

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** staff, cao (PUC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 06, 2011 10:20 AM  
**To:** Rice, Robin (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: High Voltage Power Lines 11-152

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

**From:** Jain Paul Philip [<mailto:jainpaulphilip@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 11:01 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** High Voltage Power Lines

> Dear Sirs,

> We have been homeowners in Plymouth for 20 years at (4375 Niagara In n, Plymouth 55446). We have been notified of the proposed installation of high voltage power lines to replace the existing power lines. The proposed 90 foot steel poles will carry 115 kV of power which should not be located in a densely populated residential neighborhood. In the materials and map we received from Excel Energy in July, it is apparent that there are alternative routes for the high voltage power lines that do not go directly through a residential area, wetlands and Turtle Lake Park. These alternative routes are along the 494 freeway, County Rd. 9 and Schmitt Lake Rd. These alternative routes require additional construction and thus result in higher costs to Excel Energy and Great River Energy.

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> We are concerned about the possible health hazards of the proposed installation of high power lines in our neighborhood and the adjacent Turtle Lake Park and wetlands. We are also concerned about the potential negative impact on property values if the proposed installation of these 90 foot steel poles with 115kV of power occurs in our neighborhood.

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> Is approval from the Plymouth City Council required for the construction of these high voltage power lines in our neighborhood?

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> Sincerely,

> Jain Paul Philip

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> Jain Paul Philip

**From:** [shon.wright@cummins.com](mailto:shon.wright@cummins.com) [<mailto:shon.wright@cummins.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2011 9:49 AM

**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments

**Cc:** Tene Wright

**Subject:** GREAT RIVER ENERGY - Hollydale Transmission Line E002/TL-11-152

Sir or Madam:

My family lives at 15760 52nd Ave N in Plymouth, MN. I am in support of your proposed route for the transmission lines. The alternate route segment B would be very detrimental to the safety of my daughter, the value and the view from our home and that of several of my neighbors. My neighbors and I have small children and are concerned about the safety to our families with these power lines in such close proximity of our home as these transmission lines would run along the back of my property near the Canadian Pacific Railway. I strongly encourage you to follow your proposed route as opposed to the alternate segment B route.

Best Regards,

Benjamin G. (Shon) Wright

Director - RV and Commercial Mobile Markets

Cummins Power Generation

Office: 763-528-7087

Mobile: 763-355-8754

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> Is approval from the Plymouth City Council required for the construction of these high voltage power lines in our neighborhood?

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> Sincerely,

> Jain Paul Philip

**From:** Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC)

**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 9:47 AM

**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments

**Subject:** FW: Hollydale Project 2011

Please file public comment to Docket 11-152.

M

**From:** [Hdrider4710@aol.com](mailto:Hdrider4710@aol.com) [<mailto:Hdrider4710@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 10:07 PM

**To:** [joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com](mailto:joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com); Haar, Burl (PUC); [christopher.c.rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:christopher.c.rogers@xcelenergy.com); Ek, Scott (COMM)

**Cc:** Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC); [mparlow@greenergy.com](mailto:mparlow@greenergy.com); Simon, Joyce (DPS); [Julia.Anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:Julia.Anderson@state.mn.us); [ron.giteck@state.mn.us](mailto:ron.giteck@state.mn.us); [agorud.ecf@state.mn.us](mailto:agorud.ecf@state.mn.us); Ferguson, Sharon (COMM); Chavez, Linda (COMM); [hdrider4710@aol.com](mailto:hdrider4710@aol.com)

**Subject:** Hollydale Project 2011

To: Applicant(s) and members of the Hollydale Project 2011 (docket 11-152) decision group.

From: Tom Vertes, 4710 Orchid Lane North, Plymouth

Firstly, I want to state that I am not opposed to the need for a project of this kind in general, in order to reduce the current and potential need to maintain power levels thus avoiding any possible electrical outages. As was mentioned in your proposal it would eliminate any power deficiencies/outages in the Plymouth area.

Secondly, the main focus of this letter is my deep concern in the proposed routing of the power line in my neighborhood. Without restating the objections regarding health concerns, which I totally agree with, I am looking at the "Alternate Route Segment A" route as a reasonable and effective solution which makes more sense in this area and would not interfere with the visual, esthetic and disruptive effects that the designated proposed route would establish. This also would promote better community and user interface.

The power poles that are illustrated in the proposal that Xcel submitted are designed to be next to highways and major thoroughfares not residential area. I have seen these poles next to highways (i.e. Hwy. 494) and not in the backyards of residential neighborhoods.

**Also, on the route map it shows that Xcel prefers the "Preferred Substation A" which is located next to highway 494, therefore the routing of the line along 494 (south) and west at the intersection of County Road 9 and Highway 494 which will meet up with Alternate Segment C and west to Hollydale. This route in my opinion would make more sense.**

Finally, there is the monetary issue of the properties along the Proposed Route that would SIGNIFICANTLY be effected by this line. When I moved into this area I accepted the current line in my backyard, however the thought of a higher voltage line is disturbing. I have casually spoke with a number of real estate agents and they all mentioned the property value would be lowered by 10-20%. This is totally unacceptable. If I was a home buyer at this time and saw a house next to a high voltage line I would turn around and leave immediately.

**I would therefore request your approval of "Alternate Route Segment A" as the route.**

Thank you for your assistance

Tom Vertes

[Hdrider4710@aol.com](mailto:Hdrider4710@aol.com)

10/23/11

If Excel Energy's proposed Hollydale Transmission line route is approved, it will negatively impact a large number of Plymouth homeowners and neighborhoods.

I live in Quail Ridge, a Plymouth neighborhood located in Hennepin County, and the proposed route would mean the installation of high voltage power lines spanning the entire east side of my property. The high voltage power lines will be far too close in proximity to people's homes and decks and outside living spaces limiting the use and enjoyment of the property.

If this route is approved, this will set a dangerous precedence in Plymouth. If you are thinking about buying a house in Plymouth, people need to be aware that you might not be protected from irresponsible decisions and zoning being made in residential areas that will directly affect your property and negatively impact one of your biggest investments.

I ask that the route that will ultimately be approved be a route that will not ruin a large number of residential properties and that the cost of the project will not be the determining factor. I hope that the rightful decision will be made to use an alternative route that will impact very few homeowners. The high voltage lines should be placed on highways and business areas that will also allow better access to the lines for repair and maintenance.

Mary S. Perry

15100 42<sup>nd</sup> Av N

Plymouth, MN 55446

**From:** Jeff [<mailto:jeffmplsmn@live.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 14, 2011 8:13 AM  
**To:** Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC)  
**Subject:** Xcel Hollydale Project Docket No. TL-11-152

We live at 3961 Garland Lane North in Plymouth and the proposed route would put the line less than 50 feet from our living room. We strongly encourage Alternate Route Segment B or C to be implemented.

Thank you.

Jeff Hechsel  
[jeffmplsmn@live.com](mailto:jeffmplsmn@live.com)

Patrick White  
[patmplsmn@live.com](mailto:patmplsmn@live.com)

Phone (612) 532-3042

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

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**From:** doug.haugen@netzero.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2011 10:45 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** Hollydale Project

My name is Doug Haugen. My wife is Lisa Hedin. We bought a house close to 4 years ago located at 15100 42nd Place North in Plymouth.

X Cel Energy's preferred route for the Hollydale HIGH VOLTAGE project is 44 1/2 feet from my patio door (center line of the power pole to my patio door). We have a deck that will be 24 1/2 feet from the HIGH VOLTAGE power line, assuming X Cel is allowed to build on their preferred route.

X Cel Energy says this is their preferred route due to their costs. If our home was adjacent to a HIGH VOLTAGE line, we would not have purchased this home, nor would we have even looked at the home.

Needless to say, hearing of the this encroachment by X Cel has my wife and I concerned, for several reasons.

The first reason is economics. I am a licensed real estate agent in the state of Minnesota. As I have access to research papers published by universities across the country (papers that are available to me through the National Association of Realtors), I know that property values decrease when a HIGH VOLTAGE power line is forced upon a neighborhood. Of course, there are no studies that feature homes in the same geography, but the studies that have been published show a negative impact of 10-40% of a home's value is lost when a HIGH VOLTAGE line is built into an existing neighborhood. Homes in my neighborhood range in values from \$300,000 to \$800,000 for the single family homes. Of course, the biggest loss in value will be felt by the homes adjacent to the line.

At the conservative 10% loss in value, just the first ten homes' loss in value would equal X Cel's difference between their preferred route versus one of their alternative routes. Of course, there are many more than ten homes that are adjacent to X Cel's preferred route. Individual homeowners do not have the capability to absorb this tremendous loss in value. In fact, there have been a couple of homeowners in my neighborhood that have chosen to add onto their present house, knowing that they might have a hard time selling their home in the current real estate market, and then having to hope that they could find a reasonably priced larger home. .

My next door neighbors would like to sell their home in the next five years (they will be new retirees at that time). Allowing this project to continue as planned currently will greatly affect their retirement, as their home will not be as marketable. They will also likely lose at least one mature tree on their property, if X Cel is allowed to build on their preferred route.

Homeowners will have to absorb all of the costs of this loss of value. If it costs X Cel more money to build on an alternative route, they will simply raise their rates in Plymouth

The second reason we object to this route is because of health concerns for my family and for some of my neighbors. My mother had a pacemaker implanted to keep her alive two years ago. All information that I have read, suggests that it would be hazardous to even have her visit my home. I would have no choice but to put up my parents in a nearby hotel, whenever they come to visit. I can't even invite them over for a cup of coffee. That would likely cost me thousands of dollars over the next 10 years. I know that there is at least one other neighbor that faces the same restriction (we met a man at one of the neighborhood meetings whose mother

also has a pacemaker implanted), if X Cel is allowed to go ahead with their planned route for the HIGH VOLTAGE line. His costs would be the same as ours (in hotels and restaurant costs).

I have a one other neighbor who has a family member whose health would also be affected by the magnetic fields produced by the HIGH VOLTAGE power lines.

The third reason we oppose X Cel's preferred route is aesthetics. My wife and I planned to make this our last home (or at least until we decided to move into an association property - for the zero maintenance lifestyle). If this route is approved, we will likely be forced to stay in our home until we absolutely need to sell (like if we need to move to assisted living) - as our home would not be as marketable, being adjacent to a HIGH VOLTAGE power line. Even though we have faced tremendous economic pressures over the last ten years (the worst pressures of our married lives, actually), we have still made improvements to our home, since we moved here four years ago. If the project goes through, we would be fools to make any further improvements to our home, except maybe painting interior walls. We would not see even a fraction of a return on any improvement investments.

As a real estate agent, I have never shown a home adjacent to a HIGH VOLTAGE power line, where the buyer did not have strong objections to the property. Research papers I have seen suggest that a property adjacent to a HIGH VOLTAGE power line adds six months to the market time to sell a property. Of course, every Minnesotan is aware of the current long market times for a home that is nowhere near a HIGH VOLTAGE power line.

X Cel would also need to cut down many mature trees on this route. This deforestation will affect the aesthetics and the property values in my neighborhood. Statistics I have seen shows that a mature tree adds approximately \$5,000 in value to a home site.

Please only permit X Cel to build on a route that impacts the fewest homeowners as possible.

One question I have for the PUC: What is the minimum distance that any utility company is allowed to build a HIGH VOLTAGE in proximity to residential buildings? I seem to remember seeing statistics that they would need to buy any home closer than 50 feet from the power line. If they have to buy even one home in our neighborhood, that would negate any savings that their preferred route offers to them (using their logic).

I realize that X Cel needs the Hollydale Project to properly serve the residential and commercial needs of the area. I would not want to live in an area where there are frequent power outages. I just do not feel that X Cel has worked hard enough on finding a route that would be cost effective for them, and at the same time negatively impact as few homes as possible. REAL COSTS to homeowners MUST BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT to costs that are born by X Cel if they must use an alternative route.

Regards,  
Doug Haugen and Lisa Hedin

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### **57-Year-Old Mom Looks 25**

United Online Special: Mom Reveals \$5 Wrinkle Trick Angering Doctors!  
[ConsumerLifestyles.org](http://ConsumerLifestyles.org)

11-152

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Tim Anderson <timandjeanneanderson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 04, 2011 8:43 PM  
**To:** mparlow@GREnergy.com; Eugene.Kotz@xcelenergy.com;  
Christopher.C.Rogers@xcelenergy.com; #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** Proposed Hollydale line extension

As a resident of the Quail Ridge development in Plymouth, I have learned of the proposed power line through the Rockford Road area. I object to the proposed routes. These routes take the line through multiple neighborhoods and extremely close to homes. The line will devalue properties and expose families to the potential for multiple adverse health effects. It would seem the most logical route is not even proposed. The line could run north to the railroad right of way and follow the tracks east to 494. It would be a travesty and simply wrong to run a high voltage line through any of these neighborhoods. Is it not in the public's best interest to select the route that adversely impact the fewest people? Is it not in the public's best interest to do the right thing? Please do not allow this proposed line to go forward. Thank you.

