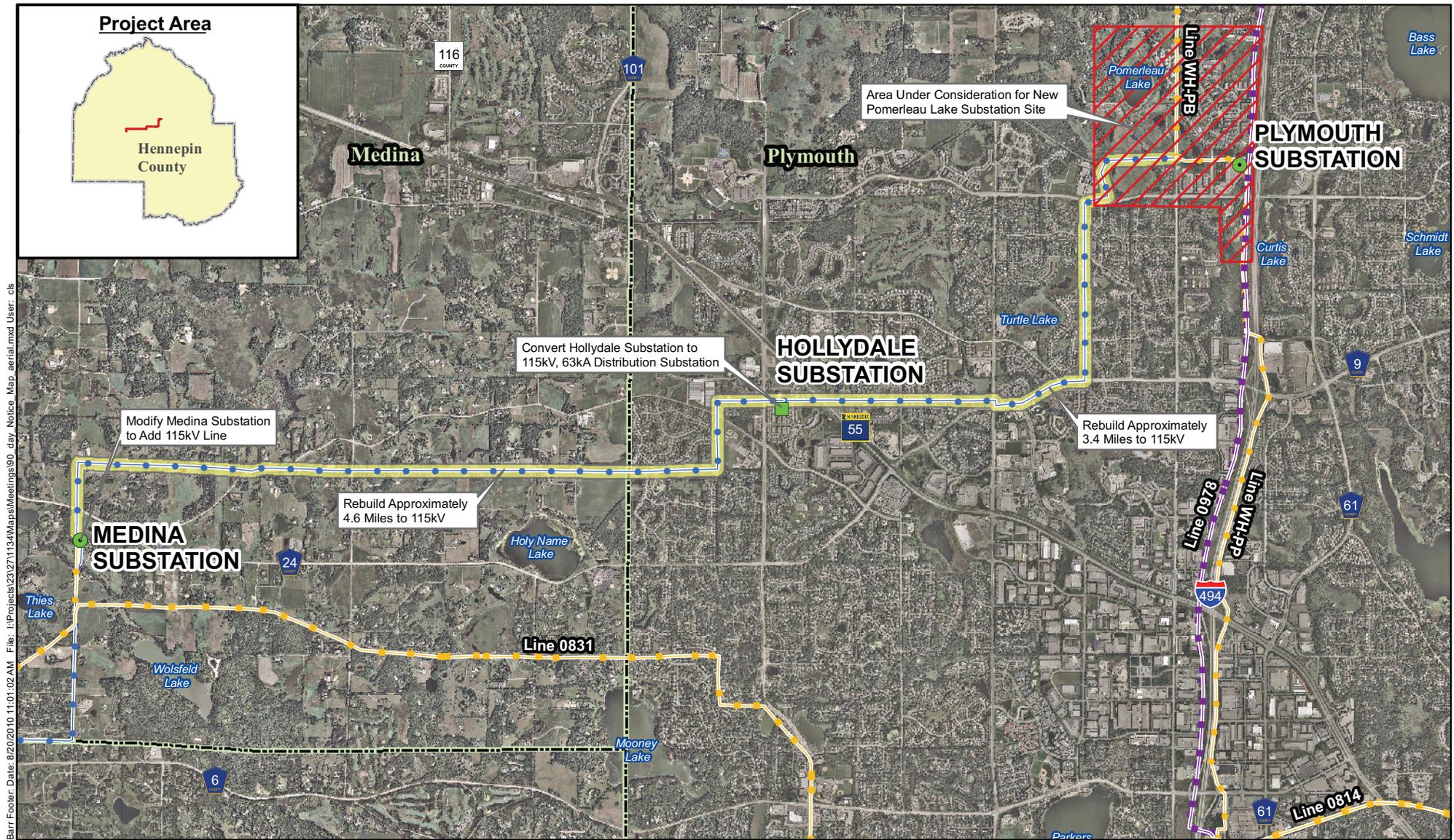
I can be reached by email at Joseph.G.Sedarski@xcelenergy.com or by phone at (612) 330-6435. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights

Enclosure Figure 1

cc: Gene Kotz, Xcel Energy



Barr Footer: Date: 8/20/2010 11:01:02 AM File: I:\Projects\23\271134\Map\MapMeetings\90_day_Notice_Map_aerial.mxd User: cbs

- GRE Substation
- Xcel Energy Substation
- Project Area
- Area Under Consideration for New Pomerleau Lake Substation Site
- Xcel Energy Transmission Line
 - 69 kV
 - 115 kV
 - 345 kV
- GRE Transmission Line
 - 69 kV
 - 115 kV
 - 345 kV
- Municipal Boundary

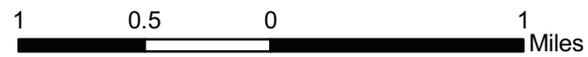


Figure 1
Hollydale Project
 Hennepin County, Minnesota



PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

Data Source: Xcel Energy, GRE, MN DNR, MNDOT, USGS
 Background: 2009 Aerial Express Imagery for the Twin Cities

D-2

**List of Agencies Concerning Requests for Comments on Project/90
Day Notice Letter**

APPENDIX D-2
List of Agencies Concerning Requests for Comments on Project

Agency/Group	Date of Letter Regarding Project Notice
Metropolitan Council	August 23, 2010
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	August 23, 2010
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“MnDNR”) –Natural Heritage Program	September 1, 2010, December 29, 2010
MnDNR District 13	August 23, 2010
MnDNR – Division of Waters	August 23, 2010
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office	March 18, 2011
Minnesota Department of Transportation	August 23, 2010
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	August 23, 2010
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	August 23, 2010
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Minnesota	August 23, 2010
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	August 23, 2010
Natural Resources Conservation Service - Minnesota	August 23, 2010



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

August 23, 2010

Address

**Re: Request for Comments on Proposed Hollydale Project
Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, MN
Xcel Energy, Inc./Northern States Power Company**

Dear Mr. or Ms.:

Xcel Energy, Inc. (“Xcel Energy”) is planning an electric transmission project located in the cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota, as indicated on the attached **Figure 1**. The project is referred to as the Hollydale Project and involves rebuilding certain existing transmission lines, modifying certain substations, constructing a new transmission substation and connecting to the distribution system. The Hollydale Project is needed to address electric distribution concerns, to provide increased distribution capacity, and to avoid feeder circuit overloads in the Plymouth area distribution delivery system.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of Xcel Energy’s plan to obtain a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“MPUC”) for the proposed Hollydale Project. We request your questions or comments regarding the Hollydale Project prior to filing a Route Permit Application (“RPA”) with the MPUC.

Description of the Project

A Project map is attached for your reference (see **Figure 1**). The Project location is further described in the following table.

Township	Range	Sections	City Name	County
118N	22W	9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19	Plymouth	Hennepin
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The rebuilt line will include distribution underbuild from the Hollydale Substation to where the transmission line turns north (at a point located east of the Hollydale Substation). New right-of-way (“ROW”) will be needed for the new Pomerleau Lake Substation and the new 115kV transmission line connecting Pomerleau Lake Substation to the existing GRE line, depending upon the location of the new Pomerleau Lake Substation. New ROW may also be necessary for the rebuild segment of this Project.

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The Route Permit proceeding will determine where the proposed facilities will be located. As part of the permitting process, the MPUC considers input from the applicant utility, interested stakeholders, local government units, state and federal agencies, and landowners who may be affected by the Project. Xcel Energy plans to submit an application for a Route Permit for the Project to the MPUC within the next several months. Additional environmental review will occur during the routing process. The routing process will consider environmental, land use, and other potential routing impacts, and provide the opportunity for the public to comment.