Tim Anderson  
4345 Polaris Ln N  
Plymouth, MN 55446  
763-559-4025



11-152

PC Docket 11-152  
Recd 08-01-11

From: MARK PERRY [mailto:m2perry@msn.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2011 7:52 AM

To: woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net ; Howdee05@msn.com ; hboentje@visi.com ; kborndal@comcast.net ; danborndal@comcast.net ; Kellyjo519@yahoo.com ; bjbos@aol.com ; dantish@q.com ; tfield@davidmartinagency.com ; kafinnegan@gmail.com ; ShaguHeal@Hotmail.com ; jeffdh@scc.net ; dawnhuisken@msn.com ; rahuljhavar@yahoo.com ; sondi.johnson@wellsfargo.com ; keers@usfamily.net ; kentking@mac.com ; jnlund119@comcast.net ; jmartin@runspot.net ; laurapchef@runspot.net ; tompmathews@hotmail.com ; nnorman@sellsbrothers.com ; gandsplummer@comcast.net ; nalporter@comcast.net ; myg4800@comcast.net ; greenaspen@gmail.com ; dsamson316@msn.com ; amberjoy123@comcast.net ; imdianew@msn.com ; Lwipson@Comcast.net ; woodjtjajl-Plymouth@worldnet.att.net ; wooder59@yahoo.com ; happytrails303@hotmail.com ; manderson4700@comcast.net ; g.jeffyanderson@comcast.net ; Mark Book ; smbook@comcast.net ; mathew.knutson@comcast.net ; dan.callahan@live.com  
Cc: #PUC\_Public Comments; mparlow@GREnergy.com ; Ek, Scott (COMM); Eugene.Kotz@xcelenergy.com ; Christopher.C.Rogers@xcelenergy.com ; Sedarski Joseph G  
Subject: Re: power line hazards - Hollydale Project

Thank you, to all of you for your reply's and support.

I have added the public email address from below to the mailing list above. When responding by email, please choose "reply to all" or copy & paste all names so the message you want to send goes to all that are involved. As we reach out to more neighbors we can add their names to the mailing list above so no one is left out . If you know a neighbors email address that is not on the list above, please add it to keep them informed of upcoming events.

Scott Ek is with the State Department of Commerce & has informed us that it is early in the application process and that we will be notified of any public hearings that will be coming up over the next couple of months. Please call Scott and ask to be added to the mailing list for any future meetings or hearings in regards to the Hollydale Project application so you all can attend. Scott's phone # is 651-296-8813.

In the coming months, we will all need to be involved as to not allow this application to be approved as proposed to go through our neighborhood.

Mark Perry.

Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

From: Kathy Alvig [mailto:kathyalvig@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 12:46 AM  
To: christopher.c.rogers@xcelenergy.com; Ek, Scott (COMM); Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC);  
mparlow@GREnergy.com  
Cc: jralvig@comcast.net; Kathy Alvig  
Subject: Power lines

Dear Mr. Rogers, Mr. Elk, mr. Kaluzniak, and Ms. Parlow,

We are concerned about your recent mailbox delivery announcing the possibility of stronger, larger and more powerful electrical lines being added so close to our neighborhood homes and to the play grounds of the elementary school our children attend at this juncture in this project's development. The marsh lands to be affected in the area will definitely impact the habitat of protected Trumpeter Swans, Blue Herons that we see live there and will further distress the water, the wildlife and the forest of the needed marsh land itself. We wish to know of any and all upcoming public hearings and wish to be updated with changes and plans in the project as soon as possible. Thank you for sending this information. We wish to attend the public hearings.

Sincerely,  
James Alvig  
Kathy Alvig

18530 37th Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55446

Sent from my iPad

**From:** MARK PERRY [mailto:m2perry@msn.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 26, 2011 9:02 AM

**To:** Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC); Ek, Scott (COMM); joseph.g.sedarski; mparlow@GREnergy.com

**Cc:** jennifer knutson; a kittilson; bjbos@aol.com; kellyjo519@yahoo.com; gandsplummer@comcast.net; jdfloeder@usfamily.net; rfield@croworld.com; m2perry@msn.com; jmartin@runspot.net; jeffdh@scc.net; woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net; chad strunk; pamgustafson@comcast.net; tysonbjorklund@gmail.com; ggibson4@comcast.net; smbook@comcast.net; schiebehome@msn.com; jhnyren@gmail.com; sdavis mn; Christopher C Rogers; Kotz II, Eugene R; mathew.knutson@comcast.net

**Subject:** Fw: power line hazards - Hollydale Project

**We as a neighborhood need to stand up** to not allow the Proposed Route to go through the center of our neighborhood. My home is less than 100 feet from the easement of the existing 65kv lines and now the Proposed Route of the new 115KV lines.

I have a young child that enjoys playing outdoors! this is a great concern to me as a lot of studies show very strong health risks involved with EMF's from high voltage transmission lines. Any of you that have children, women who are pregnant, people with pace-makers, concerns about breast cancer or other cancers, **SHOULD BE CONCERNED!** Additional concern is the devaluation of the investment of our Homes & Properties. I have attached below documentation & studies of the possible Health effects of Transmission power lines along with the decreased value of our homes and property.

Please forward this email onto your neighbors for their review so we can act on this together as an alliance to not allow this proposal to go through. The Alternate Route Segment A from Preferred Substation Site A should be a much higher consideration as it follows HWY 494 to Co Rd 9. This Route gives a much greater distance from power lines to residential homes to lower health risks and will maintain the value of those residential properties within the Proposed Route.

The reason that the Proposed Route is the 1st consideration, is because it is the CHEAPEST for the power company! Are we going to let this happen to us because the Power Companies don't want to spend the additional money to accomplish this project but rather let us loose value on our homes and increase our Health Risks to save money for themselves???

I think our next step is to get the Media Involved!!! This Proposed Route is affecting a large number of Residents.

Mark A Perry

15100 42nd Ave N.

Plymouth, MN. 55446

612-964-5330

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

**From:** Anna Perry

**To:** Mary Perry

**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2011 11:12 PM

**Subject:** power line hazards

1. [http://www.stopplnow.org/presentations/Health\\_risk\\_of\\_powerlines.pdf](http://www.stopplnow.org/presentations/Health_risk_of_powerlines.pdf)

2. <http://www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm>

Red lettering has been inserted by me

#### **FAQ for Health Effects of Transmission Power Line Magnetic and Electric Fields**

This FAQ is designed to answer in a brief and readily accessible format questions frequently asked about the dangers associated with exposure to magnetic and electric fields emitted by transmission power lines.

The questions contained herein confined only to issues associated with the extremely low frequency electro magnetic fields (ELF-EMF) associated with transmission power lines. Similar issues have been raised concerning the high frequency magnetic fields associated with cell phones. These high frequency fields have impacts that differ from those associated with power lines and, therefore, this FAQ does not apply to them.

1. *What are transmission power lines?*

- a. They are those high voltage lines that carry power from power plants to substations or between substations. Generally, they carry voltage greater than 35 to 65 kV (kilovolts). Lines that carry power from substations to the ultimate users are called distribution lines. They generally use voltages under 35 kV. Transmission power lines radiate magnetic and electric fields that pulse sixty times per second. This is called extra-low frequency EMF (ELF-EMF).
2. *How can I determine if a line is a transmission or distribution line?*
- a. One rule of thumb is to count the number of mushroom shaped insulators between the line and the structure that holds the line. **If there are more than three such insulators, it is likely to be a transmission line. If there are around 7-12 insulators, the line probably carries 115 kV.** Twelve or more suggests the line carries more than 300 kV.
3. *I feel nothing unusual when I am near a transmission power line. Why might they be dangerous?*
- a. Transmission power lines emit two types of fields, electric and magnetic. Together they are called electro-magnetic fields, EMF. **Magnetic fields are known to interact with animal tissues, and are therefore potentially dangerous.** While a tiny minority can sense magnetic fields, most of us can detect neither magnetic nor electric fields.
4. *Are magnetic fields from power lines dangerous to human health?*
- a. **There is substantial evidence that exposure to extra-low frequency magnetic fields of an average intensity greater than 2 milligauss doubles the risk of a child contracting leukemia. There is very good evidence that even momentary exposure to ELF fields greater than 16 mG increase by a factor of 5 a woman will have a spontaneous abortion within the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. There is also evidence that these fields are associated with other diseases (see below).** Exposures below 2 mG appear to have no adverse health effects. High frequency magnetic fields emitted by cell phones and TV station antennas are a different phenomena.
5. *How common is magnetic field exposures at the dangerous levels.*
- a. Not very common. Less than 2% of the population experiences ELF magnetic fields that average more than 2 milligauss. Average US exposure is around 0.5-0.75 mG. The number of those who experience momentary exposures greater than 16 mG is not known.
6. *Are electric fields from power lines dangerous to human health?*
- a. There is little evidence that electric fields at the intensities associated with power lines directly impact human health. However, these fields have the potential for indirectly inducing harmful reactions. **It is undisputed that fields above 1 mV/m (millivolt per meter) can disrupt heart pacemakers and defibrillators. Electric fields of this intensity, while rare in general, are common immediately adjacent to transmission power lines.**
- 115 kV lines are considered transmission power lines
- Also, one researcher claims that electric fields from power lines ionize particles in the air, and these particles are carcinogenic. This research has been validated by epidemiological evidence.**
7. *I live near a transmission power line. How do I know if I am in danger?*
- a. When assessing danger, distance is all-important. The current research seems to suggest that living further than 400 feet from a transmission line will provide an adequate margin of safety from magnetic fields. However, **the very latest research suggests that pregnant women should never venture anywhere near a transmission power line, for even momentary exposure to high magnetic fields sharply enhances the risk of a miscarriage. They should avoid even driving under a transmission power line.**
- b. **Those utilizing pace makers or automatic defibrillators should similarly avoid even momentarily venturing near transmission power lines.**
- c. **Those concerned about the less-documented risks associated with particles ionized by electric fields should avoid outdoor exposures with 2000 feet downwind from transmission power lines.**

8. *Are lower voltage power lines (say 115 kV) safer than high voltage (345kV and above) lines?*
- The risks associated with electric fields directly correspond to a line's voltage. Therefore, the risks associated with electric fields increase in tandem with the line's voltage.
  - The better documented risks associated with a line's magnetic field are associated with the current going through a line rather than its voltage. To deliver a given amount of power, utilities must push more current through low voltage lines than high voltage lines. Therefore, in-field measurements show the magnetic field under a 115 kV line is often greater than the field immediately under a 345 kV line.** Also, high voltage lines are customarily built on wider rights of way than low voltage lines. Therefore, people tend to live closer to low voltage lines than they do to high voltage lines. For these reasons, low voltage transmission power lines generally pose a greater risk to human health than do high voltage lines. Lines with 65 kV or less usually emit very low levels of magnetic fields.
9. *Can magnetic fields be reduced by physical barriers?*
- Not usually. Walls, houses, trees and the like are no impediment to magnetic fields.** Field measurements indicate occupants of the front seats of cars experience an approximate 30% reduction in magnetic fields.
10. *Can electric fields be reduced by physical barriers?*
- Yes they can. Furthermore, **particles ionized by electric fields pose a danger only to those, like children, who are outside a good part of the day.**
11. *How strong is the evidence identifying an associated between ELF magnetic fields and human disease?*
- There is extremely strong evidence finding a relationship between ELF magnetic fields greater than 2 mG and childhood leukemia. This relationship has been a matter of scientific inquiry since 1979. Sixteen out of nineteen studies conducted since 1995 are now viewed as identifying a statistically significant relationship between magnetic fields greater than 2 to 4 mG and a two to four-fold increase in a child's risk of contracting that disease.**

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voltage lines can have EMF levels of 30 to 90 mG underneath the wires, depending on the voltage, height, and placement of the lines.

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- There is very strong evidence finding a relationship between maximum ELF magnetic field exposure greater than 16 mG and a 6-fold increase in miscarriages.**
  - There is strong evidence linking ELF magnetic fields and Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).**
  - There is substantial evidence linking ELF magnetic fields greater than 12 mG and breast cancer and strong evidence linking magnetic fields and the suppression of the therapeutic effects of the anti-cancer drug, tamoxifen.**
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- There is only one source of studies linking ELF electric fields to the creation of cancer causing particles through ionization. However, a mechanistic process has been identified. It has been verified by in-field measurements, and validated through epidemiological studies.**
13. *Why have there not been follow up studies on the link between electric fields and cancer?*
- There is no constituency to promote the funding such studies. This is a big problem in this field (see below).
14. *Why is there not more intensive research in the US on the link between ELF-EMF and cancer?*

- a. Only a small percentage of the population lives near enough to transmission power lines to be exposed to the dangerous magnetic fields of intensities greater than 2 mG. A far greater percentage may be exposed to dangerous fields from the lower voltage distribution lines, but, as far as we know, there has been no studies on the incidence of magnetic field exposures from distribution power lines. Furthermore, the utility industry aggressively acts to minimize such dangers through the issuance of exculpatory statements and its funding of research that downplays the dangers (See EPRI discussion below).