Please review this information and provide comments, questions or concerns you may have regarding the proposed Hollydale Project within 30 days of receipt of this letter. I can be reached as follows:

Joseph Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: (612) 330-6435
Cell: (612) 816-5073
Fax: (612) 573-1834
Email: joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com

We appreciate your assistance with this matter. Please contact me if you have any other questions regarding the Project.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sedarski
Senior Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights

Enclosure Figure 1

cc: Gene Kotz, Xcel Energy; Roger Scherer, District 1 Chair

D-3

MnDNR NHIS Response

**APPENDIX D-3
MnDNR Response**

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [mailto:Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2011 6:46 PM
To: Jessica L. Butler
Subject: RE: Hollydale Project

Yes, my assessment remains the same.

Thank you,

Lisa Joyal

~~~~~  
Lisa Joyal  
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator  
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
phone: 651-259-5109  
[lisa.joyal@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.joyal@state.mn.us)  
[www.mndnr.gov/eco](http://www.mndnr.gov/eco)

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**From:** Jessica L. Butler [mailto:JButler@barr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2010 5:44 PM  
**To:** Joyal, Lisa (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Hollydale Project

Hi Lisa,

We have recently made some changes to the project area for the Hollydale project. We are looking at a couple of additional alternatives and have narrowed down the substation locations. Because of this, I re-buffered the project area to one mile to see if there were additional hits from the NHIS database. The only difference between the buffered area I sent you this fall and the one we are working with now, is the addition of a maple-basswood forest just west of the "Plymouth" label on the attached map. Because the line will not be near this plant community, there will not be any impacts. When you have a minute, could you look at the new map and just let us know that your assessment is the same as stated below. I have attached the original map I sent you as well.

Thanks much for your help.

Jess

Jessica L. Butler  
Ecologist  
Minneapolis office: 952.832.2694  
[jbutler@barr.com](mailto:jbutler@barr.com)  
[www.barr.com](http://www.barr.com)

resourceful. naturally.