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- a. This formerly popular argument has largely fallen into disuse. **Ionizing radiation (such as X-rays) contains sufficient energy to knock electrons out of their valiances, thereby creating chemically active ions.** By-in-large, ELF-EMF does not contain sufficient energy to create ions. It was therefore argued ELF-EMF must be biologically inactive. The argument has largely fallen into disuse (except by John Muller-see the next question) because **all knowledgeable scientists agree that magnetic fields have biological impacts. They clearly promote bone growth at high intensities, suppress melatonin production, and induce cells to emit stress proteins.** The argument revolves around whether these recognized biological impacts imply potential human harm. **(The electric fields immediately adjacent to power lines are ionizing, which is the genesis of the argument that electric fields are associated with cancer.)**

16. *Who are John Moulder and Peter Valberg, and why are they so vociferous in decrying the dangers of EMF?*

- a. John Moulder and Peter Valberg both earn substantial incomes from testifying for power companies that ELF-EMF is not dangerous. John Moulder is the most active, having been under retainer from five utilities simultaneously. Valberg is associated with Harvard University (although not a full-time faculty member). He has not done work in the field for at least five years.

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- a. In September of 2000, there was an extraordinary event, the publication of the British Journal article. In that article, the prime authors of all the significant epidemiological research of the past five years came together and admitted their original research has come to invalid conclusions. Whereas they had originally concluded there was not a statistically significant relationship between ELF-EMF and cancer, they now conceded that their original research should have recognized the existence of such a significant relationship. These results were confirmed by two additional research groups. Moulder and Valberg, while aware of the new research, justify their assertions by pointing both to invalidated research and to "blue panels" that, relying upon the now-invalidated research, had found insufficient evidence for such a relationship. In addition, Moulder frequently distorts the findings of his references by pejoratively picking sentences out of context.

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- a. Yes.

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- a. Europe employs on average higher voltages than does the US. Because of the physics, this means that European transmission power lines emit lower levels of magnetic fields than do US lines. Furthermore, **most European countries, including the UK and Germany have prohibited the construction of transmission power lines near homes for many years.** The US has no comparable restriction. As a result, only a negligible number of European homes experience high levels of ELF-EMF. However, such high-level exposures are common in the US. Accordingly, European conclusions on the low level of exposures do not apply to the US.

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- a. Electricity is essential to a modern society. Top level government bodies such as the IARC are concerned that issuing pronouncements will improve the welfare of the relatively small number exposed to high intensity fields, while

endangering the prosperity of the majority of those who are not threatened by these fields. We should also not overlook the role of the utilities. As members of a regulated industry, the electric utilities have developed and deployed advanced lobbying tools. They have become very effective lobbyists who are able to influence policymakers on such matters.

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- a. No. FHA regulations prohibit the issuance of insured mortgages for houses very close to transmission power lines.

22. What is the current status of research?

- a. Research funding is a problem. One logical source for such funding would be the utilities' own research arm, the EPRI (formerly, the Electric Power Research Institute). However, there is evidence the EPRI declines to fund follow-up research when the original research uncovers evidence of magnetic field's potential to cause disease. It fails to fund the follow-up research even when its own analysts suggest the additional research should be conducted.
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3. [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental\\_health/eoha/pdf/emf\\_fact\\_sheet\\_-\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/emf_fact_sheet_-_2008.pdf)

Power lines that send electricity between towns and into neighborhoods generally have the highest voltage. They are bigger and have more wires than the distribution lines that are common on most streets. **The high voltage lines can have EMF levels of 30 to 90 mG underneath the wires,** depending on the voltage, height, and placement of the lines. EMF levels decrease rapidly with distance from the lines. At 300 feet (a football field), EMF is at background levels. In some cases, even closer distances are at background. The distribution lines that run up and down every street are smaller, contain lower voltage and are of less concern.

Despite extensive research over the past 20 years, the health risk caused by EMF exposure remains an open question. Two national research organizations (the National Research

Council and the National Institute of Health) have looked at the studies and have concluded that there is not strong evidence that EMF exposures pose a health risk. However, **some studies have shown an association between household EMF exposure and a small increased risk of childhood leukemia at average exposures above 3 mG.** For cancers other than childhood leukemia, there is less evidence for an effect. For example, workers that repair power lines and railway workers can be exposed to much higher EMF levels than the general public. The results of cancer studies in these workers is mixed.

**Some studies have suggested a link between EMF exposure in electrical workers and leukemia and brain cancer.** Other similar studies have not found such associations.

**There is also some evidence that utility workers exposed to high levels of EMF may be at increased risk of developing amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease).**

Although the current scientific evidence provides no definitive answers as to whether EMF exposure can increase health risks, there is enough uncertainty that some people may want to reduce their exposure to EMF.

#### **WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD BUY A HOUSE BY HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES:**

If the power lines are more than 300 feet away, there should be no cause for concern.

At this distance EMF from the lines is no different from typical levels around the home.

**If the power lines are less than 300 feet away from the home, you may want to obtain**

**EMF measurements in the yard.** Most electric utilities in Connecticut will take measurements for free. There are also private firms that will charge a fee for measurements.

To understand your measurement, consider that typical EMF levels found inside homes range from 0.1 to 4 mG. EMF levels above this range are not necessarily hazardous, but indicate

EMF levels above what's typical background inside a home.

Deciding where to live rests upon different considerations for each individual. EMF exposure is just one of many factors in this decision. Other environmental health issues around a home can include: radon, lead paint, asbestos, soil or groundwater contamination, local traffic and noise. All of these factors should be considered when evaluating the home environment.

**From:** woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net [mailto:woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 26, 2011 3:34 PM

**To:** Howdee05@msn.com; hboentje@visi.com; kborndal@comcast.net; danborndal@comcast.net; Kellyjo519@yahoo.com; bjbos@aol.com; dantish@q.com; tfield@davidmartinagency.com; kafinnegan@gmail.com; ShaguHeal@Hotmail.com; jeffdh@scc.net; dawnhuisken@msn.com; rahuljavar@yahoo.com; sondi.johnson@wellsfargo.com; keers@usfamily.net; kentking@mac.com; jnlund119@comcast.net; jmartin@runspot.net; laurapchef@runspot.net; tompmathews@hotmail.com; nnorman@sellsbrothers.com; gandsplummer@comcast.net; nalporter@comcast.net; myg4800@comcast.net; greenaspen@gmail.com; dsamson316@msn.com; amberjoy123@comcast.net; imdianew@msn.com; Lwipson@Comcast.net; woodjtjajl-Plymouth@worldnet.att.net; wooder59@yahoo.com; happytrails303@hotmail.com  
**Cc:** MARK PERRY; Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC); Ek, Scott (COMM); joseph.g.sedarski; mparlow@GREnergy.com; mathew.knutson@comcast.net; dan.callahan@live.com; Dan Callahan  
**Subject:** Fw: power line hazards - Hollydale Project

Hey neighbors,

Please read the string below. This will also impact those of you living on the east side of Minnesota Lane, if not the health issues, for sure the decreased property values if the 115KV transmission lines are allowed to be built through our neighborhood.

Everyone on the West side of Minnesota Lane should have (or will) receive a letter about the proposed route this week. I'm not sure if those on the east side also received it. If not, stop by we can share it with you.

As Mark Perry says below, now is the time to stand up.

John Wood

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** MARK PERRY <m2perry@msn.com>

**To:** [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us); [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us); [joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com](mailto:joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com); [mparlow@GREnergy.com](mailto:mparlow@GREnergy.com)

**Cc:** [jennifer.knutson@comcast.net](mailto:jennifer.knutson@comcast.net); [a kittilson@hotmail.com](mailto:kittilson@hotmail.com); [bjbos@aol.com](mailto:bjbos@aol.com); [kellyjo519@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyjo519@yahoo.com); [gandsplummer@comcast.net](mailto:gandsplummer@comcast.net); [jdfloeder@usfamily.net](mailto:jdfloeder@usfamily.net); [rfield@croworld.com](mailto:rfield@croworld.com); [m2perry@msn.com](mailto:m2perry@msn.com); [jmartin@runspot.net](mailto:jmartin@runspot.net); [jeffdh@scc.net](mailto:jeffdh@scc.net); [woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net](mailto:woodjtjajl-plymouth@att.net); [chad.strunk@gmail.com](mailto:chad.strunk@gmail.com); [pamgustafson@comcast.net](mailto:pamgustafson@comcast.net); [tysonbjorklund@gmail.com](mailto:tysonbjorklund@gmail.com); [ggibson4@comcast.net](mailto:ggibson4@comcast.net); [sbook@comcast.net](mailto:sbook@comcast.net); [schiebehome@msn.com](mailto:schiebehome@msn.com); [jhnyren@gmail.com](mailto:jhnyren@gmail.com); [sdavis\\_mn@hotmail.com](mailto:sdavis_mn@hotmail.com); Christopher C Rogers <[Christopher.C.Rogers@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Christopher.C.Rogers@xcelenergy.com)>; "Kotz II, Eugene R" <[Eugene.Kotz@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Eugene.Kotz@xcelenergy.com)>; [mathew.knutson@comcast.net](mailto:mathew.knutson@comcast.net)

**Sent:** Tue, July 26, 2011 9:02:10 AM

**Subject:** Fw: power line hazards - Hollydale Project

**We as a neighborhood need to stand up** to not allow the Proposed Route to go through the center of our neighborhood. My home is less than 100 feet from the easement of the existing 65kv lines and now the Proposed Route of the new 115KV lines.

I have a young child that enjoys playing outdoors! this is a great concern to me as a lot of studies show very strong health risks involved with EMF's from high voltage transmission lines. Any of you that have children, women who are pregnant, people with pace-makers, concerns about breast cancer or other cancers, SHOULD BE CONCERNED! Additional concern is the devaluation of the investment of our Homes & Properties. I have attached below documentation & studies of the possible Health effects of Transmission power lines along with the decreased value of our homes and property.

Please forward this email onto your neighbors for their review so we can act on this together as an alliance to not allow this proposal to go through. The Alternate Route Segment A from Preferred Substation Site A should be a much higher consideration as it follows HWY 494 to Co Rd 9. This Route gives a much greater distance from power lines to residential homes to lower health risks and will maintain the value of those residential properties within the Proposed Route.

The reason that the Proposed Route is the 1st consideration, is because it is the CHEAPEST for the power company! Are we going to let this happen to us because the Power Companies don't want to spend the additional money to accomplish this project but rather let us loose value on our homes and increase our Health Risks to save money for themselves???

I think our next step is to get the Media Involved!!! This Proposed Route is affecting a large number of Residents.

Mark A Perry

15100 42nd Ave N.  
Plymouth, MN. 55446  
612-964-5330

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

**From:** [Anna Perry](#)

**To:** [Mary Perry](#)

**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2011 11:12 PM

**Subject:** power line hazards

1. [http://www.stopflnow.org/presentations/Health\\_risk\\_of\\_powerlines.pdf](http://www.stopflnow.org/presentations/Health_risk_of_powerlines.pdf)

2. <http://www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm>

Red lettering has been inserted by me

### FAQ for Health Effects of Transmission Power Line Magnetic and Electric Fields

This FAQ is designed to answer in a brief and readily accessible format questions frequently asked about the dangers associated with exposure to magnetic and electric fields emitted by transmission power lines.

The questions contained herein confined only to issues associated with the extremely low frequency electro magnetic fields (ELF-EMF) associated with transmission power lines. Similar issues have been raised concerning the high frequency magnetic fields associated with cell phones. These high frequency fields have impacts that differ from those associated with power lines and, therefore, this FAQ does not apply to them.

1. *What are transmission power lines?*

a. They are those high voltage lines that carry power from power plants to substations or between substations. Generally, they carry voltage greater than 35 to 65 kV (kilovolts). Lines that carry power from substations to the ultimate users are called distribution lines. They generally use voltages under 35 kV. Transmission power lines radiate magnetic and electric fields that pulse sixty times per second. This is called extra-low frequency EMF (ELF-EMF).

2. *How can I determine if a line is a transmission or distribution line?*

a. One rule of thumb is to count the number of mushroom shaped insulators between the line and the structure that holds the line. **If there are more than three such insulators, it is likely to be a transmission line. If there are around 7-12 insulators, the line probably carries 115 kV.** Twelve or more suggests the line carries more than 300 kV.

3. *I feel nothing unusual when I am near a transmission power line. Why might they be dangerous?*

a. Transmission power lines emit two types of fields, electric and magnetic. Together they are called electro-magnetic fields, EMF. **Magnetic fields are known to interact with animal tissues, and are therefore potentially dangerous.** While a tiny minority can sense magnetic fields, most of us can detect neither magnetic nor electric fields.

4. *Are magnetic fields from power lines dangerous to human health?*

a. **There is substantial evidence that exposure to extra-low frequency magnetic fields of an average intensity greater than 2 milligauss doubles the risk of a child contracting leukemia. There is very good evidence that even momentary exposure to ELF fields greater than 16 mG increase by a factor of 5 a woman will have a spontaneous abortion within the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. There is also evidence that these fields are associated with other diseases (see below).** Exposures below 2 mG appear to have no adverse health effects. High frequency magnetic fields emitted by cell phones and TV station antennas are a different phenomena.

5. *How common is magnetic field exposures at the dangerous levels.*

a. Not very common. Less than 2% of the population experiences ELF magnetic fields that average more than 2 milligauss. Average US exposure is around 0.5-0.75 mG. The number of those who experience momentary exposures greater than 16 mG is not known.

6. *Are electric fields from power lines dangerous to human health?*

a. There is little evidence that electric fields at the intensities associated with power lines directly impact human health. However, these fields have the potential for indirectly inducing harmful reactions. **It is undisputed that fields above 1 mV/m (millivolt per meter) can disrupt heart pacemakers and defibrillators. Electric fields of this intensity, while rare in general, are common immediately adjacent to transmission power lines.**

115 kV lines are considered transmission power lines

**Also, one researcher claims that electric fields from power lines ionize particles in the air, and these particles are carcinogenic. This research has been validated by epidemiological evidence.**

7. *I live near a transmission power line. How do I know if I am in danger?*

a. When assessing danger, distance is all-important. The current research seems to suggest that living further than 400 feet from a transmission line will provide an adequate margin of safety from magnetic fields. However, **the very latest research suggests that pregnant women should never venture anywhere near a transmission power line, for even momentary exposure to high magnetic fields sharply enhances the risk of a miscarriage. They should avoid even driving under a transmission power line.**

b. Those utilizing pace makers or automatic defibrillators should similarly avoid even momentarily venturing near transmission power lines.

c. Those concerned about the less-documented risks associated with particles ionized by electric fields should avoid outdoor exposures with 2000 feet downwind from transmission power lines.

8. *Are lower voltage power lines (say 115 kV) safer than high voltage (345kV and above) lines?*

a. The risks associated with electric fields directly correspond to a line's voltage. Therefore, the risks associated with electric fields increase in tandem with the line's voltage.

b. **The better documented risks associated with a line's magnetic field are associated with the current going through a line rather than its voltage. To deliver a given amount of power, utilities must push more current thorough low voltage lines than high voltage lines. Therefore, in-field measurements show the magnetic field under a 115 kV line is often greater than the field immediately under a 345 kV line.** Also, high voltage lines are customarily built on wider rights of way than low voltage lines. Therefore, people tend to live closer to low voltage lines than they do to high voltage lines. For these reasons, low voltage transmission power lines generally pose a greater risk to human health than do high voltage lines. Lines with 65 kV or less usually emit very low levels of magnetic fields.

9. *Can magnetic fields be reduced by physical barriers?*

a. **Not usually. Walls, houses, trees and the like are no impediment to magnetic fields.** Field measurements indicate occupants of the front seats of cars experience an approximate 30% reduction in magnetic fields.

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Power lines that send electricity between towns and into neighborhoods generally have the highest voltage. They are bigger and have more wires than the distribution lines that are common on most streets. **The high voltage lines can have EMF levels of 30 to 90 mG underneath the wires,** depending on the voltage, height, and placement of the lines. EMF levels decrease rapidly with distance from the lines. At 300 feet (a football field), EMF is at background levels. In some cases, even closer distances are at background. The distribution lines that run up and down every street are smaller, contain lower voltage and are of less concern.

Despite extensive research over the past 20 years, the health risk caused by EMF exposure remains an open question. Two national research organizations (the National Research Council and the National Institute of Health) have looked at the studies and have concluded that there is not strong evidence that EMF exposures pose a health risk. However, **some studies have shown an association between household EMF exposure and a small increased risk of childhood leukemia at average exposures above 3 mG.** For cancers other than childhood leukemia, there is less evidence for an effect. For example, workers that repair power lines and railway workers can be exposed to much higher EMF levels than the general public. The results of cancer studies in these workers is mixed. **Some studies have suggested a link between EMF exposure in electrical workers and leukemia and brain cancer.** Other similar studies have not found such associations.

**There is also some evidence that utility workers exposed to high levels of EMF may be at increased risk of developing amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease).**

Although the current scientific evidence provides no definitive answers as to whether EMF exposure can increase health risks, there is enough uncertainty that some people may want to reduce their exposure to EMF.

**WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD BUY A HOUSE BY HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES:**

If the power lines are more than 300 feet away, there should be no cause for concern.

At this distance EMF from the lines is no different from typical levels around the home.

**If the power lines are less than 300 feet away from the home, you may want to obtain**

**EMF measurements in the yard.** Most electric utilities in Connecticut will take measurements for free. There are also private firms that will charge a fee for measurements.

To understand your measurement, consider that typical EMF levels found inside homes range from 0.1 to 4 mG. EMF levels above this range are not necessarily hazardous, but indicate

EMF levels above what's typical background inside a home.

Deciding where to live rests upon different considerations for each individual. EMF exposure is just one of many factors in this decision. Other environmental health issues around a home can include: radon, lead paint, asbestos, soil or groundwater contamination, local traffic and noise. All of these factors should be considered when evaluating the home environment.

November 5, 2011

Mr. Scott Ek  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
Re: PUC Docket No. E002/TL 11-52

Dear Mr. Ek:

The attached comments represent the collective concerns of numerous interested persons who live in the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods in Plymouth, Minnesota related to the Hollydale 115kV Transmission Line Project. The attached will serve as our comments on the scope of the environmental assessment of that project, as well as our request for consideration of, and proposals for, the alternative routes that we have detailed in the comments.

We strongly urge consideration of our proposed routes as part of the environmental assessment for the reasons set forth in the attached comments.

Sincerely,

The following concerned residents of  
Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms

**From:** [Paul Ablack](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Cc:** [KSlavik@plymouthmn.gov](#); [BStein@plymouthmn.gov](#); [jjohnson@plymouthmn.gov](#); [TBildsoe@plymouthmn.gov](#); [GBlack@plymouthmn.gov](#); [jwosje@plymouthmn.gov](#); [jwillis@plymouthmn.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Hollydale 115kV Project - COMMENTS & ALTERNATE ROUTES - Bridlewood and Churchill Farms Neighborhoods  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 09, 2011 9:38:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Bridlewood Churchill Farms Alternate Routes.pdf](#)  
[Comments on scope of EA 20111109.docx](#)  
[Letter to Scott Ek 20111109.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Mr. Eck and the Mayor and City Council of Plymouth,

I write concerning the high voltage transmission lines that are proposed to run alongside the homes in the Bridlewood / Churchhill Farm neighborhoods.

We live at 18725 37<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446. First, I would like to emphasize we are very concerned with the fact that with two large neighborhood associations that are directly affected by the proposed route (Bridlewood and Churchhill Farms) were not represented in the Task Force. Talking with as many neighbors that we could, all of us are surprised that we were not represented, including the people we met from Xcel Energy. If we were represented we would have offered several alternatives that appear not to have been considered. Our voice and the impact to the value of our properties needs to be heard and integrated into the decision making process. After examining the proposed route and alternatives and meeting with Excel representatives and other neighbors we have outlined several alternatives that you will find listed at the bottom of this email. I have also attached a document that shows a map of each alternative route that is described below. I urge you to vigorously pursue these viable alternatives, they create the least impact to all home owners which I believe as everyone's goal.

I have also attached the Bridlewood / Churchhill Farm homeowners' association comments on the proposed high voltage powerline. I fully agree with those comments and am extremely troubled by the proposed location of the new transmission lines.

Paul Ablack  
18725 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
Plymouth, MN 55446  
763-478-8177 (h)  
612-325-8377 (o)

**The following is our collective neighborhood concerns and proposal of alternate solutions.**

**1) The Neighborhoods of Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms Have Not Previously Had a Voice in the Route-Selection Process.**

It is fair to say that there is no greater property interest than that which one has in one's home. That interest includes the right to be secure against infringement on the health and safety of the home's occupants, the right of quiet enjoyment, and the right against having the value of that property destroyed or damaged for public use without just compensation.

It would appear that while the route-permitting process was designed to include, and give a voice to, those persons whose property interests would most be impacted by the project, it failed to achieve that goal with respect to the residents of the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods, who had no representation on the Advisory Task Force [“ATF”]. The role of the ATF was to identify impacts and issues that should be considered in the environmental assessment for evaluation of proposed routes for the transmission lines. To carry out that charge, representatives of those who have an interest in the location of the route were selected to serve on the ATF. No one representing the interests of the Bridlewood Farms or Churchill Farms neighborhoods served on the ATF and, as far as we can determine, no specific request was ever made to anyone in these neighborhoods.

As such, although the process was set up to have the appearance of fairness, it proceeded without actual fairness to these neighborhoods. The end result is that decisions about routes and their alternatives were made by those whose interests may very well be in conflict with, and adverse to, those in the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods. In short, we were deprived of a voice and the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on a project that jeopardizes our property rights. As such, we urge serious and thoughtful consideration of our comments and proposals for alternative routes given that we were not part of the prior route-selection process.

**2) The Proposed Route Will Have Serious and Irreparable Adverse Impacts on the Residents of the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms Neighborhoods.**

The following are our collected comments that address the effects of “the construction and operation of the high-voltage transmission line on human settlement, including, but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services.” *See*, Minn. R. 7850.1900 Subp. 3 B.

**A. Number of Homes Impacted**

- The proposed route brings the line within 200 feet of at least 80 homes in the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods (and nearby vicinity), as well as an additional 40 homes bordering the north side of Medina Road.
  
- Many of the homes are substantially closer to the proposed transmission lines than 200 feet. For example:

3600 Zircon Ln. N. – 66'  
3605 Zircon Ln. N. – 59'  
3465 Zircon Ln. N. – 44'  
3475 Zircon Ln. N. – 42'  
3475 Zircon Ln. N. – 45'  
3720 Urbandale Ln. – 61'  
18705 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 125'  
18715 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 105'  
18725 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 75'  
18735 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 70'  
18805 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 84'  
18815 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 84'  
18825 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 67'

- As such, the proposed power-line route will have a significant adverse impact on the quality of life for a substantial number of residents, providing justification for consideration of our proposed alternative routes that impact fewer homes.

## **B. Impact on the Quiet Enjoyment of Homes Bordering the Proposed Line**

- Fire hazard near high-voltage lines is a well-known and substantiated danger. Because of that danger and the proximity of the homes near the line, the proposed route will limit the ability of residents bordering the line to operate gas or charcoal grills or use fire pits. This same danger will require bordering residents to take extra precautions when filling lawn mowers and other gas-powered tools.
- Noise from the proposed power line could adversely impact the relative peace and quiet that the residents are used to enjoying and impact the sleep of those who border the line.
- The proposed lines will be attached to metal poles, rather than the wood poles that are now used. Unlike the wood poles that are easily camouflaged by the existing foliage (especially in the neighboring wetland), the metal poles will be easily visible. Moreover, the metal poles are expected to be at least ten-feet taller than the existing wood ones, making them more visible and unsightly to the neighboring homeowners, even those not directly bordering the transmission line.
- Currently, many residents along the proposed route border a wetland that provides an aesthetically pleasing environment and a home to egrets, herons, and other migratory birds. We are concerned that the installation of the proposed power line and its expected clear zone will destroy that wetland and the enjoyment and tranquility that it brings to the neighborhood.
- The concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

## **C. Health and Safety Concerns**

- The health and safety concerns from high-voltage power lines have been well articulated by others, and we do not intend on repeating them in detail here. Nevertheless, we are mindful of the fact that Xcel and other power companies like it have never conclusively established that chronic exposure to high-voltage power lines does *not* have adverse health impacts. Studies done by the World Health Organization and other similar organizations advise that the evidence of adverse health effects from chronic exposure to high-voltage lines is sufficiently strong to remain a concern and to warrant further research.
- Because obtaining conclusive causality between high-voltage power lines and an increase in cancer, such as child leukemia, is difficult at best, and because there are a significant number of credible studies that suggest there may be a correlation between high-voltage power lines and serious adverse health effects, we urge prudence given the number of homes in close proximity to the power

line on the proposed route. At the very least, mitigating EMF-reducing measures should be considered.

- In addition to the large number of homes in close proximity to the high-voltage power lines, we ask that notice be taken that the proposed route travels over, and directly next to, walking/bicycle paths that the entire neighborhood – including pregnant women and children – use for pleasure and for walking to school.
- We have also learned that the Federal Housing Authority considers high voltage lines to be a “hazard,” as indicated by their own cite requirements quoted below:

#### **“2-0 INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter addresses the site requirements for FHA-insured mortgages. Before the valuation process can begin, subject properties must meet specific site requirements. The appraisal process is the lender's tool for determining if a property meets the minimum requirements and eligibility standards for a FHA-insured mortgage.

#### **2-2 SPECIAL NEIGHBORHOOD HAZARDS AND NUISANCES**

Physical conditions in some neighborhoods are hazardous to the personal health and safety of residents and may endanger physical improvements. These conditions include unusual topography, subsidence, flood zones, unstable soils, traffic hazards and various types of grossly offensive nuisances.

\* \* \*

#### **J. OVERHEAD HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES**

**No dwelling or related property improvement may be located within the engineering (designed) fall distance of any pole, tower or support structure of a high-voltage transmission line.** \* \* \* . For field analysis, the appraiser may use tower height as the fall distance.

For the purpose of this Handbook, a High-Voltage Electric Transmission Line is a power line that carries high voltage between a generating plant and a substation. **These lines are usually 60 Kilovolts (kV) or greater and are considered hazardous.** Lines with capacity of 12-60 kV and above are considered high voltage for the purpose of this Handbook. High voltage lines do not include local distribution and service lines.”