**From:** Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [mailto:Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2010 4:20 PM  
**To:** Jessica L. Butler  
**Subject:** Hollydale Project

I have reviewed the information that you sent regarding the above project, and concur with your assessment of rare features in the vicinity of the project. The following rare features may be impacted by the project, but I agree that significant impacts to state-listed species are unlikely.

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, have been reported from the vicinity of the proposed project and may be encountered on site. If Blanding's turtles are found on the site, please remember that state law and rules prohibit the destruction of threatened or endangered species, except under certain prescribed conditions. If turtles are in imminent danger they should be moved by hand out of harm's way, otherwise they should be left undisturbed.

For your information, I have attached a Blanding's turtle fact sheet that describes the habitat use and life history of this species. The fact sheet also provides two lists of recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to this rare turtle. **Please refer to the first list for any recommendations that may pertain to your project.** If greater protection for turtles is desired, the second list of additional recommendations can also be implemented. The attached flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area.

- Trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state-listed threatened species, have been documented nesting in the vicinity of the project area. These rare birds may be at risk for colliding with or being electrocuted by overhead transmission lines. We recommend the use of bird diverters near lakes and rivers, or other areas that may attract large concentrations of waterfowl.

Thank you for notifying us of this project, and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

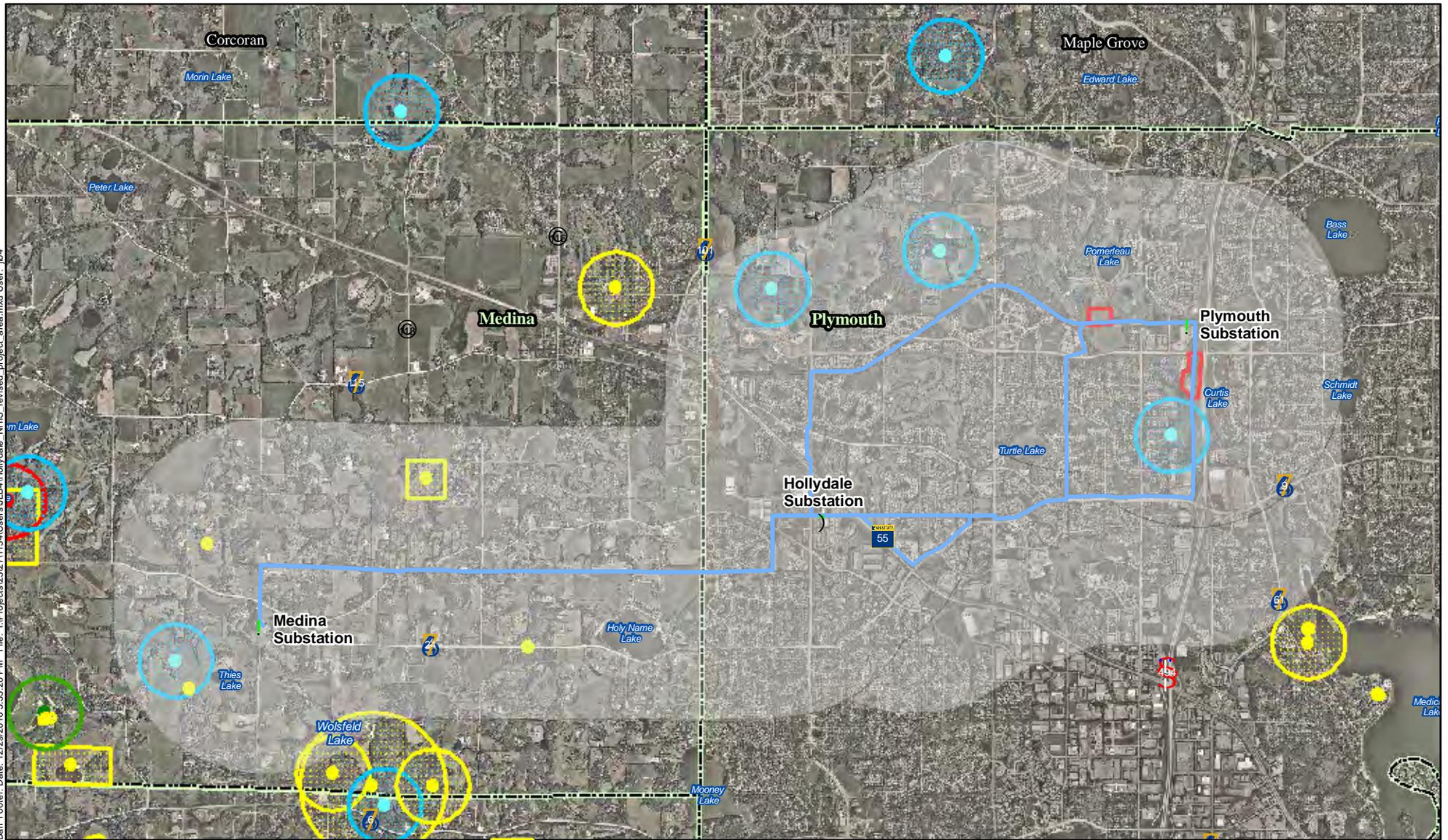
*Lisa Joyal*

~~~~~

Lisa Joyal
Natural Heritage Review Coordinator
NHIS Data Distribution Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155

phone: 651-259-5109
lisa.joyal@state.mn.us
www.mndnr.gov/eco

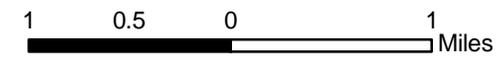
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- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | GRE Substation | | Vertebrate Animal | | Vertebrate Animal |
| | Xcel Energy Substation | | Community | | Community |
| | Proposed Routes | | Invertebrate Animal | | Invertebrate Animal |
| | One Mile Buffer | | Nonvascular Plant | | Vascular Plant |
| | Proposed Substation Locations | | Vascular Plant | | Nonvascular Plant; Fungus |
| | Area Under Consideration for New Pomerleau Lake Substation | | Animal Assemblage | | Animal Assemblage |
| | Municipal Boundary | | Geologic | | Geologic |

Data Source: Xcel Energy, GRE, MN DNR, MNDOT, USGS
Background: 2009 Aerial Express Imagery for the Twin Cities

Figure 1
MN DNR NHIS DATA
REVISED BOUNDARY
Hollydale Project
Hennepin County, Minnesota
PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152



D-4

City of Plymouth Response



Adding Quality to Life
February 7, 2011

Chris Rogers
Excel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall MP-8
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Shawn Drill recently informed me that you had contacted him regarding the purchase of city-owned property at I-494 and Schmidt Lake Road. I am aware that Excel Energy has been seeking property in Plymouth for the location of a new substation; however, the City has expressed no interest in selling this property.

The City of Plymouth acquired this property many years ago. It is shown in the Comprehensive Plan as a future park facility. Plymouth is a growing community, and we have significant demands for additional youth athletic venues and other recreation facilities. For the last five years, the City has been actively planning for development of this park facility by depositing dirt on the site to raise it to the appropriate level for park use. To date, the City has deposited about 50,000 cubic yards of dirt on the site. We expect to deposit an additional 100,000 cubic yards over the next ten years or so. In addition to preparing the site for park development, this is the City's only site for depositing excess dirt.

This site is important to the City for several reasons. First, it is geographically located for access by residents on both the east and west sides of Plymouth on a major arterial, Schmidt Lake Road. Second, it is adjacent to the freeway which allows for design of high-density athletic facilities such as baseball, softball, lacrosse, indoor tennis, etc. The noise and traffic generated by these activities is well-suited to abut major roadways. These facilities are also compatible with the existing high power lines located throughout the property. The location serves as the City's sole site for convenient and cost-effective excess dirt disposal. Finally, this site abuts residential properties where owners have relied on the City's ownership and long-planned, future park use of the site. Due to these reasons, the City has no interest in selling this property for a proposed substation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please call me at 763.509.5051.

Sincerely,

Laurie Ahrens
City Manager



D-5

Hennepin County Response

Sedarski, Joseph G

From: Sedarski, Joseph G
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 11:21 AM
To: 'Carolyn.Fackler@co.hennepin.mn.us'
Subject: RE: Hollydale Project

Hi Carolyn,

Thanks for your time earlier today via phone and your comments below. I will route this around our team here and get back to you with answers we can provide at this stage of the Project.

Best Regards,
Joe

Joe Sedarski
Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature
Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: 612.330.6435 C: 612.816.5073 F: 612.573-1834
E: joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com

XCELENERGY.COM

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Carolyn.Fackler@co.hennepin.mn.us [mailto:Carolyn.Fackler@co.hennepin.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 11:10 AM
To: Sedarski, Joseph G
Subject: Hollydale Project

Joe,

Thanks for the letter and our phone conversation.

From the map, it looks like the plan is to parallel a segment of CSAH 9 and cross CSAH 101 and CSAH 24. I discussed the proposal with our Planning and Design Divisions. We have a couple of questions/comments:

- What type of structure is needed to carry 115 kV? Will the new poles be similar to what is currently in place along the segment to be upgraded on CSAH 9, closer to what is in place along CSAH 101 at CSAH 5 in Minnetonka or what is in place along CSAH 16/I-494? Can we get a drawing showing typical overhang and base requirements for the new towers?
- Will there be additional substations or other monitoring devices as part of this project? Will there be additional maintenance driveways onto the County Roads?
- When looking at the locations for the new towers, we will need a 2 foot "clear zone" on both sides of the trail and a 10 foot "clear zone" along the roadway (as measured from gutter line).

Let me know if you need clarification on these points.