- If an agency of the United States government considers high-voltage power lines to be a hazard, then shouldn't those who are making the decision that these same kinds of lines be placed within 200 feet of at least 120 homes?
- As stated in the FHA site-requirement guidelines, a significant number of homes along this proposed route are within the fall lines of these proposed 90-foot metal poles, resulting in a significant potential risk to the occupants.
- Mosquito control in the wetlands adjacent to many of the effected properties is currently being done by helicopter. We are concerned that the installation of the proposed lines could adversely impact the ability to carry out effective mosquito-control measures, putting residents at a great risk of exposure to mosquito-borne illnesses.

- The concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

**D. Property Values**

- Because of the above-cited negative impacts that will inevitably result from the proposed power line, the homeowners adjacent to it will most certainly experience a substantial reduction in their property values, creating a domino effect on numerous other homeowners.
- The inability to acquire FHA-insured mortgages reduces the number of potential buyers.
- These concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

**3) Bridlewood Farms/Churchill Farms Proposed Alternative Routes**

Because of the risks and concerns identified above, we, the residents of Bridlewood/Churchill Farms, believe that the proposed route is unacceptable. We have outlined four alternative routes: Of the four alternate routes, three of them (“F1”, “F2” & “F3”) are based on the “Alternate F” that was originally proposed by the ATF. We, the residents of Bridlewood/Churchill Farms strongly recommend consideration of all four Alternate Routes because they impact significantly fewer homes in comparison to the “Proposed Route”.

Hollydale Project - Area West of Cty Rd 101 and East of Holy Name Drive						
(# of Homes Affected by 115kv Line, by Distance from Line)						
Route/Severity	0 - 100ft	100 - 200 ft	200 - 300 ft	Total	Fewer Properties Affected	% Reduction
Proposed	55	43	36	134	0	0%
Alternate F1	32	9	22	63	71	53%
Alternate F2	20	10	24	54	80	60%
Alternate F3	18	9	22	49	85	63%
Alternate G	10	6	17	33	101	75%

The following is a description of each Alternative Route described in the table above:

**Proposed Route F1 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road.
- Follow Medina Road west to Holy Name Drive.
- Follow Holy Name Drive (west side) south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

**Proposed Route F2 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road intersection.
- At the corner of Brockton Lane and Medina Road turn west on Medina Road, for 500 feet; at that point, go directly south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

**Proposed Route F3 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road intersection.
- Follow Medina Road west to Hunter Drive.
- Go south following the Dundee and others property lines and connect to the “Proposed Route”.

**Proposed Route G – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west (south side) to north boundary of Park Nicollet property.
- Follow the north property line west to Brockton Lane.
  - Propose new right of way through the Park Nicollet property line.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road.
- At the corner of Brockton Lane and Medina Road turn west on Medina Road, for 500 feet; at that point, go directly south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

END

*Paul Ablack*

*OnApproach*

*3455 Plymouth Blvd. Ste. 200*

*Plymouth, MN 55447*

*Phone: 763-557-7284*

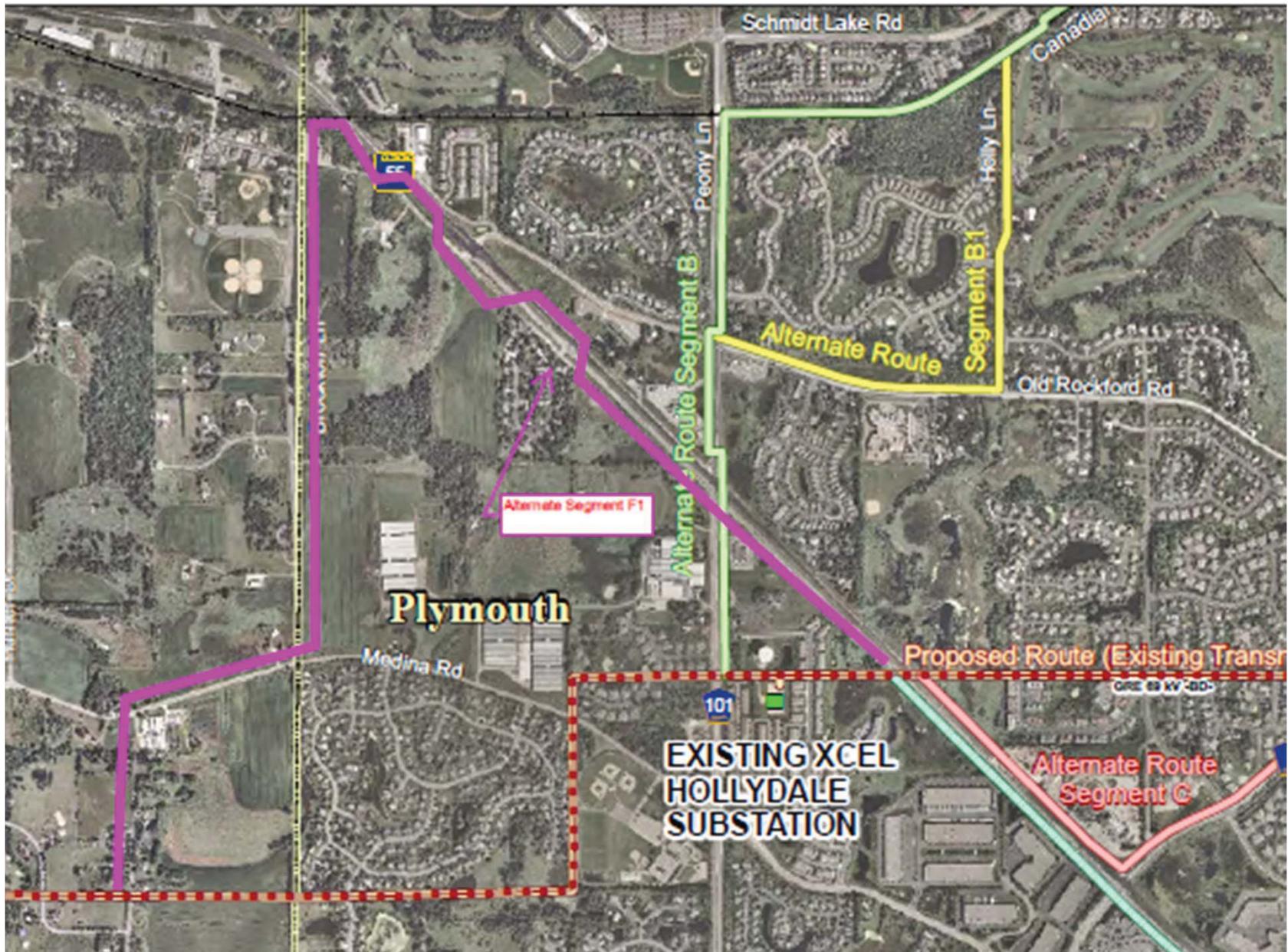
*Fax: 763-231-4433*

*[www.onapproach.net](http://www.onapproach.net)*

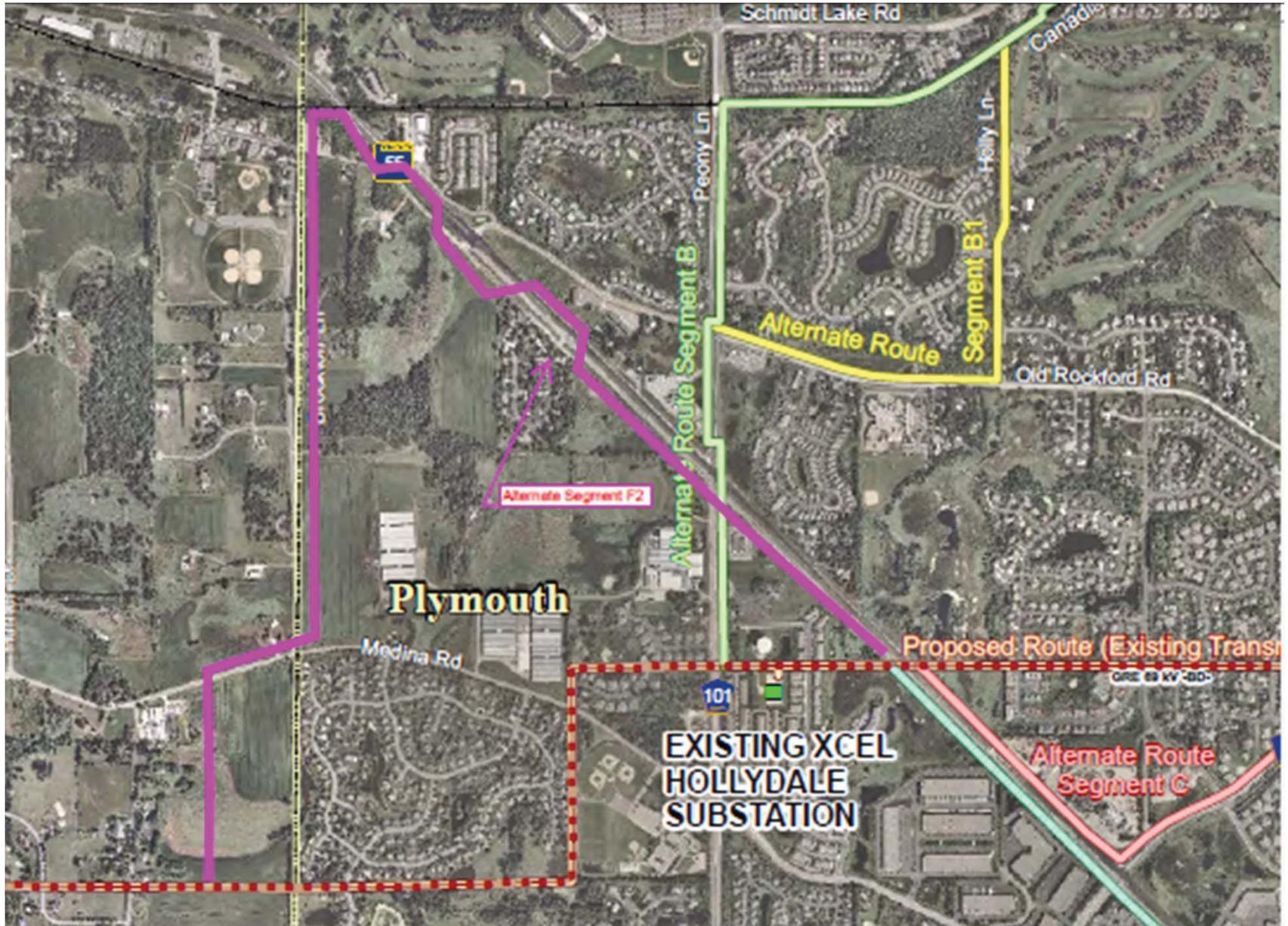


*A Business Intelligence solutions provider that specializes in helping companies obtain essential financial and operational information out of their accounting/ERP systems leading to better decision-making to drive revenue and increase profitability.*

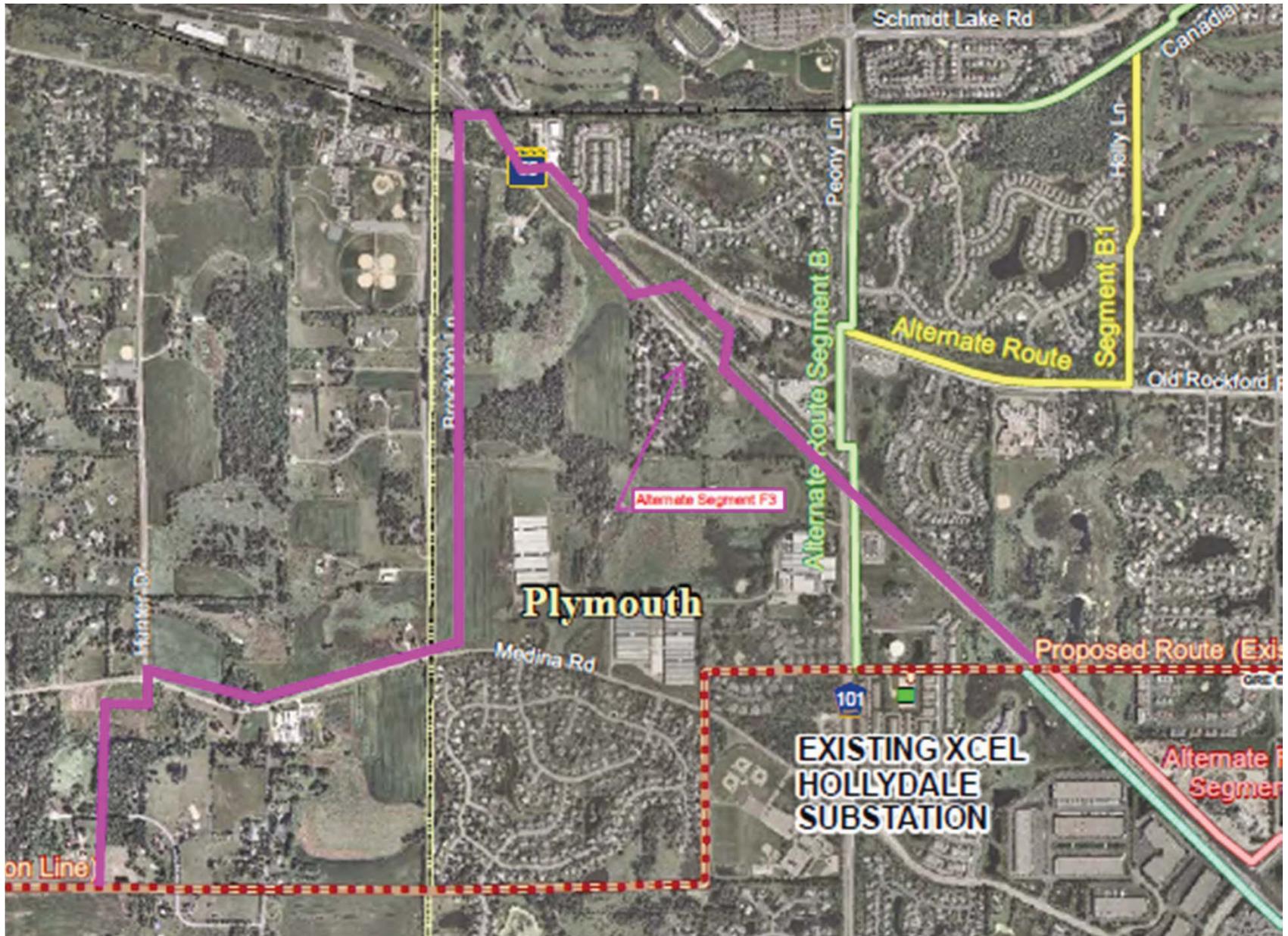
# Bridlewood Farms Proposed – Alternate F1