Also, please keep me informed of the location and time of the public meeting.

Thanks,
Carolyn Fackler, P.E.
Permits Office

9/17/2010

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

Hennepin County Transportation
1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340
Ph: 612-596-0336, Fax: 763-478-4002
carolyn.fackler@co.hennepin.mn.us

Disclaimer: Information in this message or an attachment may be government data and thereby subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, may be subject to attorney-client or work product privilege, may be confidential, privileged, proprietary, or otherwise protected, and the unauthorized review, copying, retransmission, or other use or disclosure of the information is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please immediately notify the sender of the transmission error and then promptly delete this message from your computer system.

D-6

USFWS Response

Sedarski, Joseph G

From: Sedarski, Joseph G
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 10:45 AM
To: 'Richard_Davis@fws.gov'
Cc: Rogers, Christopher C; Kotz II, Eugene R; Rogers, Timothy G
Subject: RE: Proposed Hollydale Project

Good Morning Mr. Davis,

Thanks very much for your review and response regarding the Hollydale Project - we appreciate your time and quick response. We will take your comments into consideration as we prepare the Route Permit Application, and will follow up with you regarding bird diverters and eagle survey, referenced below.

Best Regards,
Joe

Joe Sedarski
Xcel Energy | Responsible By Nature
Senior Permitting Analyst
414 Nicollet Mall, MP8, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: 612.330.6435 C: 612.816.5073 F: 612.573-1834
E: joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com

XCELENERGY.COM

Please consider the environment before printing this email

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard_Davis@fws.gov [mailto:Richard_Davis@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Sedarski, Joseph G
Subject: Proposed Hollydale Project

Hello Mr. Sedarski,
I have completed a preliminary review on the proposed Hollydale Project in the Cities of Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Data available at the time of my review does not indicate any records of federally listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the proposed project area.

The Service is responsible for administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The MBTA prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bird diverters should be installed on transmission lines placed across or adjacent to watercourses, open waterbodies, wetlands, wooded areas, and grasslands. Construction of the proposed project within potential migratory bird nesting habitats should be avoided during the primary nesting seasons.

Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). We recommend that Xcel Energy perform an eagle nest survey along the proposed project alignment to identify newly constructed nests that may be affected by the project during construction.

Thank you for including our office in your project review. If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance during your project planning and construction phase feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,
Rich Davis

Richard Davis
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd. E.
Bloomington, MN 55425
(612)725-3548 ext. 2214

D-7

SHPO Response



April 27, 2011

Joseph Sedarski, Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy Services
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis MN 55401

RE: Hollydale 115kv Transmission Line and Substation
Medina and Plymouth, Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 2011-1743

Dear Mr. Sedarski:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

We have received and reviewed the Phase 1a survey information prepared by EMR consultants. We believe that the plans for archaeological survey contained in the document are appropriate. Because no sites previously listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project, the requirements of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act do not apply.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit such as the possible wetlands permit that you mentioned in your letter, the project should be submitted to our office by the appropriate federal agency.

If you have any questions on our review of this project, please contact me at (651) 259-3456.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Julie Kloss, EMR

D-8

Shingle Creek Watershed District Response

From: Dawn Swanson [newdawnhealth@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 4:18 PM
To: Rogers, Christopher C; Sedarski, Joseph G
Cc: Kevin Springob
Subject: Hollydale Project

Chris or Joe,

I received a letter regarding the proposed Hollydale Project. The envelope was addressed to me as the commissioner for the City of Plymouth, Shingle Creek Watershed. However, the letter was addressed to Sarah Lutz, Elm Creek Watershed. I assume the letters were just mixed up and the information sent to both of us is the same. If that is an incorrect assumption, please let me know.

I will not be able to attend the open house on the 15th as I have appointments scheduled for that time. However, I do have a few questions that you may or may not be able to answer, depending on how far in the project planning process you are.

Have you considered the impact to the watersheds, including any run-off or ground water impact from construction and permanent structures?

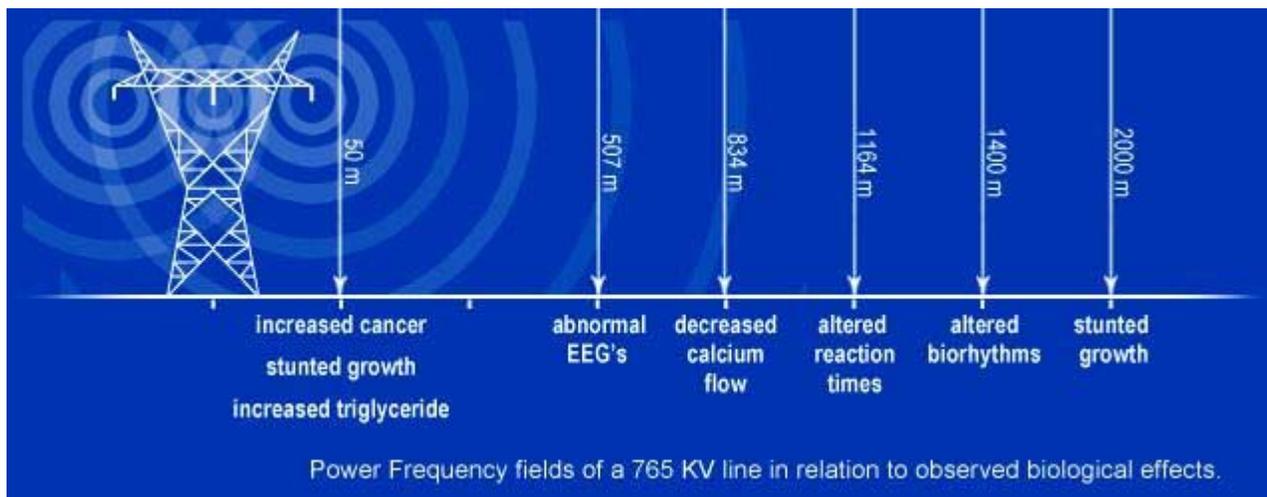
Do you have any studies on the impact to fish, animal life and people under or the surrounding area of HVTL?

Have you studied and determined the impacts to Pomerleau Lake?

Here are some concerns that I am aware of and would like addressed:

Is there a safe living distance from or to power lines?

Experts say as far as possible ... Hundreds of studies worldwide have shown that living next to high voltage power lines and other parts of the power transmission network increases your risk of cancer and other health problems.



Is It Harmful To Sit Under Power Lines?

Absolutely possible. It depends on how powerful are the EMFs coming from your neighborhood power lines? The electrical power grid uses a “step down” system of distribution, highest near the generating station and substations, lowest at the end. The closer you are the more you are bombarded with dangerous EMFs.

Living Under Power Lines? Some Facts You Should Know

High voltage transmission lines (those towering metal power lines you often see usually along highways and across rural landscapes. Some folks, unfortunately are under them.):

- Use high voltage direct current (HVDC) to transmit large amounts of power from the generating station over long distances
- Voltage varies from 138kV to 765kV
- Radiate powerful electromagnetic fields (EMFs)
- Linked to diseases in animals and humans
- There is growing speculation that the values of homes near major power lines will soon begin to decrease because of this threat

Transmission substations, (which often look like a fenced-in thicket of metal structures. Maybe you see one near your home, school or office.):

- Contain circuit breakers, switches and transformers
- Decrease the voltage coming from high voltage transmission lines
- Connect to local, lower voltage distribution lines.
- Reroute power to lines that serve local markets
- Suspected cause of cancer clusters for nearby residents

Lower voltage distribution lines, (or local power poles, which are everywhere):

- Are smaller than the huge high voltage lines
- More likely to be seen in residential areas
- Sometimes buried
- Risk varies with strength of voltage