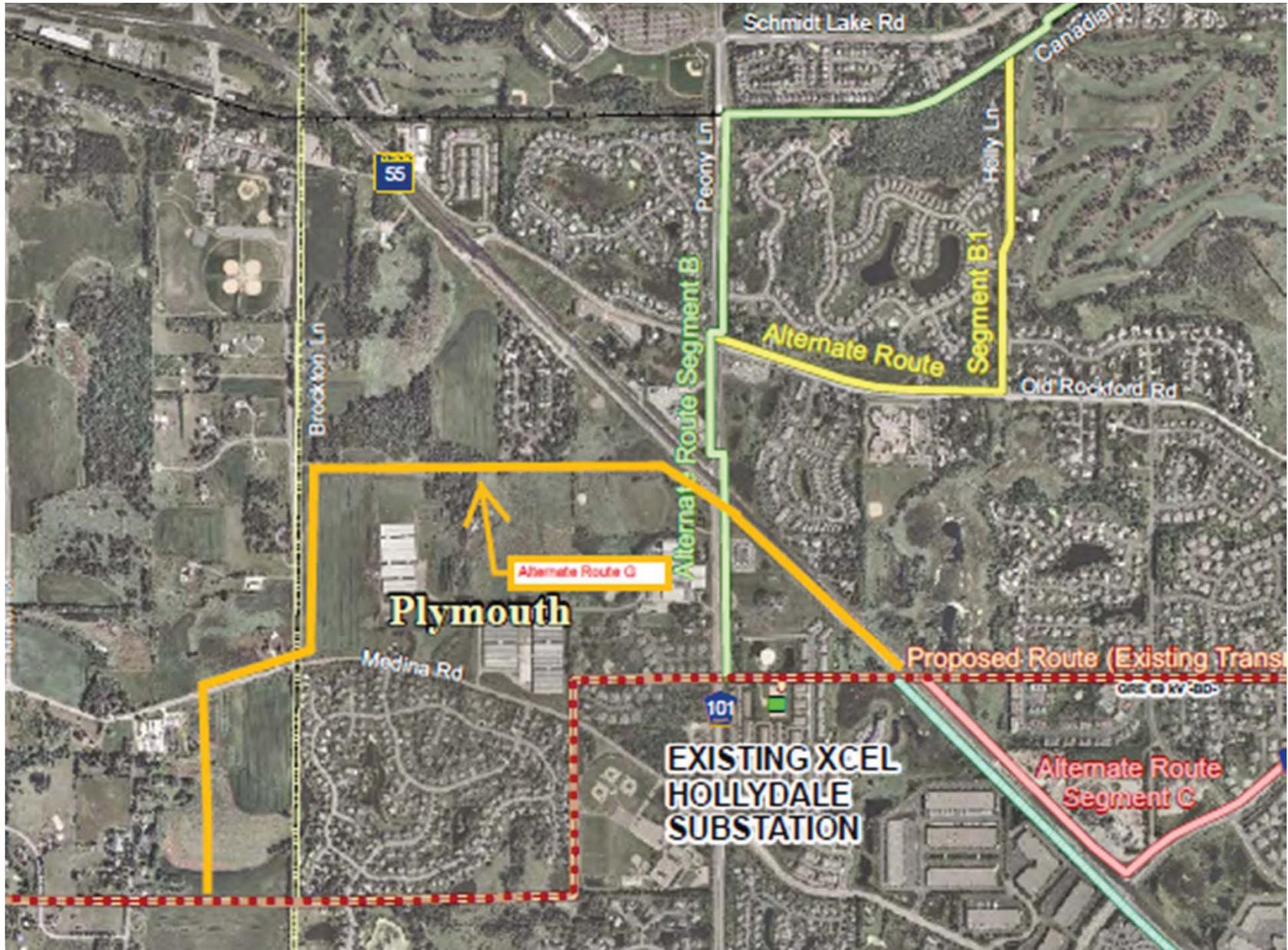
# Bridlewood Farms Proposed – Alternate F2



# Bridlewood Farms Proposed – Alternate F3



# Bridlewood Farms Proposed – Alternate G



**From:** [Bob Adams](#)  
**To:** [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Xcel Hollydale Power Line Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 09, 2011 11:59:53 AM

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Dear Raymond,

First of all, I'd like to let you know that it is very comforting knowing that we the people do have a voice and we the people can change the direction of what was presented as the only option. Xcel has made us feel as if they were simply going through the motions with no intention of listening or changing what they felt was in their best interest. An interest that would make them the most money with the least amount of cost, time and effort to complete.

Also, that you stated that we can make a difference and could have the proposed plan changed, gave us all hope.

So, I wish to thank you for that!!

With that being said, I'd like to submit the following for consideration and for the record;

- 1) I agree with the proposed option mentioned at the 10-26-11 public meeting--the Hwy 55 & Hwy 494 as the only option for Xcel to consider, pursue and actually implement based on the following issues to be considered;
  - a) There are already power lines that could be used and increased in pole dimensions and voltage capabilities
  - b) Would have minimum impact on housing / developments
  - c) The decreased home values of 10%-40% based on the findings of licensed real estate agents presenting at public meeting
  - d) Would not cause concerns or increased medical issues with occupants—especially smaller children and adults. See all references of medical studies made by Elizabeth Lafrenz at public meeting.
  - e) The level of EMF output and the above study's findings regarding medical concerns and proved increased cases of a variety of different medical conditions associated with power lines.
  - f) Not pit one neighbor(hood) against another as it appears was being done by the options under consideration by Xcel and taking what appears to be big money making efforts with very little human health and property devaluation under consideration
  - g) Noise level from the voltage of the power line upgrade. It is well known that it will be present. Especially for how close my home is with it in my back yard as well as for neighbors that are not aware of this issue/topic/concern due to not being informed.
  - h) Concerned with possible personal safety of my children/family and others known/unknown that may arise via down wires due to storms, fires, electrical hazards and other increased hazards that are unknown to me at this time with a fully functioning power lines of this nature
  - i) I would not have paid money/purchased current home had I known that this was an option when the line was a non-functioning line.

- j) I'd also, like to know where I can go to see the proposed poles/lines to get a better understanding of what it will look like vs. a picture that simply shows it in an ideal setting alongside an open road and field vs. backing up to homes and in a home development.

Let me know if there is anything that I/we may/should be doing with what we submit as well. Since we don't have a clue on what to do or how to do it, we are at the mercy of the process. This has required us to try to become an expert in a matter that we cannot and must rely on assistance.

Thanks once again.

**Bob Adams**  
**4090 Garland Lane**  
**Plymouth, MN. 55446**

Mike Allard  
4075 Everest Lane N  
Plymouth, MN. 55446

Dear Scott,

First of all, I'd like to let you know that it is very comforting knowing that we the people do have a voice and we the people can change the direction of what was presented as the only option. Xcel has made us feel as if they were simply going through the motions with no intention of listening or changing what they felt was in their best interest. An interest that would make them the most money with the least amount of cost, time and effort to complete.

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  - e) The level of EMF output and the above studies findings regarding medical concerns and proved increased cases of a variety of different medical conditions associated with power lines.
  - f) Not pit one neighbor(hood) against another as it appears was being done by the options under consideration by xcel and taking what appears to be big money making efforts with very little human health and property devaluation under consideration
  - g) Noise level from the voltage of the power line upgrade. It is well known that it will be present. Especially for how close my home is with it in my back yard As well as for neighbors that are not aware of this issue/topic/concern due to not being informed.
  - h) Concerned with possible personal safety of my children/family and others known/unknown that may arise via down wires due to storms, fires, electrical hazards and other increased hazards that are unknown to me at this time with a fully functioning power lines of this nature
  - i) I would not have paid money/purchased current home had I known that this was an option when the line was a non functioning line.
  - j) I'd also, like to know where I can go to see the proposed poles/lines to get a better understanding of what it will look like vs a picture that simply shows it in an ideal setting alongside an open road and field vs backing up to homes and in a home development.

Let me know if there is anything that I/we may/should be doing with what we submit as well. Since we don't have a clue on what to do or how to do it, we are at the mercy of the process. This has required us to try to become an expert in a matter that we can not and must rely on assistance.

Thanks once again.

Name

**From:** [apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Altman Wed Nov 2 16:01:44 2011 E002/TL-11-152  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 4:01:53 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina,  
Hennepin County

Docket number: E002/TL-11-152

User Name: Barry Altman

County: Hennepin County

City: Plymouth

Email: [baltman@beta-tech.us](mailto:baltman@beta-tech.us)

Phone: 763-478-4770

Impact: My house sits approximately 50' from the existing easement centerline. I believe our house is the closest of any property in this project.

We have planted trees and shrubs on our property that reside on the current easement right of way..

Mitigation: We are requesting that the new power lines be pushed as far North as possible (at least 15-20').

Further, we are requesting that all transmission lines be located on the north side of the transmission towers.

We request that any plantings damaged during this project be replaced.

Finally, we strongly request that the easement remain at the existing 50'.

Submission date: Wed Nov 2 16:01:44 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:



Energy Facility Permitting  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
ph 651.296.4026 | fax 651.297.7891  
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

COMMENT FORM

Public Information and Scoping Meeting  
Proposed Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project  
Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

SCOTT: PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR EMAIL ADDRESS. OLD ADDRESS WAS timandjeanneanderson@yahoo.com

Name: TIM & JEANNE ANDERSON email: trjganderson@yahoo.com  
Street Address: 4345 POLARIS LN N  
City: PLYMOUTH State: MN ZIP: 55446

Share your comments on the proposed Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

SCOTT: WE ARE CONTACTING YOU REGARDING THE ABOVE REFERENCED PROJECT. WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSED ROUTES. THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ROUTE IS DOWN HWY 55 TO I494. JUST BECAUSE XCEL & GRE CAN USE THE EASEMENT DOESN'T MEAN THEY SHOULD. PUTTING THIS PROPOSED LINE IN PEOPLE'S FRONT YARDS IS SIMPLY WRONG. ALSO - AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THIS PROPOSED LINE IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF RESIDENTS LIVING WEST OF PLYMOUTH. OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S PROPERTY VALUES SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU

Please turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back. You may use additional sheets, as necessary. Comments can also be e-mailed to Scott Ek at: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) with Docket No. E002/TL-11-152 in the email subject line or submitted online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html?projectId=32121>

Signature: T. Anderson Date: 11/1/2011

**From:** [David A Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Cc:** [barbfontaine@comcast.net](mailto:barbfontaine@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Hollydale 115KV Line upgrade - spoke with more of our neighbors - we are strongly opposed to the upgrade  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2011 7:16:13 AM

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Scott:

Good morning. Thank you for allowing the public to add our comments to the above proposed project.

I am a homeowner who lives at 16900 40th Ave N in Plymouth in the Holly Creek development. My family and I are approximately 200 feet from the proposed high voltage line upgrade.

I have spoken with many of our neighbors on 40th Ave and to a person we are opposed to the line and structure upgrade. The primary reason is that the supporting structures as proposed will be much taller and carry a higher voltage through a very densely packed neighborhood. We all knew and could see that existing line when we moved in years ago. We likely would not have selected this neighborhood and built our home if there was a power line (as proposed) that was so high with that amount of voltage traveling through it. I further understand that testimony to the commission shows a 10-40% drop in our property values if the line upgrade was to take place. That reduction on top of our existing market value losses makes it extremely troubling that this project is even considered in these challenging economic times.

I understand that there is an alternative pathway alongside existing lines and poles along highway 55 and then to 494. That only makes common sense to follow that pathway - it is an area zoned and planned for commercial development and there exists numerous infrastructure points that would not increase nor impact our residential zoned neighborhood.

Please take into account our strong opposition to the line upgrade in our neighborhood.

Thank you for allowing me to provide our input. My contact information is listed below.