Transformers, (those barrel-like metal trashcans mounted on power poles are EMF factories.):

- Reduces the voltage to the 120-/240 current needed by the nearby homes
- The typical power line feeding the transformer is carrying 4000 to 13,000 volts
- Creates a strong field extending up to a 1/4 of a mile
- The strength of this field decreases significantly with distance (the further away you are the better, even if you are still within a quarter mile)
- Health risk depends on strength of incoming power line

Buried lines and transformers (Recognizable by a metal box located on the ground near the street.):

- Some people contend that burying power lines can mitigate EMF dangers.
- Other experts note that while burying power lines will shield the electric component of the electromagnetic field (EMF), the magnetic component can still pass through the earth—and walls and human bodies.

Electric Fields, Magnetic Fields & Power Lines are a Health Hazard!

There is no question that power transmission apparatus emit electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

An EMF is not just one thing, but two kinds of fields:

- **Electrical field:** the part of the EMF that can easily be shielded.
- **Magnetic field:** part of the EMF that can penetrate stone, steel and human flesh. In fact, when it comes to magnetic fields, human flesh and bone has the same penetrability as air!
- **Both fields are invisible and perfectly silent:** if you live in an area with electric power, cell phone service, water pipes and more, some level of artificial EMF is surrounding you.

Living Close to Power Lines and How EMFs Harm Human Health

Your body acts like an energy wave broadcaster and receiver, incorporating and responding to EMFs. In fact, scientific research has demonstrated that every cell in your body may have its own EMF, helping to regulate important functions and keep you healthy.

Strong, artificial EMFs like those from power lines can scramble and interfere with your body's natural EMF, harming everything from your sleep cycles and stress levels to your immune response and DNA!

Studies Show Living Next To Power Lines Increases The Risk Of Cancer

After hundreds of international studies, the evidence linking EMFs to cancers and other health problems is loud and clear. High Voltage power lines are the most obvious and dangerous culprits, but the same EMFs exist in gradually decreasing levels all along the grid, from substations to transformers to homes.

From the British Medical Journal, June, 2005:

Researchers found that children living within 650 feet of power lines had a 70% greater risk for leukemia than children living 2,000 feet away or more.

From Epidemiology, 2003 Jul;14(4):413-9:

“Several studies have identified occupational exposure to extremely low-frequency electromagnetic fields (EMF) as a potential risk factor for neurodegenerative disease.”

From Epidemiology, 2002 Jan;13(1):9-20

There is “strong prospective evidence that prenatal maximum magnetic field exposure above a certain level (possibly around 16 mG) may be associated with miscarriage risk.”

From the Internal Medicine Journal, 2007

In a study of 850 lymphoma, leukemia and related conditions, researchers from the University of Tasmania and Britain's Bristol University found that living for a prolonged period near high-voltage power lines increased the risk for these conditions later in life.

- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line up to age 5 were five times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.
- People who lived within 328 yards of a power line at any point up to age 15 years were three times more likely to develop cancer as an adult.

Dr. David Carpenter, Dean of the School of Public Health (SUNY), believes that up to 30% of all childhood cancers come from exposure to high voltage power lines.

Even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cautions citizens that "There is reason for concern" and advises "prudent avoidance" of high voltage power lines.

The California Department of Health concluded that EMFs were responsible for an increase in childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and miscarriage in the 2002 report, "An Evaluation of the Possible Risks From Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) From Power Lines, Internal Wiring, Electrical Occupations and Appliances."

The studies cited above and dozens of other epidemiological studies specifically link high voltage power lines with:

- Brain tumors
- Leukemia
- Birth defects
- Lymphoma

Electromagnetic Radiation and Power Lines. It's a Problem.

According to research and publications put out by the World Health Organization (WHO), EMF such as those from power lines, can also cause:

- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Anxiety
- Insomnia
- Prickling and/or burning skin
- Rashes
- Muscle pain

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dawn Swanson
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