Regards

DAVID A. ANDERSON  
Business Solutions Executive - Energy & Utilities

Phone: 1-612-889-8008  
E-mail: [daanders@us.ibm.com](mailto:daanders@us.ibm.com)

(Embedded image moved  
to file: pic05143.gif)  
IBM

650 3rd Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN  
55402-4300  
United States

**From:** [Sundeep Arora](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment letter opposing the proposed Hollydale 115 Kv Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 08, 2011 3:33:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [Hollydale 115Kv Project letter of opposition\[1\].docx](#)

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Mr Ek,

Greetings to you. My name is Sundeep Arora and I am a Plymouth, MN resident concerned about the proposed Hollydale 115 Kv Project. Please see my attached comment letter and thanks, in advance, for including this letter as part of the comments opposing this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or points of clarification.

Sincerely,  
Sundeep Arora  
16405 39th Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55446

November 6, 2011

Mr. Scott Ek  
State Permit Manager  
Energy Planning Permitting  
Re: Hollydale 115 Kv Project – PUC Docket No. E002/TL-11-152

Mr. Ek,

Greetings to you and thank you for allowing so many Plymouth residents to voice their numerous concerns about the proposed Xcel Energy/Great River Energy Hollydale 115 Kv Project at the October 26, 2011 community meeting held at the Kelly Inn in Plymouth. My name is Sundeep Arora and my wife Rakhi and our two children live at 16405 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Plymouth, MN. We would be adversely affected by the proposed route of the high voltage power line, as it would run less than 50 feet from our home.

It is my with my strongest voice that I recommend that the Public Utilities Commission reject the proposed and alternate routes of this high voltage power line that is to be constructed as part of the Hollydale Project. Instead of routing this line through several residential areas of Plymouth, including my neighborhood, I strongly suggest that this new power line be routed along the corridors of Minnesota State Highway 55 and Interstate 494 in Plymouth.

In my view, the current proposed route of the Hollydale Project and the alternate routes would both come with a steep negative impact upon residential areas of Plymouth and choosing one route over another simply pits one Plymouth neighborhood against another, with no residential neighborhood wanting to have this new high voltage power line running through it. It was quite apparent at the October community meeting that this was the overwhelming sentiment of those in attendance of that meeting. In their application for the Hollydale Project, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy claim that one of their objectives of this proposed project is to minimize the impacts of this high voltage power line on Plymouth residents. It is disingenuous, as best, for Xcel Energy to claim that they desire to minimize the impact upon the residents of Plymouth, while at the same time, putting forth a proposed route for the power line that exposes at least 360 homes in Plymouth within 200 feet or less along the proposed route to the potential safety concerns of electromagnetic fields, significant loss of home values, power line noise, risk to wetland areas, and general unsightliness that would accompany such a high voltage power line.

This proposed route of the Hollydale Project is quite simply the easiest and cheapest route for Xcel Energy/Great River Energy. It does not, however, take into account all of the detrimental effects of running a high voltage power line through a heavy residential area. To construct a project such as this would be counter to the vast majority of high voltage lines in the state of Minnesota that are routed instead through existing non-residential corridors. Such a corridor

already exists in Plymouth and it is the Highway 55 and I-494 corridor. It was extremely disappointing at the October community meeting to hear that Xcel Energy did not have any details to provide about the feasibility of such a route in this corridor. Not including this Highway 55 & I-494 corridor as an alternate route of the Hollydale Project demonstrates to me that Xcel Energy is not interested in the welfare of the residents of Plymouth over its corporate profit margin and fiscal bottom line.

I thank you in advance for including this letter in your comments on the proposed Hollydale 115 Kv Project. I strongly urge the Public Utilities Commission to reject the proposed route and to instead route this project in the Highway 55 and I-494 corridor.

Sincerely,

*Sundeep Arora*

Sundeep Arora and Rakhi Bhatia  
16405 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55446

**From:** [apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Axelrod Tue Nov 1 18:28:39 2011 E002/TL-11-152  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 6:28:41 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina,  
Hennepin County

Docket number: E002/TL-11-152

User Name: Cinthia Axelrod

County: Hennepin County

City: Plymouth

Email: [cmaxelrod@comcast.net](mailto:cmaxelrod@comcast.net)

Phone: 763-559-4798

Impact: I live near this project. I am concerned about the loss of home value, the disturbance to the local wetlands and overall family health issues. There is a better way than to put this line in such a enormous residential community.

Mitigation: I propose that a less residential route be considered. Please look at the feasibility of Route 55 as another option.

Thank you!

Submission date: Tue Nov 1 18:28:39 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick  
[andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)

**From:** [apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us](mailto:apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Axelrod Tue Nov 1 16:27:11 2011 E002/TL-11-152  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 4:27:14 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities of Plymouth and Medina,  
Hennepin County

Docket number: E002/TL-11-152

User Name: Elliott Axelrod

County: Hennepin County

City: Plymouth

Email: [eaxel@allstate.com](mailto:eaxel@allstate.com)

Phone: 612-991-0227

Impact: I am very concerned about the replacement of the current voltage line with 115k. I understand this will dramatically impact our real estate values as well as the potential damage to wetlands as well as our beautiful parks and trails.

Mitigation: I understand a line must be built but I believe a better option would be to include this to the line available on Route 55 in Plymouth, away from the vast majority residential areas.

Thank you.

Submission date: Tue Nov 1 16:27:11 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick  
[andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)

Seth and Abbey Baker  
17015 40<sup>th</sup> Place North  
Plymouth, MN. 55446

Dear Scott,

First of all, I'd like to let you know that it is very comforting knowing that we the people do have a voice and we the people can change the direction of what was presented as the only option. Xcel has made us feel as if they were simply going through the motions with no intention of listening or changing what they felt was in their best interest. An interest that would make them the most money with the least amount of cost, time and effort to complete.

Also, that you stated that we can make a difference and could have the proposed plan changed, gave us all hope.

So, I wish to thank you for that.!!

With that being said, I'd like to submit the following for consideration and for the recored;

- 1) I agree with the proposed option mentioned at the 10-26-11 public meeting--the Hwy 55 & Hwy 494 as the only option for Xcel to consider, pursue and actually implement based on the following issues to be considered;
  - a) There are already power lines that could be used and increased in pole dimensions and voltage capabilities
  - b) Would have minimum impact on housing / developments
  - c) The decreased home values of 10%-40% based on the findings of licensed realstate agents presenting at public meeting
  - d) Would not cause concerns or increased medical issues with occupants—especially smaller children and adults. See all references of medical studies made by Elizabeth Lafrenz at public meeting.
  - e) The level of EMF output and the above studies findings regarding medical concerns and proved increased cases of a variety of different medical conditions associated with power lines.
  - f) Not pit one neighbor(hood) against another as it appears was being done by the options under consideration by xcel and taking what appears to be big money making efforts with very little human health and property devaluation under consideration
  - g) Noise level from the voltage of the power line upgrade. It is well known that it will be present. Especially for how close my home is with it in my back yard As well as for neighbors that are not aware of this issue/topic/concern due to not being informed.
  - h) Concerned with possible personal safety of my children/family and others known/unknown that may arise via down wires due to storms, fires, electrical hazards and other increased hazards that are unknown to me at this time with a fully functioning power lines of this nature
  - i) I would not have paid money/purchased current home had I known that this was an option when the line was a non functioning line.
  - j) I'd also, like to know where I can go to see the proposed poles/lines to get a better understanding of what it will look like vs a picture that simply shows it in an ideal setting alongside an open road and field vs backing up to homes and in a home development.

Let me know if there is anything that I/we may/should be doing with what we submit as well. Since we don't have a clue on what to do or how to do it, we are at the mercy of the process. This has required us to try to become an expert in a matter that we can not and must rely on assistance.

Thanks once again.

Seth and Abbey Baker

Mark & Cathy Bassing

16820 40<sup>th</sup> Ave N

Plymouth, MN. 55446

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Also, that you stated that we can make a difference and could have the proposed plan changed, gave us all hope.

So, I wish to thank you for that!!

With that being said, I'd like to submit the following for consideration and for the record:

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  - a) There are already power lines that could be used and increased in pole dimensions and voltage capabilities
  - b) Would have minimum impact on housing / developments
  - c) The decreased home values of 10%-40% based on the findings of licensed Real Estate agent presenting at public meeting
  - d) Would not cause concerns or increased medical issues with occupants—especially for smaller children and adults. See all references of medical studies made by Elizabeth Lafrenz at public meeting.
  - e) The level of EMF output and the above study's findings regarding medical concerns and proved increased cases of a variety of different medical conditions associated with power lines.
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  - g) Noise level from the voltage of the power line upgrade. It is well known that it will be present. Especially for how close my home is with it in my back yard, as well as for neighbors that are not aware of this issue/topic/concern due to not being informed.
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Let me know if there is anything that I/we may/should be doing with what we submit as well. Since we don't have a clue on what to do or how to do it, we are at the mercy of the process. This has required us to try to become an expert in a matter that we cannot and must rely on assistance.

Thanks once again.

Cathy Bassing

**From:** [Brian Corke](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Focus on quality of life not profits in evaluating power line project.  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2011 7:18:35 AM

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Dear Mr. Sedarski & Mr. Ek

,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Xcel Energy & Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

-----  
As residents of Timber Creek Crossing, located at the intersection of Schmidt Lake Road & Garland Lane N in Plymouth, we are extremely concerned with the options still being considered for the power line transmission project.

We ask that Xcel Energy shift their overall strategy for this project from profit generation to maintaining and promoting the quality of life for the residents of not only Timber Creek Crossing, but also all potential residents impacted by the proposed and alternate routes. We are all well aware that there is a viable option (the 494/55 corridor) that will have minimal impact on the quality of life, health and home values of all residents impacted by these proposals. This should be the primary focus of this project!

Some key points for your consideration:

1. The existing transmission line was built in 1971, long before most of those homes on the line were built. The commission should not transfer the line from those homes that were purchased where there was already a power line to homes where there have been no prior plans for a transmission line. We as Timber Creek Crossing residents already shoulder the burden of living along railroad tracks and next to a gun club, please don't add to it by now giving us a transmission line also as proposed in Alternate Route Segment B.
2. If the goal is to reduce residential impacts, Alternate Route Segment B provides one of the least benefits of all the alternative proposals – a less than 50% reduction in residential impacts and brings the line to over 100 homes that don't already have it.
3. For the greatest reduction, the commission should consider relocating the transmission line to commercial areas, running it from the Hollydale Substation, down Highway 55 and then up 494 to the new preferred Pomerleau Lake Substation. This realignment would reduce residential impacts by over 95%.

Please make a smart decision and put the community first! There are residents of all ages, family situations and demographics who are strongly opposed to the proposed route and alternate routes. It was evident in the October 26 public hearing. Don't have our concerns and appeals fall on deaf ears. It is a matter of the quality of life that Plymouth prides itself upon.

-----

Sincerely,

Residents of the Timber Creek Crossing community  
Plymouth, MN  
November 2011

Brian Corke  
, United States

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek](http://www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**From:** [Brian Cox](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Focus on quality of life not profits in evaluating power line project.  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2011 2:04:04 PM

---

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Xcel Energy & Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

-----  
As residents of Timber Creek Crossing, located at the intersection of Schmidt Lake Road & Garland Lane N in Plymouth, we are extremely concerned with the options still being considered for the power line transmission project.

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Some key points for your consideration:

1. The existing transmission line was built in 1971, long before most of those homes on the line were built. The commission should not transfer the line from those homes that were purchased where there was already a power line to homes where there have been no prior plans for a transmission line. We as Timber Creek Crossing residents already shoulder the burden of living along railroad tracks and next to a gun club, please don't add to it by now giving us a transmission line also as proposed in Alternate Route Segment B.
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3. For the greatest reduction, the commission should consider relocating the transmission line to commercial areas, running it from the Hollydale Substation, down Highway 55 and then up 494 to the new preferred Pomerleau Lake Substation. This realignment would reduce residential impacts by over 95%.

Please make a smart decision and put the community first! There are residents of all ages, family situations and demographics who are strongly opposed to the proposed route and alternate routes. It was evident in the October 26 public hearing. Don't have our concerns and appeals fall on deaf ears. It is a matter of the quality of life that Plymouth prides itself upon.

-----  
Sincerely,

Residents of the Timber Creek Crossing community  
Plymouth, MN  
November 2011

Brian Cox  
plymouth, Minnesota

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek](http://www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**From:** [Jeff Boehler](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Hollydale Project - Bridlewood and Churchill Farms Comments and Proposed Alternatives  
**Date:** Monday, November 07, 2011 9:20:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [Comments on scope of EA 20111109.docx](#)

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Dear Mr. Ek,

As a resident of Plymouth and Bridlewood Farms I am very concerned about the proposed power line running through our neighborhood. My wife and I built the home we live in on Alvarado Lane and have been here for almost two decades.

We've enjoyed living in this community and are worried that a power line right next to our house would not only present possible health risks but also lower the value of the home that we've worked so hard on over the years.

The attached document expresses our concerns, as well as our request for consideration of alternative routes that would not affect nearly as many residents.

Please consider other routes for the reasons included in this letter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Boehler  
3630 Alvarado Lane North  
763-478-2973

**1) The Neighborhoods of Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms Have Not Previously Had a Voice in the Route-Selection Process.**

It is fair to say that there is no greater property interest than that which one has in one's home. That interest includes the right to be secure against infringement on the health and safety of the home's occupants, the right of quiet enjoyment, and the right against having the value of that property destroyed or damaged for public use without just compensation.

It would appear that while the route-permitting process was designed to include, and give a voice to, those persons whose property interests would most be impacted by the project, it failed to achieve that goal with respect to the residents of the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods, who had no representation on the Advisory Task Force ["ATF"]. The role of the ATF was to identify impacts and issues that should be considered in the environmental assessment for evaluation of proposed routes for the transmission lines. To carry out that charge, representatives of those who have an interest in the location of the route were selected to serve on the ATF. No one representing the interests of the Bridlewood Farms or Churchill Farms neighborhoods served on the ATF and, as far as we can determine, no specific request was ever made to anyone in these neighborhoods.

As such, although the process was set up to have the appearance of fairness, it proceeded without actual fairness to these neighborhoods. The end result is that decisions about routes and their alternatives were made by those whose interests may very well be in conflict with, and adverse to, those in the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods. In short, we were deprived of a voice and the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on a project that jeopardizes our property rights. As such, we urge serious and thoughtful consideration of our comments and proposals for alternative routes given that we were not part of the prior route-selection process.

**2) The Proposed Route Will Have Serious and Irreparable Adverse Impacts on the Residents of the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms Neighborhoods.**

The following are our collected comments that address the effects of "the construction and operation of the high-voltage transmission line on human settlement, including, but not limited to, public health and safety, displacement, noise, aesthetics, socioeconomic impacts, cultural values, recreation, and public services." *See*, Minn. R. 7850.1900 Subp. 3 B.

**A. Number of Homes Impacted**

- The proposed route brings the line within 200 feet of at least 80 homes in the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods (and nearby vicinity), as well as an additional 40 homes bordering the north side of Medina Road.

- Many of the homes are substantially closer to the proposed transmission lines than 200 feet. For example:

3600 Zircon Ln. N. – 66'  
3605 Zircon Ln. N. – 59'  
3465 Zircon Ln. N. – 44'  
3475 Zircon Ln. N. – 42'  
3475 Zircon Ln. N. – 45'  
3720 Urbandale Ln. – 61'  
18705 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 125'  
18715 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 105'  
18725 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 75'  
18735 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 70'  
18805 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 84'  
18815 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 84'  
18825 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. – 67'

- As such, the proposed power-line route will have a significant adverse impact on the quality of life for a substantial number of residents, providing justification for consideration of our proposed alternative routes that impact fewer homes.

#### **B. Impact on the Quiet Enjoyment of Homes Bordering the Proposed Line**

- Fire hazard near high-voltage lines is a well-known and substantiated danger. Because of that danger and the proximity of the homes near the line, the proposed route will limit the ability of residents bordering the line to operate gas or charcoal grills or use fire pits. This same danger will require bordering residents to take extra precautions when filling lawn mowers and other gas-powered tools.
- Noise from the proposed power line could adversely impact the relative peace and quiet that the residents are used to enjoying and impact the sleep of those who border the line.
- The proposed lines will be attached to metal poles, rather than the wood poles that are now used. Unlike the wood poles that are easily camouflaged by the existing foliage (especially in the neighboring wetland), the metal poles will be easily visible. Moreover, the metal poles are expected to be at least ten-feet taller than the existing wood ones, making them more visible and unsightly to the neighboring homeowners, even those not directly bordering the transmission line.
- Currently, many residents along the proposed route border a wetland that provides an aesthetically pleasing environment and a home to egrets, herons, and other migratory birds. We are concerned that the installation of the proposed power

line and its expected clear zone will destroy that wetland and the enjoyment and tranquility that it brings to the neighborhood.

- The concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

### **C. Health and Safety Concerns**

- The health and safety concerns from high-voltage power lines have been well articulated by others, and we do not intend on repeating them in detail here. Nevertheless, we are mindful of the fact that Xcel and other power companies like it have never conclusively established that chronic exposure to high-voltage power lines does *not* have adverse health impacts. Studies done by the World Health Organization and other similar organizations advise that the evidence of adverse health effects from chronic exposure to high-voltage lines is sufficiently strong to remain a concern and to warrant further research.
- Because obtaining conclusive causality between high-voltage power lines and an increase in cancer, such as child leukemia, is difficult at best, and because there are a significant number of credible studies that suggest there may be a correlation between high-voltage power lines and serious adverse health effects, we urge prudence given the number of homes in close proximity to the power line on the proposed route. At the very least, mitigating EMF-reducing measures should be considered.
- In addition to the large number of homes in close proximity to the high-voltage power lines, we ask that notice be taken that the proposed route travels over, and directly next to, walking/bicycle paths that the entire neighborhood – including pregnant women and children – use for pleasure and for walking to school.
- We have also learned that the Federal Housing Authority considers high-voltage lines to be a “hazard,” as indicated by their own cite requirements quoted below:

#### **“2-0 INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter addresses the site requirements for FHA-insured mortgages. Before the valuation process can begin, subject properties must meet specific site requirements. The appraisal process is the lender's tool for determining if a property meets the minimum requirements and eligibility standards for a FHA-insured mortgage.

## 2-2 SPECIAL NEIGHBORHOOD HAZARDS AND NUISANCES

Physical conditions in some neighborhoods are hazardous to the personal health and safety of residents and may endanger physical improvements. These conditions include unusual topography, subsidence, flood zones, unstable soils, traffic hazards and various types of grossly offensive nuisances.

\* \* \*

### J. OVERHEAD HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

**No dwelling or related property improvement may be located within the engineering (designed) fall distance of any pole, tower or support structure of a high-voltage transmission line, \* \* \* .** For field analysis, the appraiser may use tower height as the fall distance.

For the purpose of this Handbook, a High-Voltage Electric Transmission Line is a power line that carries high voltage between a generating plant and a substation. **These lines are usually 60 Kilovolts (kV) or greater and are considered hazardous.** Lines with capacity of 12-60 kV and above are considered high voltage for the purpose of this Handbook. High voltage lines do not include local distribution and service lines.”

- If an agency of the United States government considers high-voltage power lines to be a hazard, then so shouldn't those who are making the decision that these same kinds of lines be placed within 200 feet of at least 120 homes?
- As stated in the FHA site-requirement guidelines, a significant number of homes along this proposed route are within the fall lines of these proposed 90-foot metal poles, resulting in a significant potential risk to the occupants.
- Mosquito control in the wetlands adjacent to many of the effected properties is currently being done by helicopter. We are concerned that the installation of the proposed lines could adversely impact the ability to carry out effective mosquito-control measures, putting residents at a great risk of exposure to mosquito-borne illnesses.
- The concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

## D. Property Values

- Because of the above-cited negative impacts that will inevitably result from the proposed power line, the homeowners adjacent to it will most certainly experience a substantial reduction in their property values, creating a domino effect on numerous other homeowners.
- The inability to acquire FHA-insured mortgages reduces the number of potential buyers.
- These concerns in this section are magnified in this neighborhood given the number of homes in close proximity to the proposed power-line route.

### 3) Bridlewood Farms/Churchill Farms Proposed Alternative Routes

Because of the risks and concerns identified above, we, the residents of Bridlewood/Churchill Farms, believe that the proposed route is unacceptable. We have outlined five alternatives: Alternates F1, F2 & F3 are based on the “Alternate F” that was originally proposed by the ATF. We, the residents of Bridlewood/Churchill Farms strongly recommend consideration of these Alternate Routes because they impact fewer homes in comparison to the “Proposed Route”. The Alternative “F3” is an option that we would like to pursue for further consideration if our recommended routes are determined to be “not feasible”.

Hollydale Project - Area West of Cty Rd 101 and East of Holy Name Drive						
(# of Homes Affected by 115kv Line, by Distance from Line)						
Route/Severity	0 - 100ft	100 - 200 ft	200 - 300 ft	Total	Fewer Properties Affected	% Reduction
Proposed	55	43	36	134	0	0%
Alternate F1	32	9	22	63	71	53%
Alternate F2	20	10	24	54	80	60%
Alternate F3	18	9	22	49	85	63%
Alternate G	10	6	17	33	101	75%

The following is a description of each Alternative Route described in the table above:

### **Proposed Route F1 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road.
- Follow Medina Road west to Holy Name Drive.
- Follow Holy Name Drive (west side) south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

### **Proposed Route F2 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road intersection.
- At the corner of Brockton Lane and Medina Road turn west on Medina Road, for 500 feet; at that point, go directly south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

### **Proposed Route F3 – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west to rail line to Medina border.
- Follow the Medina-Plymouth border south to Brockton Lane.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road intersection.
- Follow Medina Road west to Hunter Drive.
- Go south following the Dundee and others property lines and connect to the “Proposed Route”.

### **Proposed Route G – Start at Hollydale Substation**

- Using the existing “Proposed Route” from the Hollydale Substation go east back to Hwy 55.
- Follow Hwy 55 west (south side) to north boundary of Park Nicollet property.
- Follow the north property line west to Brockton Lane.
  - Propose new right of way through the Park Nicollet property line.
- Follow Brockton Lane South to Medina Road.
- At the corner of Brockton Lane and Medina Road turn west on Medina Road, for 500 feet; at that point, go directly south to connect to the “Proposed Route”.

November 7, 2011

Mr. Scott Ek  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Scott:

We live in the "Orchards of Plymouth" townhomes. This development is west of 101 South and south of Highway 55. We are between Highway 55 and Medina Road.

We have just been made aware that the pending Hollydale Project (west of the Hollydale Substation) will significantly impact our neighborhood. We are writing to let you know we do NOT approve of the Xcel and Great River Energy rebuild west of the Hollydale Substation, as currently proposed.

The existing power transmission line cuts across our properties. It is already an unsightly eyesore along our property and across our wetland. The proposed rebuild converts this line to a 115 kV and introduces many more concerns. The proposed rebuild will introduce significant serious adverse impacts including health and safety, noise, aesthetics, and the inevitable devaluation of our property.

We are joining with the Bridlewood Farms and Churchill Farms neighborhoods to recommend an alternate route. The current proposal impacts approximately 134 homes. There are alternatives which impact far fewer homes. One of the alternatives impacts as few as 33 homes. That is significant!

We understand these alternatives (F1, F2, F3, and G) are being submitted to you, if they haven't already. All of these alternatives would use the existing "Proposed Route" from the Hollydale Substation to Highway 55 (1-2 blocks). From the intersection of Hwy 55 and 101 South, the line would route to Brockton Lane and ultimately to Medina Road on the way to the existing GRE Medina Substation. These alternatives alleviate the need to negatively impact over 100 homes and up to 300 residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ron and Victoria Boyd  
3925 Ranier Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55446  
763-559-6427

**From:** [Naomi Bretz](#) on behalf of [NAOMI BRETZ](#)  
**To:** [Ek, Scott \(COMM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Focus on quality of life not profits in evaluating power line project.  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2011 12:16:04 PM

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Dear Mr. Sedarski & Mr. Ek

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Xcel Energy & Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

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As residents of Timber Creek Crossing, located at the intersection of Schmidt Lake Road & Garland Lane N in Plymouth, we are extremely concerned with the options still being considered for the power line transmission project.

We ask that Xcel Energy shift their overall strategy for this project from profit generation to maintaining and promoting the quality of life for the residents of not only Timber Creek Crossing, but also all potential residents impacted by the proposed and alternate routes. We are all well aware that there is a viable option (the 494/55 corridor) that will have minimal impact on the quality of life, health and home values of all residents impacted by these proposals. This should be the primary focus of this project!

Some key points for your consideration:

1. The existing transmission line was built in 1971, long before most of those homes on the line were built. The commission should not transfer the line from those homes that were purchased where there was already a power line to homes where there have been no prior plans for a transmission line. We as Timber Creek Crossing residents already shoulder the burden of living along railroad tracks and next to a gun club, please don't add to it by now giving us a transmission line also as proposed in Alternate Route Segment B.
2. If the goal is to reduce residential impacts, Alternate Route Segment B provides one of the least benefits of all the alternative proposals – a less than 50% reduction in residential impacts and brings the line to over 100 homes that don't already have it.
3. For the greatest reduction, the commission should consider relocating the transmission line to commercial areas, running it from the Hollydale Substation, down Highway 55 and then up 494 to the new preferred Pomerleau Lake Substation. This realignment would reduce residential impacts by over 95%.

Please make a smart decision and put the community first! There are residents of all ages, family situations and demographics who are strongly opposed to the proposed route and alternate routes. It was evident in the October 26 public hearing. Don't have our concerns and appeals fall on deaf ears. It is a matter of the quality of life that Plymouth prides itself upon.

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Sincerely,

Residents of the Timber Creek Crossing community  
Plymouth, MN  
November 2011

I purchased a home in Timber Creek Crossing. I would like the power lines placed at HWY 55 and 494; not in residential neighborhoods negatively impacted by the noise, decreased home values and high voltage transmissions.

NAOMI BRETZ  
PLYMOUTH, Minnesota

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at [www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek](http://www.change.org/petitions/no-power-lines-for-timber-creek). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 